

Wake sport boats and the Newberg Pool

Wake sports boats are a sharp poke in the eye to any concern about human impact on our environment and the increasing global temperatures driving climate change. The waterski boats of the last century were designed for lightness and elimination of its wake, but they were also heavy users of fuel and exempt from pollution controls. Today's wake sport boats are grotesque caricatures of yesterday's boats that appear to be more than twice the weight and require twice the materials to build and, likely, burn twice as much fuel. This is not progress. It is an unfortunate continuation of self-indulgent, wealthy, First World consumerism .

Young people around the world are some of the leading voices demanding action be taken to slow the rate of climate change. But what lessons are learned by the young enjoying a day on the water wake boarding? If I can afford it, I should be able to do it. Resources are unlimited. My short-term pleasure really does not have a negative longterm impact on others.

All the world's automakers are moving rapidly toward lighter, more efficient vehicles powered by electricity, yet boat makers are building and selling the opposite. Even if powered by an electric motor, the goal of creating the largest possible wake is inherently counter to efficiency.

These boats not only do not belong on Oregon waterways. They do not belong in our world.