

September 17, 2009

Kootenai Co. Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to respond to the recent discussion regarding the No Wake Zone (NWZ) in Bayview. We are floathome owners at Scenic Bay Marina, and have our boat moored at MacDonald's Hudson Bay Resort.

We are adamantly opposed to any change to remove or decrease the NWZ in Bayview. The present NWZ which has been in effect for over 20 years has made Bayview the idyllic bay that it is. As it stands now, because of the NWZ, we have a quiet, safe, peaceful place to live, vacation, recreate or swim in. Visitors and residents of Bayview have the best of both worlds. One mile from launching their boat, they can enjoy the 148 square miles of Idaho's largest lake to waterski, wakeboard, tube, fish, or just speed around. Or, they can choose to stay within the one mile NWZ to enjoy a quiet, safe, calm place to kayak, canoe, swim, or just cruise slowly enjoying the beautiful scenery of Bayview's mountains, marinas and homes.

Let's compare the Pros and Cons to removing the NWZ:

Pros: Doing the math, it takes 12 min to go 1 mile at 5 mph. 12 minutes! So one could get out to the unlimited speed zone a few minutes faster.

Cons: In our opinion, the biggest issue would be the unsafe environment created by speeding boats and the speeding boats in general - it will make the bay completely unsafe for swimmers, canoers, kayakers and children using paddle boats. This is a way of life for the people of Bayview. If this is eliminated, people will no longer be able to utilize the bay safely for anything other than boating. Obnoxious noise from speed boats would increase, doing away with the quiet calm of the bay. The spawning beds of the Kokanee could be damaged by turbulent water (we can't control what the weather does, but purposely creating and allowing unnatural water turbulence is entirely different). Increased erosion to beaches would occur. Potential damage to floathomes, boats and businesses could occur because of constant wakes.

The people of Bayview should be the ones making the decision to change or remove the NWZ, not politicians, non-residents and non-owners. The people that come from out of the area to boat here should not be allowed to change what has worked for over 20 years and made Bayview what it is. They look at it as just a body of water to boat on; we see it as our home, and a lifestyle that allows us a wonderful place for our children to safely enjoy Lake Pend O'Reille. If these people want immediate speed, they should go to Lake CDA. One only needs to go down to Independence Point on a weekend and experience the wakes, noise and unsafe environment for those not in boats to see what a minimal

NWZ creates. Are these really the people we want going faster near people, businesses and other boaters, those that can't wait 12 minutes to crank up the speed??? This is a serious safety issue for people, and safety for people should come FIRST! It is outrageous that for the selfish desires of a few impatient people, the people of Bayview must sacrifice our lifestyle that makes Bayview so unique and special. If money is an issue, then present it that way, and work on a plan to address that, not fix something that isn't broken. Let's work on how we CAN keep the NWZ, not do away with or modify it. The NWZ is NOT broken. The cost to taxpayers is much higher for one critically injured person without insurance than it is to maintain the cost of buoys.

If the issue is the commissioner's authority to have the NWZ in the first place, then how has it been in existence for over 20 years, being enforced by the Sheriff's Office? Sounds like another example of our elected officials doing whatever they want, rather than listening to what their constituents who are affected by these outrageous proposals have to say. Bayview homeowners, floathome owners, business owners and a large number of responsible boat owners DO NOT WANT THE NWZ REMOVED or MODIFIED! WE are the voices you need to listen to!!!

Sincerely,

Rob and Angela Brooke