



**Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule
15A NCAC 10F .0380 – Town of Rhodhiss**

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Impact: State Government: No
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

Authority: G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15

BACKGROUND

The proposed Rule 15A NCAC 10F .0380 – Town of Rhodhiss (APPENDIX 1), will create a no-wake zone shore to shore in the waters of Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss, west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 bridge and ending at the Rhodhiss Dam.

The Town of Rhodhiss applied for rulemaking to mitigate hazards to boater safety. The Rhodhiss Dam flood gates release water creating swift currents. During high water events, multiple types of debris wash over the dam. East of the dam there are submerged pieces of concrete and remnants of the old bridge, steel beams, floating and submerged logs and trees, boat parts, and other building materials. There are navigation hazards as well as bridge abutments. There is heavy vessel activity at the Copper Penny Grill docks. The local fire department vessels access the lake near the Copper Penny Grill.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

State Impact Analysis:

There will be no State impact.

Local Impact Analysis:

The Town of Rhodhiss is responsible for purchase, placement, and maintenance of buoys to mark the no-wake zone shore to shore between the point 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 bridge and the Rhodhiss Dam. Salary costs for two technicians to place three buoys will be \$232 ($\$29/\text{hr}^1 \times 4 \text{ hrs} \times 2 \text{ technicians} = \232). Costs for three buoys, anchors, and chains to be purchased and installed will be \$900 ($\$300/\text{buoy, anchor, chain} \times 3 = \900). It is estimated the Town of Rhodhiss will incur costs of \$1,132. The Town of Rhodhiss is responsible for maintenance of buoys once installed. It is anticipated that the total annual cost to maintain the markers will be \$200 unless the chains and anchors are needed.

Private Impact:

The rule has minimal private fiscal impact. The regulated community will not incur any direct financial cost because of this rule, but their behavior will be restricted in that boaters will be required to reduce speeds in the regulated portion of Lake Hickory between the Rhodhiss Dam and the point 165 yards east of the S.R. 1116 Bridge. The reduction in speed has the potential to improve boating traffic safety and reduce the potential for damage to vessels as well as collisions. Given the heavy vessel traffic experienced in this area, these potential benefits are likely to be realized; however, these benefits could not be quantified.

Substantial Economic Impact:

There will be no substantial economic impact on the public.

¹ Calculated using 2023 average salary and benefits of current technicians.

APPENDIX 1

15A NCAC 10F .0380 TOWN OF RHODHISS

(a) Regulated Area. This rule applies to the waters of Lake Hickory in the Town of Rhodhiss in Burke and Caldwell counties, shore to shore, beginning west of a line 165 yards east of the S.R. 1611 Bridge from a point on the north shore at 35.77322 N, 81.42891 W to a point on the south shore at 35.77179 N, 81.42910 W, and ending at the Rhodhiss Dam.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Town of Rhodhiss is the designated agency for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;