

HOUSTON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 16

An Ordinance relating to the regulation of boats in the Mississippi River commencing at the "West Channel Bridge" and concluding at the main channel entrance for the west backwater channel near River Mile 699, within the boundaries of Houston County, Minnesota.

The County of Houston does ORDAIN and ENACT the Houston County "One-Hundred (100) Foot No-Wake" Ordinance.

Section 1. The following words and phrases, when used in this ordinance, have the following meanings:

1. "Boat" is any watercraft as defined in Minnesota Statutes 86B.005, Subd. 18.
2. "Motorboat" means any boat propelled by machinery as defined in Minnesota Statutes 86B.005, Subd. 9.
3. The Mississippi River between Mile 698 and Mile 699 and all bodies of water that, together with their connecting channels, are a part of the Mississippi River located within the County of Houston, State of Minnesota. A map thereof is on file in the Office of the Houston County Engineer, the Houston County Auditor, and is attached to the original draft of this ordinance.
4. "Person" includes an individual, partnership, association, corporation, or any body of persons.
5. "Slow-Minimum Wake Speed" means operation of a motorboat at less than planing speed whereby the wash or wake created by the motorboat is minimal and, in no case, a speed of more than five (5) miles per hour.
6. "West Channel Bridge" refers to the Highway 14/61 bridge across the west backwater channel of the Mississippi at the Minnesota-Wisconsin state line and adjacent to the DNR Sportsman's Boat Landing.

Section 2. In the interest of public health, safety, and general welfare, the following regulations are imposed upon all motorboats operated, placed, or maintained in the Mississippi River between Mile 698 and Mile 699 being that part of the Mississippi River and its connecting channels within the boundaries of Houston County, Minnesota.

1. No person shall operate a motorboat at greater than a slow-minimum wake speed within one-hundred (100) feet of the shore in the west backwater channel of the Mississippi River between the "West Channel Bridge" near River Mile 698 and the main channel entrance near Mile 699.
2. Motorboats utilized by government agencies and rescue craft while on official business shall be exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 3. The Sheriff of Houston County is authorized and directed to inform the public by official notification, as well as by posting and buoying the west backwater channel of the Mississippi River between the “West Channel Bridge” near River

Mile 698 and the main channel entrance near Mile 699. The Houston County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota Conservation Officers are authorized and entitled to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

Section 4. Penalties. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED by the Houston County Board of Commissioners this 27th day of February 2024.

Houston County Board Chair

Attest: _____
Houston County Auditor/Treasurer