

**New Jersey Boat Regulation Commission Meeting  
January 8, 2025  
Battleship New Jersey, Officer's Wardroom  
100 Clinton Street  
Camden, NJ 08103**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr.  
Bruce Strigh  
Leonard Mangiaracina  
Shaun Blick

**STAFF**

DAG Kevin Dronson  
Sergeant Karen Fahy  
Sergeant Anthony Buro

Office of the Attorney General  
NJSP, Marine Services Bureau  
NJSP, Marine Services Bureau

**PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

**II. SUNSHINE LAW ANNOUNCEMENT (OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 by Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr., at which time he also announced that this meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, known as the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, various news media outlets via the New Jersey State Police Office of Public Information, the New Jersey State Police website, and posting at State Police Headquarters, West Trenton, NJ.

**III. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2024 MEETING**

Minutes from the October 30th, 2024, Boat Regulation Commission Meeting were approved by Leonard Mangiaracina and the motion to approve was seconded by Bruce Strigh.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Pending N.J.A.C. Title 13, Chapter 82 Boating Regulation Amendment Update**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. moved to unfinished business, mentioning the pending NJ Title 13 Chapter 82 regulation amendment update. Sergeant Karen Fahy provided an update from the September BRC meeting, mentioning the list of regulations submitted to the New Jersey State Police Office of Research and Legislation on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sergeant Karen Fahy explained the timeline for the rule making process and stated the changes will be placed on the calendar in October 2025 for possible re-adoption later in 2026. She stated the process may take about 9 months and no boating regulation changes can be affected between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, thereby moving any potential regulatory changes to be implemented around the fall of 2026 or later.

- **N.J.A.C. Title 13, Chapter 82 / N.J.S. Title 12, Section 7-51 Proposal to Increase Fines Update**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. transitioned to the next topic, NJ Title 13:82 / NJ Title 12:7-51, which involves a proposal to increase fines. Sergeant Karen Fahy updated the Commission on the fine subcommittee's progress, mentioning the assistance from Deputy Attorneys General (DAG) and the lengthy process of researching each regulation. Sergeant Karen Fahy stated that the Boat Regulation Commission's sub-committee on the fines has been discussing the best ways to go about increasing the NJ Title 13:82 fines. She advised the Marine Services Bureau DAGs informed her that the fines don't directly correlate to each regulation, so they have had to research each regulation to determine what other regulation or law the penalty defers. Sergeant Karen Fahy stated the NJSP Marine Services Bureau had a contingent Marine Services Bureau (MSB) troopers provide a list of seventeen (17) NJ Title 13:82 regulations the Troopers felt were the most important safety related regulations, to provide a baseline for the DAGs to start their review of the fines. The statutes that MSB determined were going to be most valuable to look into first, dealt with equipment, personal flotation devices, speed, navigation rules, anchoring near navigational aids, interference with other vessels, interference with marine events, obeying orders, riders, lanyard cutoff switch, non-licensed operators, reporting of boating accidents, waterskiing and wake surfing, racing events and prohibited operations. Additionally, display of numbers on vessels and display of validation sticker and fee for duplicate, which are both governed by the NJMVC, not the BRC. The sub-committee will begin with assessing how the fines for these seventeen statutes are determined, with the expectation of the sub-committee meeting in the next 60 days to begin working with the information that the DAGs have provided.

- **Spruce Run Reservoir Regulation Request**

Sergeant Karen Fahy reminded the Commission of the October BRC discussion to adopt a regulation for the Spruce Run Reservoir similar to the Round Valley Reservoir regulation with the inclusion of the term "paddleboard" in the regulation.

She advised she received a letter in support of adopting the regulation for Spruce Run Reservoir in Hunterdon County, as well as the Monksville Reservoir in Passaic County

from the John P. Cecil, the Assistant Commissioner the New Jersey State Park Service. The Assistant Commissioner wrote the following:

I am writing to formally support the proposed addition of the regulation concerning mandatory wearing of personal floatation devices (PFDs) on both Spruce Run and Monksville Reservoirs, like the existing regulation for Round Valley Reservoir.

The State Park Service owns and manages 3 reservoirs: Spruce Run and Round Valley in Hunterdon County and Monksville in Passaic County. Implementing a regulation for uniformity at all three reservoirs would enhance public safety by providing clear and consistent guidelines, which are enforced by the New Jersey State Park Police.

The existing regulation for Round Valley, N.J.A.C. 13:82-3.18, mandates the wearing of serviceable United States Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III, or V Hybrid PFDs for all individuals on board vessels under 14 feet in length or on canoes, kayaks, inflatables, or windsurfers. Expanding this regulation would be a proactive step in safeguarding the public while enjoying our waterways.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites program respectfully requests the Boating Safety Commission consider this addition/modification for Spruce Run and Monksville Reservoirs. Thank you for your commitment to enhancing the safety of our boating community.

Sergeant Karen Fahy mentions during the October BRC meeting Officer Brian Todaro from the NJ State Park Police provided information in support of adopting regulation for Spruce Run Reservoir. Sergeant Karen Fahy added that she spoke with New Jersey State Park Service Administrator, Rebecca Fitzgerald, to discuss more specific geographical information supporting a regulation for Monksville Reservoir to be put into effect.

Rebecca Fitzgerald advised the following;

The reservoir is located in Northern Passaic County, has a surface area of 505 acres, and spans about three miles from end to end, with a maximum depth of 90 feet. The reservoir is surrounded by forest on all sides, with County Highway 511 bisecting the southern part of the Reservoir. There are no residences in the area, and anyone calling for assistance would only be heard by others using the Reservoir. There is no staff assigned specifically to this location, but cover it from other areas, with the closest State Park Service office located at Ringwood State Park approximately 3 miles away.

While the Park Service does not maintain attendance numbers specific to the recreational boating population at Monksville Reservoir, the capacity of all 3 launch areas, (North, South and Beech Road) is approximately 130 vehicles. If the

weather is good the area is at capacity on weekends and holidays from May through September, often all day (with turnover during the afternoon). Regular use includes boating, using 10 HP or less, kayaking, canoeing, windsurfing and rowing.

Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that she also communicated with Chief George Fedorczyk of the New Jersey State Park Police. Chief George Fedorczyk emailed Sergeant Karen Fahy requested statistics on calls for Service on Monksville Reservoir from 2020 to 2024, which she relayed to the Commission. Sergeant Karen Fahy reiterated the request and apparent need for a regulation for Spruce Run Reservoir and Monksville Reservoir, with the same language as the Round Valley Reservoir Regulation with the addition of the term paddleboard for all three individual regulations.

Bruce Strigh makes a motion to include a regulation for Spruce Run Reservoir to mirror that of Round Valley Reservoir, with the addition of the word paddleboard. The motion is seconded and approved by Shaun Blick.

Leonard Mangiaracina makes a motion to include a regulation for Monksville Reservoir to mirror Round Valley Reservoir, with the addition of the word paddleboard. The motion was seconded by Bruce Strigh.

Shaun Blick made a motion to amend Round Valley Reservoir regulation to include the word paddleboard. Leonard Mangiaracina seconded the motion.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- **BRC@njsp.gov Email Communications Inbox Report**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. introduces new business, mentioning the Boat Regulation Commission (BRC) email site and any inbox communications. Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that the BRC email communication inbox received one (1) email from Robert Kita regarding no wake buoys and speed guidelines in the Shrewsbury River. Sergeant Karen Fahy read the email from Robert Kita as follows:

I received the question from a student Regarding the NO WAKE BUOYS in the area designated in the picture (He attached screenshots of navigational maps of the Shrewsbury River). The no wake buoys are well in excess of 200 feet (more than the 100 ft limit) from the shoreline and more than 200 ft from any docks in that area.

So, the questions are:

#1. If a boater is further than 200 feet from a shoreline (or dock) at what distance from these specific buoys can a boater go faster than no wake.

#2. What are the guidelines for enforcement policies for this situation

#3. In the area by Barrs landing, is it an acceptable practice to go faster than no wake on the eastern side of the channel

# 4. what criteria needs to be met in this area to have no wake buoys installed in areas noted in this specific area.

Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that in the email, Robert Kita wanted to know what distance from these specific buoys can a boater go faster than no wake speed. She stated that boaters must travel at a no wake speed once they get within 200 feet from the buoys. Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that a BRC review is not needed and advised that Robert Kita could follow the guidelines for enforcement policies for this situation in NJ Title 13:82-1.7 and NJ Title 12:7-45. Sergeant Karen Fahy then addressed Robert Kita's email where he asked an additional question requesting clarification if it is acceptable in the area of Bahrs Landing Restaurant in Highlands, NJ, to go faster than no wake speed on the eastern side of the channel. Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that boaters must remain at a no wake speed in this area, and further advised that the entire area near Bahrs Landing Restaurant, north of the Highlands Bridge, is marked with "Slow Speed No Wake" buoys. Sergeant Karen Fahy remarked on the last question and stated that NJDEP, Aids to Navigation (ATON), takes care of the placement of marker buoys in this area, and if a request to add a marker buoy to a particular area on the water, a NJSP Marine Services Bureau Trooper must conduct a survey to determine if this request should be approved or denied.

The area of the Shrewsbury River in question by Robert Kita was discussed by the BRC meeting in 2010. As a result of those discussions, a temporary measure was put in place to make the entirety of the Shrewsbury River a slow speed, no wake zone. Further BRC discussions led to the creation of an amendment to the temporary rule to exclude the area from buoy # 12 to buoy # 17, located at the mouth of the Navasink River, on the western side of the river from being a slow speed, no wake zone. Sergeant Karen Fahy made clear that the northern portion of the Shrewsbury River to the mouth of the Sandy Hook Bay, near buoy #5 continues to be a slow speed, no wake zone.

Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that she did research of past BRC meeting minutes from January 9, 2013 which mentioned that during a November 14, 2012 BRC meeting the BRC determined the slow speed, no wake buoys on the Shrewsbury River, would remain in the same location during the 2013 boating season, as they were the previous year.

The ongoing topic culminated with a letter to the BRC from Mayor Dina Long, of the Borough of Sea Bright, who stated in regard to the placement of slow speed, no wake buoys "in my view, this action on your part effectively created a "slow speed/ No Wake" zone without any necessity of pursuing regulatory action." The mayor further requested the slow speed, no wake buoys remain in the same location during 2013 boating season. Sergeant Karen Fahy re-iterated the placement of the buoys should restrict the speed on the river, therefore there was no regulatory action needed from the BRC then nor was

there a need for action from the BRC at the current meeting. The BRC commissioners agree the matter was resolved at the 2013 meeting and concluded that no action was needed.

- **Waiver for the Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. introduced the waiver application for the Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks. Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that she received the application for the waiver and that she was advised by Lake Mohawk Ski Hawks member, Thomas Askin, that there were no changes from last year's waiver request and that there were no notable issues during the 2024 season. Leonard Mangiaracina made a motion to approve the waiver and Shaun Blick seconded the motion of approval.

- **Waiver for the Sussex County Rowing Club**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. introduces the waiver application for the Sussex County Rowing Club. Sergeant Karen Fahy confirms that she received the application from Timothy Holovac who advised that there were no changes from the 2024 waiver and no issues during the 2024 season. Bruce Strigh made a motion to approve the waiver application, which was seconded by Leonard Mangiaracina.

- **Radinn G2X Electric Jetboard**

Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. spoke on the topic of a recently read article about a jetboard manufactured by Radinn, model #G2X. He stated that the jetboard costs approximately \$12,000 dollars and can travel at a speed of over 30mph. Acting Chairman Edward Harrison Jr. advised he was concerned that models like the one he described would increase the popularity of eFoils and jetboards.

Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that the BRC has previously determined that they discussed and agreed regulating eFoils and jetboards as Personal Watercrafts (PWC), and that the NJSP Marine Services Bureau has submitted a justification to change the definition of Personal Watercraft. She further stated that until the definition is changed, the BRC cannot move forward with regulations.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Melissa Danko, Executive Director of the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey:* Melissa Danko asked about the process of changing the definition of personal watercraft. Sergeant Karen Fahy explained the need for a legislative change was to include electric vessels in the definition of personal watercraft which is different than a regulatory change. Sergeant Karen Fahy stated she submitted a justification forward in 2023, and because the definition of Personal Watercraft is in New Jersey Title 12, it requires a legislative change and therefore is out of the purview of the BRC. Sergeant Karen Fahy also advised that she submitted a justification to change NJ Title 12:7-61 to ensure the

disallowance of children ages 13 to 16 to operate high powered electric vessels. Sergeant Karen Fahy reiterated that Title 12 contains boating laws and requires legislative change. Melissa Danko then asked how a member of the public could get information on legislative changes. Lieutenant Christopher Jones answered Melissa Danko's question by advising that when legislature ultimately drafts a bill for the change, they will put same out for public comment at which point it will be available. Sergeant Karen Fahy also advised she will make sure the MSB office will make notification of changes of this nature that have been made public.

*Robert Kita, Owner Boat Safe US, LLC, Boating Safety Course Instructor and Provider:* Robert Kita asked for clarification of the "No Wake" zone near the Highlands Bridge out to buoy #11. Sergeant Karen Fahy advised that the entire area was slow speed, no wake. Lieutenant Christopher Jones advised Robert Kita that he could always contact someone from the NJSP Marine Services Bureau if he had any other questions of this nature in the future.

## **VII. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION**

Acting Chairperson Edward Harrison Jr. expressed his appreciation to the providers of the facility and to the staff for the accommodations for the meeting.

## **VIII. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Acting Chairperson Edward Harrison Jr. requested if there was anything on the agenda for the next meeting. Sergeant Karen Fahy stated that at present, there was nothing to carry over on the agenda. Additionally, the agenda for the next meeting will be posted publicly on the New Jersey State Police website and at State Police Headquarters, West Trenton, NJ.

## **IX. DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Boat Regulation Commission meeting is posted publicly on the New Jersey State Police website, [www.njsp.org](http://www.njsp.org), under Public Information, Marine Services, New Jersey Boat Regulation Commission Annual Schedule of Meetings. The meeting is scheduled The March 12, 2025, Boat Regulation Commission meeting is scheduled to take place at 10:00AM at the Ocean City Yacht Club, 100 Bay Road, Ocean City, New Jersey 08226.

## **X. AJOURNMENT**

Shaun Blick then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bruce Strigh seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.