

MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON RESIDENT TROOPER HAMEL

As boating season gets underway, we would like to remind everyone of a few important Connecticut boating safety laws and regulations designed to keep our waterways safe and enjoyable for all.

Connecticut law requires a responsible observer, at least 12 years of age, whenever a vessel is towing a water-skier, tuber, wakeboarder, or any other person being pulled behind a boat. The operator's attention should remain focused on the safe operation of the vessel while the observer monitors the person being towed.

Boaters should also be aware that wake enhancement activities are prohibited on Lake Waramaug. Excessive wakes can create hazardous conditions for other boaters, paddlers, swimmers, and shoreline property owners.

Life jackets remain one of the most important pieces of safety equipment on the water. Connecticut law requires anyone operating a canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard, or other manually propelled vessel between May 1 and October 31 to wear a properly fitted life jacket. Children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket year-round. Wearing a life jacket greatly increases your chances of survival if you unexpectedly enter the water.

Safety on the water is a shared responsibility. By understanding and following these laws, we can all help prevent accidents and ensure Connecticut's lakes, rivers, and waterways remain safe for everyone to enjoy.

To report dangerous or reckless behavior on the water, please contact the Washington Resident Trooper's Office at 860-868-9671 or Connecticut State Police Troop Lat 860-626-7900. For emergencies on the water, call 911 immediately.