

SEP 25 2019

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

Sept 23, 2019

Re: Ordinance AB2019-479

Dear Whatcom County Council:

I live on Lake Samish and would like my letter to be submitted as part of the official meeting minutes for the September 24, 2019 Whatcom County Council meeting.

As I understand the Lake Samish no wake zone issue will be discussed and a new compromised ordinance has been proposed. The June 4, 2019 meeting was attended by approximately ten Lake Samish residents who made comments. All of those that spoke were in favor of the proposed changes with no residents opposing the proposal. I would like to inform you that most lake residents were NOT aware of the proposed changes, which is why no opposing views were voiced at the June 4, 2019 meeting. The no wake and shoreline decision appears to have been made in haste while only hearing from ONE side.

Large wakes are the main contributor to Shore and Dock damage. Ski boats have small wakes which have never been a problem. Why restrict ALL boats to 300' when the real issue is wake boarding and wake surfing? The wakeboard and surf boats have large ballasts which are filled with water to increase the size of the wakes which is the root problem to shore and dock damage. I urge you to focus on the problem of the few rather than punish everyone else. **PLEASE pass the new revised ordinance AB2019-479 where NO WAKE BOARDING OR WAKE SURFING is allowed WITHIN 300' OF A SHORE OR DOCK.**

The no wake zone at the bridge has been move all the way to Green Point which is excessive when extending it out from the previous location a couple hundred feet would accomplish the job coupled with **"NO WAKE BOARDING OR WAKE SURFING WITHIN 300' OF A SHORE OR DOCK"**.

The current setbacks which were recently passed have created safety concerns because all boats are forced into the center of the lake where they are competing watersport space. I fear that someone will be run over by another boat turning to pick up their tuber of skier from the center of the lake. Too many boats in a relatively small area create boat traffic with kids.

Additional Information:

Telling residents that all boats should be banned from Lake Samish and that residents should go to the ocean for their boating recreation is not an acceptable solution. Council Member Sidhu's statements are callous and reckless with no regard to the negative financial impact to Lake Samish residents. His comments clearly confirm to me his personal agenda to ban all boats on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish.

Additionally moving all watersports to the "ocean where there is lots of room" creates an enormous concern for safety. Puget Sound currents are fierce and can range from 5 to 10 knots where a swimmer can be swept out to sea or sucked down to the bottom and drown. I'm an avid scuba diver and have to carefully plan each and every dive when the tides are at "slack" and there is NO current. If you are not aware, a swimmer with fins can only swim against a 1/2 knot current.

Moving Boating Sports to the ocean is totally irresponsible do to:

- **Strong Currents**
- **Large Waves**
- **Big ship wakes**
- **Water temperatures are well below summertime lake temps and hypothermia can set in to swimmers.**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): It also should be noted that staffing at Lake Samish is inadequate, in that, many times there is not an AIS team at the public launch. The County passed the AIS program does not provide adequate funding to ensure proper implementation and sustainability. The Council should immediately provide adequate funding to operate the AIS program, as intended, at Lake Samish to ensure the safety of drinking water for the lake residents.

Two stroke motors: Should be implemented over a few years rather than immediately. Their use naturally will go away as time moves on and they wear out. The fact is that I rarely see one on the lake.

To summarize the main points:

PLEASE pass ordinance AB2019-479:

- **NO WAKE BOARDING OR WAKE SURFING WITHIN 300' OF A SHORE OR DOCK otherwise all other boats are restricted to 150'.**
- **Move the no wake zone at the bridge closer to the bridge where the lake is 600" wide.**

Thank you,


Bruce Brown

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