

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

**PUBLIC WATER ZONING
41:04:02**

Commission Meeting Dates:	Public Hearing Finalization	March 6, 2014 March 6-7, 2014	Ft. Pierre Ft. Pierre
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COMMISSION PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

Amend public water safety zones in Clark, Hughes and Perkins counties.

Requirements and Restrictions:

"No boating zone," an area in which boats of all types are prohibited. Department personnel or other persons specifically authorized by the secretary are exempt from this restriction while in the performance of their duties.

"No wake zone," an area in which boats may not create a wake by their passage. For the purposes of this article, a wake is defined as any type of wave action caused by the passage of a boat. At no time may the boat be operated at a speed greater than five miles per hour.

"Public swimming zone," an area in which public swimming and bathing are allowed. In these areas boats of any nature including sailboards, fishing, and other incompatible activities are prohibited.

"No swimming zone," an area in which public swimming and bathing are not allowed.

Recommended changes:

1. Amend the dates that boating is prohibited on Reid Lake (Clark County).

41:04:02:12. Clark County public water safety zones. The Clark County public water safety zone is the waters within Reid Lake Waterfowl Refuge designated as a "no boating zone" from ~~September 4~~ October 20 to December 31, inclusive.

2. Amend the existing "no wake zone" and "no swimming zone" at Spring Creek Recreation Area (Hughes County).

41:04:02:32. Hughes County public water safety zones. Hughes County public water safety zones are as follows:

(7) The waters inside the ~~two~~ floating breakwater protected ~~areas~~ area at Spring Creek Recreation Area are a ~~"no swimming zone" and a "no wake zone."~~ and the waters within 20 feet of the breakwater are a "no swimming zone."

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3. Amend the boundaries of the existing "public swimming zone" and "no wake zone" on Shadehill Reservoir (Perkins County).

41:04:02:52. Perkins County public water safety zones. Perkins County public water safety zones are as follows:

(1) Shadehill Reservoir:

(a) The waters fronting on the north side of the reservoir beginning ~~at a point along the shoreline~~ 150 feet from shore directly in front of the ~~center of the bathhouse picnic shelter~~ and extending ~~200~~ 250 feet ~~in each direction~~ to the east along the shoreline are a "public swimming zone";

(b) The waters beginning approximately 300 feet south of the Ketterlings Point boat ramp and extending from the west shoreline to the east shoreline encompassing the bay where the Ketterlings Point boat ramp is located are a "no wake zone";

(c) The waters fronting the Ketterlings Point Recreation Area beginning ~~400~~ 150 feet from shore in the center of the lodge on the east side of the point and extending around the south end of the point ending approximately in the center of the lodge on the west-facing side of the point are a "no wake zone."



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SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

The Department recommends amending the period when boating is prohibited on Reid Lake (Clark County). The later start (from September 1 to October 20) to the boating closure will allow for additional fall fishing opportunity on Reid Lake during September and early-October, while still serving its purpose to minimize disturbance to waterfowl during the peak of the fall migration. The October 20 – December 31 closure is already utilized on several other eastern South Dakota lakes.

The Spring Creek Marina on Lake Oahe has been relocated to the bay that also houses the public boat ramp. The department recommends that the water within 20 feet of the floating tire breakwater structure be designated as a “no swimming zone” because the cabling and anchoring system that holds the breakwater structure in place represents an underwater hazard that makes swimming unsafe near the breakwater. The department also recommends that the “no swimming zone” in the balance of the bay be removed. The Spring Creek Marina concessionaire supports the proposed change and has the right to restrict swimming off of the marina boat slips if they feel it is needed. This is consistent with the water zoning at other marinas within South Dakota state park areas.

The Department recommends amending both the “public swimming zone” on the north side of the reservoir and the “no wake zone” fronting Ketterlings Point on Shadehill Reservoir (Perkins County). Shadehill Reservoir has seen an increase in recreational activity over the last several years. The area surrounding Ketterlings Point has become a popular spot for both swimmers and boaters. Ketterlings Point boat ramp sits on the east side of Ketterlings Point and once boaters leave the boat ramp, they tend to travel along Ketterlings Point. Department staff have received numerous complaints regarding boats, including personal watercraft, that travel too close to people swimming in the water. Most of these vessels are operating outside of the existing “no wake zone” that is set 100 feet from shore. Extending the existing “no wake zone” to 150 feet from shore would serve to better protect swimmers and water enthusiasts from boats that are underway.

The swim beach on Shadehill Reservoir is located east of Ketterlings Point on the north side of the impoundment. A boat ramp was installed several years ago on the east side of the swim beach. The swim beach no longer has a bathhouse associated with it, thus the need for a more accurate zoning description. The proposed changes would also create a buffer zone for people trying to launch boats.