

BOATERS - HELP PRESERVE OUR CANALS

WHAT DOES **SLOW NO WAKE** REALLY MEAN?



Most boaters think **SLOW NO WAKE** signs mean a boat must be going slow enough to not put out any wake behind the boat. This is *not* true.

SLOW NO WAKE means moving at the *slowest speed possible* while still maintaining steerage. It has nothing to do with you actually making a small wake or not. The speed and maintaining steerage depends on your boat and its characteristics. **SLOW NO WAKE** varies with boat model, waves, currents, or even wind.

Most boats have two 5 mph speeds:

- The first, with the throttle clicked just forward of neutral, is called “idling in gear” — so that the engine is turning at around 600 rpm.
- The second, 5 mph speed is the one in which the engine is turning about 1,300 rpm. At this engine speed, there’s more thrust. But the boat is squatting, resulting in a bigger wake and no increase in speed.

Each time the **SLOW NO WAKE** is ignored, you are **DAMAGING THE BULKHEADS**; you are **STIRRING UP THE MUCK** on the bottom of the canals that pollutes our waters; you are **IMPACTING BOATS** tied up; and you are **ROCKIN’ THE WORLDS** of those canoeing, kayaking or fishing.

So you think no one will notice?...but we do notice and we have had complaints about these violations. Consider that Federal, Delaware, as well as South Bethany, holds you responsible for your wake and any damage created to moored boats and bulkheads can be ticketed and fined.

SEE SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING - If you **SEE** a boat creating wake as it makes its way down our canals, ***MAKE A DOWNWARD MOTION WITH YOUR HAND***, signaling the driver to ***CUT THE BOAT SPEED***. If the boater chooses to ignore your request you have the right to take pictures and capture the boat’s name, boat description, and its registration numbers on the side of the boat. Then contact **DNREC’S BOAT ENFORCEMENT DIVISION** at **302-739-4580**. Our SBPD has no jurisdiction over canal waters. Taking this action means you care about preserving our South Bethany canals.



ON BEHALF OF ALL SOUTH BETHANY PROPERTY OWNERS - THANK YOU!!

SUBMITTED BY Frank Weisgerber, Town Councilmember, Chair, Water Quality Committee & Sue Callaway, Town Councilmember, Chair, Community Enhancement Committee