# Ballast/Wake Boats:

Specific Concerns About Aquatic Invasive Species & Water Quality

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## **Ballast Water And** Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Key concerns with these vessels - clean, drain & dry efforts are not always enough....

- Ballast bags/tanks can transport water/species
- Operation can lead to fragmentation of nearshore beds of invasive aquatic plants from large and repetitive waves













#### Fat Sacs & Ballast Bags



Eight.3 Plug 'N Play Ballast Bag Black/Juice 400Lb

Size: 400lbs

Our Price: \$159,99

Our Price:

\$209.95



Eight.3 Plug 'N Play Ballast Bag Black/Juice 800Lb

Size: 800/bs

Our Price:

\$169,99



Eight.3 Plug 'N Play Ballast Bag Silver/Scuderia 800Lb

Size: 800lbs

Our Price: \$169.99



Eight, 3 Plug 'N Play Ballast Bag Silver/Scuderia 400Lb

Size: 400lbs

Our Price: \$159,99



Fly High Mastercraft X-Star Bow

Walkthru Fat Sac Fit Not Incl 450

Size: 450lbs







#### Fly High Pro X Series Side Sac Pair 48X12X12 260Lbs

Our Price:

Fly High Pro X Series Ultimate Wake Surf Sac 20x20x60 1150Lbs Size: 24x16x60

Our Price:

15% Off Freemotion Single Ballast Bag 540lbs

Size: 540lbs

On Sale:

Size: 48x12x12

\$189.99





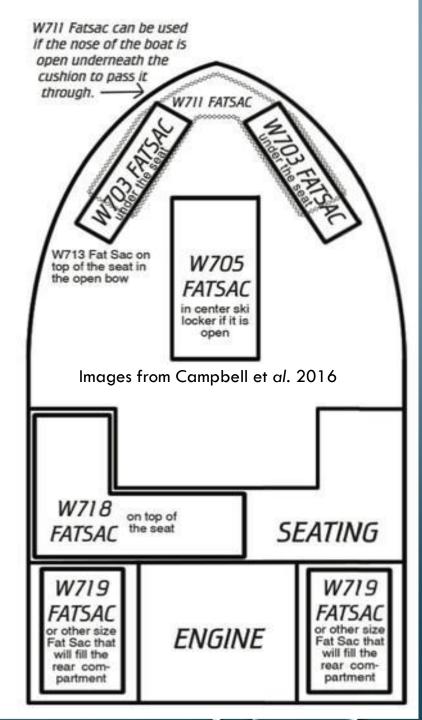












### Ballast Tanks/Bags/Sacs

- Volume of bags and tanks ranges from 80-600 liters, to add hundreds of pounds of weight to the vessel
  - These take water directly from the lake/river they are on to make the boat heavier, to sit in the water deeper, to make bigger waves/wakes
- A drop (about a milliliter) of water can contain hundreds of microscopic organisms and larvae
  - 80-600 liters could hold thousands!
- These bags and sacs are not fully drained between waterbodies or portions of waterbodies, allowing for spread of AIS

Wakeboard Ballast Products Ad

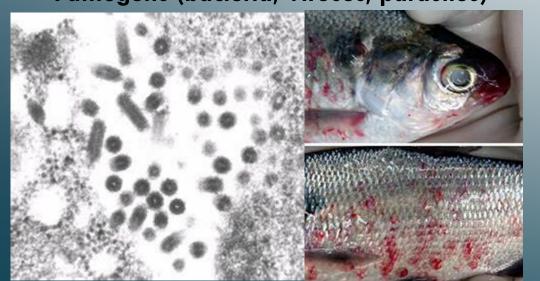






#### Zebra or Quagga mussels

#### Pathogens (bacteria, viruses, parasites)

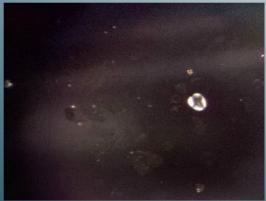


Invasive zooplankton spiny or fishhook water flea



## Sea Grant Study Of Ballast Bags





Images of microscopic organisms found in samples from ballast bags in SeaGrant study Top: Array of plankton in a sample Bottom: Zebra mussel veliger

- 13 ballast bags sampled
- Residual water volume in ballast tanks ranged from 1-86.8 liters/bag
  - Average of 31.7L
- Live organisms found in 9 out of 13 bags,
  two of which included zebra mussel larvae
- Organisms had been alive in the bags for at least 7 days by the time they were sampled

### Bits Of Ballast Can Move From Lake To Lake...

### Possible Scenario Of A Boater Over A Long Weekend

Saturday Winnipesaukee

Draw in 100 L am Discharge 90 L pm

Sunday Northwood Lake

 Draw in 90L am

 Discharge 85L pm

Monday Lake Ossipee

 Draw in 85L am

 Discharge 90L pm



10L carryover from

15L carryover from Northwood + Winnipesaukee

10L carryover from Northwood + Winnipesaukee +

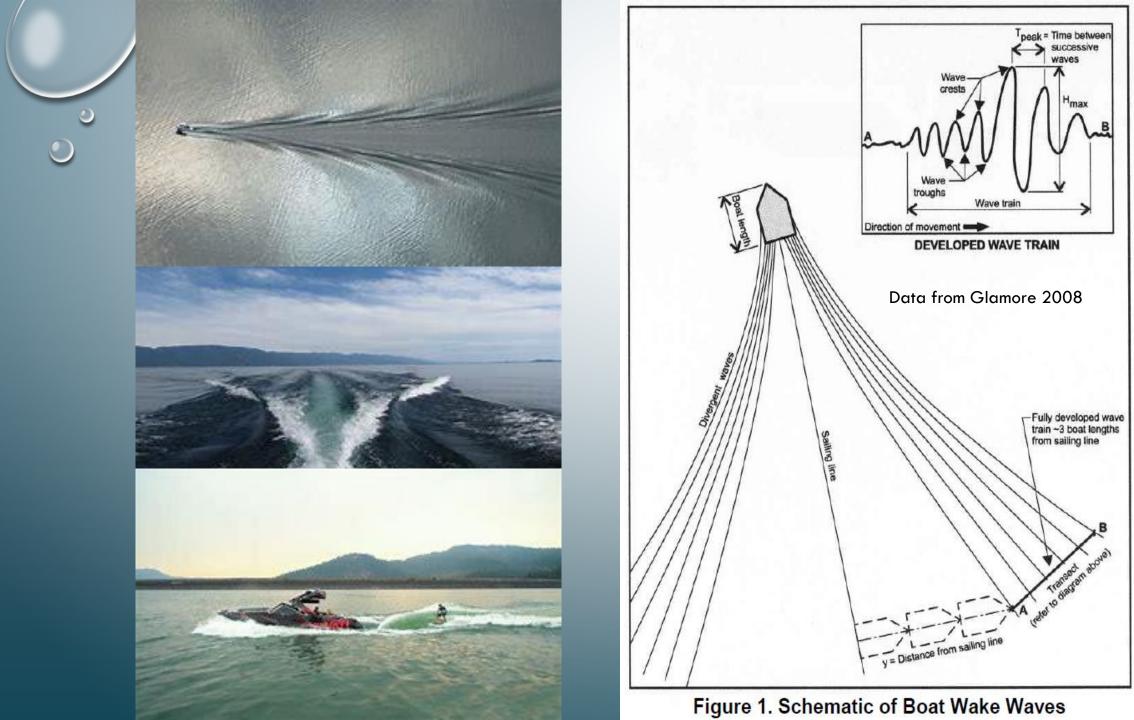


# Big Wakes and Water Quality

What's the Big Deal?

# **Boat Engines: Horsepower Impacts**

Horsepower	Depth Impacted
10	6 feet
28	10 feet
50	15 feet



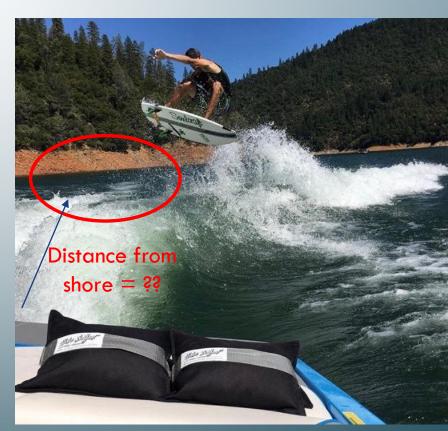


 The maximum wave energy is much higher for wakeboard boats than waterski boats

- Max energy for both boat types is higher at low speeds.
  - Wake/ballast boat has
    - 4.7x more energy than a waterski boat and at slow speed
    - 2.4x more energy than at operating speed.



- Shoreline erosion as a result of boat wakes
- Turbidity/reduced clarity from erosion and suspended sediment
- Nutrient loading from erosion and suspended sediment
  - Fine particles can stay suspended for 24 hours or more
- Disruption/damage to aquatic plant beds from direct boat contact and wave damage



From Wakeballast.com

# Cascading Effects







- Suspended sediment can have a high nutrient load
- Nutrients in the water column can fuel algal blooms, including harmful cyanobacteria blooms
- Suspended sediment can disrupt feeding of microscopic organisms, affecting the food web
- Suspended sediment can impact fish gills and ultimately the health of the fishery
- Changes in all of these categories could accelerate eutrophication of our lakes (aka, "lake aging")

### References

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