



Boat Speed affects Wakes

Every boat's wake speed range is different. Excess speed and wake board boats specifically designed to make a large surfing wake, not only damages and erodes our shoreline, but is hazardous to small boats and swimmers. **Nesting ducks, Loons and their babies are particularly vulnerable to wakes.** Boaters must slow down as they approach the shoreline, and also while passing moored craft.

Near-Shore Speed Limit

There is a general non-posted *10 kph speed limit within 30 metres (100') from shore* in the waters of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, **rivers and lakes in British Columbia** and Nova Scotia. Penalties are fines up to \$500 or six months imprisonment. (Canada Shipping Act: Boating Restriction Regulations)

You are responsible to operate your boat in a safe manner and prevent damage caused by your wake or wash, even if no signs are posted. If your boat or its wake damages property or injures people, you may have broken the law in many jurisdictions (Canada Shipping Act, Maritime Law, provincial laws). **The person who suffers damage must be able to identify the boat and the operator and prove it caused the damage (witnesses are helpful).** ([Boating Laws: Contraventions Act](#))

The Contraventions Act

With the introduction of the Contraventions Act in 1996, many offences that were previously listed under the Criminal Code of Canada, now result in fines instead of criminal charges.

The *Small Vessel Regulations* section on "Careless Operation" reads, "**No person shall operate a small vessel in a careless manner without due care or without**

reasonable consideration for other persons." An operator can be charged with Careless Operation, if, as a result of excess speed, their wash adversely affects a number of water activities such as docks, shoreline and an anchorage. You are responsible for any damage or discomfort your boat causes to wildlife, people, objects and the shoreline.

Speed Limits In most provinces there is a 10 kph speed limit within 30 metres (100 feet) from shore. Fine is \$125, with maximum fine \$500 or six months imprisonment. (Canada Shipping Act: Boating Restriction Regulations) [Boat Speed]

Contravention Act is a federal act adopted by most provinces which **is enforced by local police, RCMP and Coast Guard** using on-the-water tickets and fines.