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COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



CO00027851

ORDINANCE NO. 86- 023

AMENDING RECREATIONAL WATER USE ACTIVITIES REGULATIONS
SCC TITLE 12

BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. [New Section] There is added to the Snohomish County Code Chapter 12.04 a new section as follows:

12.04.011 Applicable waterways. This title is intended to regulate conduct and use of vessels in and on fresh water lakes located in Snohomish County and not located entirely within the jurisdiction of an incorporated city or town.

Section 2. Section 12.20.030 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.20.030 Vessel operators--Minimum crew--Water-skiing. Every vessel towing water skiers or other floating objects shall carry an observer in addition to the operator. Such observer shall have the duty of keeping a lookout for hazards to, or created by, the tow and of reporting same to the operator. All persons in motorboats ((towing-skiers)) traveling in excess of eight (8) miles per hour shall remain seated((-)), unless such vessel is specifically designed for persons to not be seated while underway.

Section 3. Section 12.24.050 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.24.050 Speed regulations--Special circumstances.

(1) Unless conditions of the water, traffic and congestion, weather, size and configuration of the lake, freedom from obstruction to view, or other circumstances demand greater distance and/or slower speed, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vessel:

~~((+1+))~~ (a) At a speed greater than idling speed or eight (8) miles per hour, whichever is the lesser, within one hundred (100) feet of any swimmer, skin and/or scuba diver's flag or artificially illuminated marker buoy, other vessel, floating objects, except water-ski jumps and water-ski slalom marker buoys or water skier, except any water skier being towed by said vessel;

~~((+2+))~~ (b) In the water area of any lake designated as a "swimming only" area, or as a "vessel prohibited" area, except this provision does not apply to vessels actually used in the rescue of persons in distress;

~~((+3+))~~ (c) At a speed greater than idling speed or eight (8) miles per hour, whichever is the lesser, within one hundred (100) feet of any shoreline, safety buoy, safety

buoy line, float, or wharf, except as provided in subsection ~~((4))~~ (2) of this section;

~~((4))~~ (2) For the purpose of launching and returning any water skier and only for such purpose, any vessel towing said water skier may be operated within one hundred (100) feet of any shoreline, safety buoy, safety buoy line, float, or wharf, or in the water area of the lake between the shoreline and a safety buoy and/or safety buoy line; provided, that:

(a) While launching or returning any water skier said vessel moves at a speed not greater than thirty-five (35) miles per hour,

(b) While moving outward away from the shoreline, float or wharf, said vessel shall leave the shoreline at an angle of not less than forty-five (45) degrees nor more than sixty (60) degrees with the shoreline on the starboard side of said vessel,

(c) While moving inward toward the shoreline, float or wharf, said vessel shall approach the shoreline at an angle of not less than forty-five (45) degrees nor more than sixty (60) degrees with the shoreline on the starboard side of said vessel,

(d) That after any returning water skier releases the tow rope of said vessel, said vessel shall move at a speed

not greater than idling speed or eight (8) miles per hour, whichever is the lesser,

(e) That no launching skiers or returning skiers shall be allowed from a dock or shoreline without the owner's prior permission.

(f) That no launching skiers or returning skiers shall be allowed within one hundred (100) feet of a designated swimming area or swimmer, wader or scuba diver; and

Provided, further, that if water-ski launch floats ~~((may))~~ or jumps be provided for the launching or use of water skiers, ~~((and-under-such-circumstances,))~~ the ~~((board))~~ Park Division may regulate ~~((launch-and-return))~~ use operations to and from such floats or jumps.

Provided, further, that nothing herein shall require the Park Division to install, mark or maintain such floats or jumps.

Section 4. Section 12.24.060 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.24.060 Motorboats--Right-of-way. Every motorboat shall at all times yield right-of-way to sailboats, rowboats, water skiers, swimmers and divers. Every motorboat shall yield to other motorboats in accordance with the "Inland Steering and Sailing Rules" promulgated by the

United States Coast Guard. Violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor and punishable as such.

Section 5. Section 12.28.010 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.28.010 Water skier speed and operation regulations.

Unless conditions of the water, traffic congestion, weather, size and configuration of the lake, freedom from obstruction to view, or other circumstances demand greater distance, it shall be unlawful for any persons to water-ski:

(1) Within one hundred feet of any swimmer, bather, skin and/or scuba diver's flag or artificially illuminated marker buoy, other vessel except the vessel towing said water skier, floating objects except water-ski jumps and water-ski slalom marker buoys, or other water skiers except those water skiers being towed by the same vessel;

(2) In the water area of the lake between the shoreline and a safety buoy and/or safety buoy line except that for the purpose of launching and returning and only for such purpose any water skier may approach within one hundred feet of any shoreline, safety buoy, safety buoy line float or wharf or in the water area of the lake between the shoreline and a safety buoy and/or safety buoy line, provided:

(a) While moving outward from any shoreline, float or wharf, said water skier shall leave the shoreline at an angle of not less than forty-five (45) degrees nor more than sixty (60) degrees with the shoreline on the right-hand side of the water skier,

(b) While moving inward toward the shoreline, said water skier shall approach the shoreline at an angle of not less than forty-five (45) degrees nor more than sixty (60) degrees with the shoreline on the right-hand side of the water skier.

(c) That no launching skiers or returning skiers shall be allowed from a dock or shoreline without the owner's permission,

(d) That no launching skiers or returning skiers shall be allowed within 100 feet of a designated swimming area or swimmer or wader.

Section 6. Section 12.28.050 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.28.050 Water use equipment--Skiers. It shall be unlawful for any person to water-ski and for any person to tow a water skier unless such skier is wearing ((a-ski-belt type-flotation-device-or)) a Coast Guard-approved Type I, II or III personnel flotation device.

Section 7. Section 12.40.040 of the Snohomish County Code, adopted by Resolution on June 30, 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

12.40.040 Duty to report accidents. Any water skier and/or any person operating any vessel which has collided with any person or property of another shall within twenty-four (24) hours report such collision to the sheriff. The sheriff shall provide forms upon which reports may be filed; provided, that no report of property damage shall be required if the damage does not exceed ((seventy-five)) two hundred dollars ((+\$75-00)) (\$200.00) in value. Failure to report such accident shall be a misdemeanor and subject to penalty as such.

Section 8. [New Section] There is added to the Snohomish County Code Chapter 12.28 a new section as follows:

12.28.011 Boat direction. It shall be unlawful to water ski or operate a self-propelled boat in excess of eight (8) miles per hour on any lake where such operation is lawful except in a counter clockwise direction.

Section 9. [New Section] There is added to the Snohomish County Code Chapter 12.28 a new section as follows:

12.28.060 Private Buoys. It shall be unlawful for any non-governmental person or agency to place, maintain or allow any buoy in any lake in Snohomish County except as provided herein. All such buoys shall be:

- (1) spheric in shape;
- (2) be constructed of a material that is pliable and will float even if saturated;
- (3) no less than thirty-six (36) inches in circumference;
- (4) have sufficient weight or anchors to prevent drifting;
- (5) have non-floating securing line;
- (6) have permanently marked on it the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the buoy;
- (7) be indelibly colored as follows:
 - a) for marking swimming areas - fluorescent green;
 - b) for marking water ski courses - international orange;
 - c) for other private uses - bright yellow.

PASSED this 19th day of March, 1986

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

Bruce Agnew
Chairperson

Approved as to Form:

Lynda W. Sibley
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

ATTEST:

Sheila McCallister
Clerk of Council, asst.

- () APPROVED
() VETOED
() EMERGENCY

DATE: 3/27/86
[Signature]
County Executive

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