Fiscal Note Review of
Proposed Wildlife Resources Commission No-Wake Zone Rule
15A NCAC 10F .0333

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

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

The proposed permanent amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0333 (APPENDIX 1) establishes two no-wake zones on Lake Wylie at Sadler Island.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission (comprised of representatives of Gaston and Mecklenburg counties, N.C. and York County, S.C.) made formal application to the Wildlife Resources Commission requesting a no-wake zone at Sadler Island. The Commission reviewed the application and made modifications, resulting in two proposed no-wake zones: one east of the island and one west of the island. The modifications were subsequently approved by the Lake Wylie Marine Commission.

On the stretch of the Lake Wylie (Catawba River) west of Sadler Island there is a business that rents kayaks and during certain times of the year there can be over 100 kayaks in the water at a time, some of which are rented by this business. The width of the river between the river’s shore and Sadler Island is too narrow for a motorboat going at a high rate of speed to be able to safely navigate around such a high concentration of kayakers. In addition, a motorboat gas pump is planned for this stretch of the river. The no-wake zone proposed is shorter in length than the original requested by the Lake Wylie Commission. The Wildlife Resources Commission believes that the shortened no-wake zone is sufficient to address safety concerns, coupled with the proposed no-wake zone east of Sadler Island.

The U.S. National Whitewater Center is located on the shore of Lake Wylie east of Sadler Island. This is the second location on the same stretch of the Lake Wylie (Catawba River) where the public can rent kayaks to paddle in open water. The kayaks rented at the Whitewater Center make up the balance of kayaks seen on the river during busy summer months. The situation east of Sadler Island presents the same safety issue as the west of the Island: the width of the river between the river’s
shore and Sadler Island is too narrow for a motorboat going at a high rate of speed to be able to safely navigate around such a high concentration of kayakers.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission will mark the no-wake zones and maintain the buoys at a cost of no more than $2,000.

**State Impact Analysis:** None.

**Local Impact Analysis:** The Lake Wylie Marine Commission will mark the no-wake zones and maintain the buoys at a cost of no more than $2,000.

**Substantial Economic Impact:** There will be no substantial economic impact to the public.
15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters of Lake Wyline in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties:

1. McDowell Park – The waters of the coves adjoining McDowell Park and the Southwest Nature Preserve in Mecklenburg County, including the entrances to the coves on either side of Copperhead Island;
2. Gaston County Wildlife Club Cove – The waters of the cove at the Gaston County Wildlife Club on South Point Peninsula in Gaston County;
3. Buster Boyd Bridge - The areas 250 feet to the north and 150 feet to the south of the Buster Boyd Bridge;
4. Highway 27 Bridge – The area beginning 50 yards north of the NC 27 Bridge and extending 50 yards south of the southernmost of two railroad trestles immediately downstream from the NC 27 Bridge;
5. Brown's Cove – The area beginning at the most narrow point of the entrance to Brown's Cove and extending 250 feet in both directions;
6. Paradise Point Cove – The waters of the Paradise Point Cove between Paradise Circle and Lakeshore Drive as delineated by appropriate markers;
7. Withers Cove - The area 50 feet on either side of Withers Bridge;
8. Sadler Island west- beginning at a line formed from a point on the western shore of Lake Wyline at 35.27481N, 81.0138W to a point on the eastern shore at 35.27423N, 81.0111W extending south
   on the Lake to a line formed from a point on the western shore of Lake Wyline at 35.2708N, 81.0152W to a point on the western side of Sadler Island at 35.27056N, 81.0139W.
9. Sadler Island east- beginning at a line formed from a point on the western shore of Lake Wyline at 35.2741N, 81.0138W to a point on the eastern shore at 35.27423N, 81.0111W extending south
   on the Lake to a line formed from a point on the eastern side of Sadler Island at 35.2663N, 81.0143W to a point on the eastern shore of Lake Wyline at 35.26501N, 81.0137W.
10. other bridges – the areas that are within 50 feet of any bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wyline that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in this Paragraph.

(b) Speed Limit Near Ramps. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any public boat-launching ramp, dock, pier, marina, boat storage structure or boat service area.

(c) Speed Limit Near All Other Bridges. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 feet of any bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wyline that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Speed Limit in Marked Swimming or Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of any marked mooring area or marked swimming area.

(e) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Lake Wyline Marine Commission is designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. July 1, 1980;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; June 1, 1985; June 1, 1984; March 1, 1983;
Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 4, 2000;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; June 1, 2004; July 1, 2000.