

Watersports-R-Us (WRU)
Watersports Ethics Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to Watersports-R-Us (WRU). "Let's make some waves" is your group motto and quite honestly, is the main cause of your problems. You're scaring fish, harming the shoreline and environmentalists seem to think you're polluting the water as well. Whether waterskiing, wakeboarding or tubing, you love spending the day on the lake and the last thing you need are these groups "making waves" when it comes to your good time. Really, why do you even need to SHARE this lake?

But you're also smart enough to know that lakes and rivers should be available to everyone, and you realize that there are a few organizations trying to create a list of watersports ethics without you... so you might as well try to get ahead of them on that front. So, with that in mind, you're onboard with developing your own set of watersports ethics and even offering your unique perspective on what a meaningful set of guidelines would mean for you and your fellow watersports enthusiasts. These ethics will directly affect you, so who better to create them, am I right?

On a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, develop your own code of watersports ethics that address these issues you've identified as concerns:

- What boaters do that other groups may dislike? (consider the various watersports, and the waves and noise they make... not to mention the potential littering that the added people on the lake contribute)
- Are there some boating activities that might be more harmful than others?
- Are there certain aspects of watersports that are more impactful for anglers, homeowners on the lake, or environmentalists? How do we minimize those impacts?
- As watersports enthusiasts, what can your fellow boaters do to reduce the spread of AIS? (aquatic invasive species) Also do online research about AIS in fresh water bodies.

In class Sessions 3 and 4, all of the groups will present their ethical watersports plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall set of angling ethics that best serves the combined interests of the various groups and the ecosystem.

Support your recommended watersports ethics using the following methods when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Begin your research by watching the classroom video again, and decoding some key points on the webpage; <http://intotheoutdoors.org/topics/wakeboardingsafety>
- Do online research about other challenges anglers face to explore solutions.
- Because you understand anglers and fishing better than the other groups, work with POW during debate to combine their goals with yours.

Now go create an awesome set of ethical watersports guidelines to present.