

Subject: [SPAM] letter
From: "Jeffrey Douglass"
Date: Sat, September 12, 2009
To: mmaxson

Dear Commissioner Tondee,

September 12, 2009

Recently, I was on my 35' sailboat, at Hudson Bay's dock, in the cabin, just finishing my dinner. All of a sudden, the boat, which has a 6' keel and is designed to sail around the world, started rocking back and forth violently. In the 9 years I have owned the boat, I had never experienced this extreme motion, even in very windy and adverse conditions. My first thought was something very serious is happening: a fierce storm just broke, a naval sub had an underwater explosion, an earthquake took place. I scrambled out of the cabin and saw the cause as I hung on to the safety hand holds: a very large motor boat wake hitting my boat broadside.

Motor boat waves are a frequent nuisance when moving about the boat but this time it was an absolute danger. What if this had happened when I was next to the stove boiling water to cook potatoes a half hour earlier? What if my wife or guest was on the deck getting ready to jump onto the dock when those waves hit? A broken leg or ankle or something more serious? What if the adjacent masts that almost hit each other as the boats swayed at dizzying angles did collide and tangled? The damage and cost would be significant.

Boaters in other parts of the country are now starting to fight back. A recent issue of BOAT/US documents this. Motor boat owners are being successfully sued for personal and property damage caused by their wakes. Wouldn't you if you had been the guest on my boat and your leg was broken when you went to step off the boat but instead were hurled onto the dock by a large, unnoticed wave?

My request is to not only maintain the no wake buoys. We should be focusing on providing additional monies to better enforce the no wake zone. Wakes can be dangerous and motor boaters need to be aware of their potential impact. In addition, Idaho should require boaters to have a license. Everyone's safety and well being would be enhanced. Boating, as driving, needs to be done with education, awareness of safety issues and with others in mind.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Douglass
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho