



Spread Prevention in Vermont:

Goals and needs

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Overview

- Summary of S.224
- Wakesports regulations
- Spread prevention gaps and goals

S.224

Many spread prevention / lakes-related topics:

- Home-Lake Rule for wakeboats
 - Sticker-based program
- Fishing derby restrictions for municipalities
- Expansion of uses at FWD public access areas
 - Prioritize siting of decontamination stations

New UPW Rules (June 2026) rules require...



Wakesports only in wakesports zones

Wakesports Zones are 100 contiguous acres that are:

- 500 feet from shore on all sides
- 20 feet deep
- 3000 feet long, and
- 200 feet wide

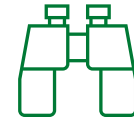


Decontamination requirements for wakeboats

All ballasted watercraft must receive a hot-water decontamination when moving between waterbodies.

interior components: low-pressure hot water (120°F) for 3 to 5 minutes.

Exterior components: rinsed with high-pressure hot water (140°F)



Wakesports Offsets

- 500-foot safety offset from other users
- 500-foot offset from signed loon nesting sites

Wakesports

Year	Total launches tallied (any type of watercraft)	Total motorized boat launches tallied	Total wakeboat launches tallied	Total number of wakeboats that moved between waterbodies at launch
2024	20,000	11,475	127	20
2025	20,880	12,793	114	17
2026*	18,662	11,704	92	14

*Data as of 9/11/2026

Launches tallied at public access areas by year on inland lakes and Lake Memphremagog (Champlain data not included)

Spread prevention: gaps and goals

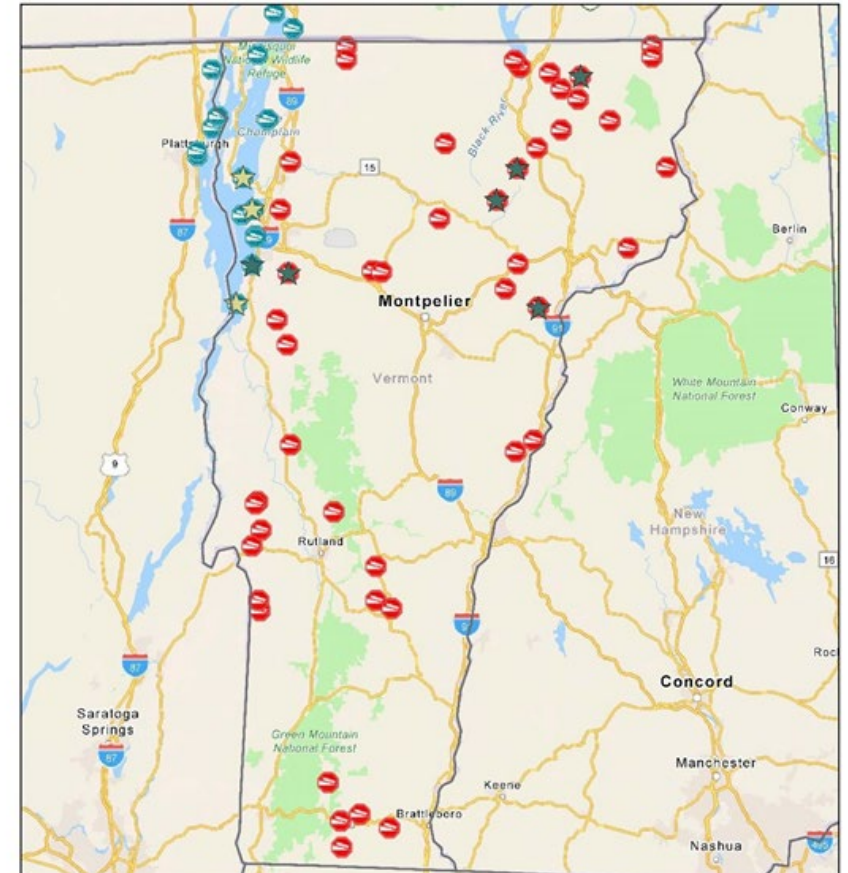
Where we are now

- The Agency has statutory authority to require inspection, decontamination, and to administer spread prevention programs
- The Agency has rules to specifically address the increased threat of AIS spread from ballasted boats
- Agency provides trainings, materials, and grant funding to eligible partners to assist lake communities to support Greeter stations/decontamination stations
- The budget for assisting communities is very small, the demand exceeds what is available; lake communities contribute financially

Needs

- State-wide, comprehensive coverage for inspection and decontamination stations
- Funding for equipment, training operators,

Vermont Watercraft Inspection Stations and Decontamination Units



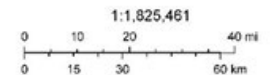
VT Greeter Program Inspection Station

LCBP Boat Stewards Inspection Station

Decontamination Units

★ Low Capacity

★ High Capacity



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Spread prevention

- Removed 2024 language regarding the home lake sticker program and provision of proof of decontamination and replace with the following:

New requirements

Before entering a waterbody, if a **ballasted vessel** was last launched at a different waterbody within the calendar year, the **ballasted vessel** interior components including engines, ballast systems, pumps, bilge areas, and water containment device(s), shall be drained and flushed using low-pressure hot water in accordance with Agency requirements, and exterior components must be adequately rinsed with high-pressure hot water in accordance with Agency requirements to remove particulates.



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