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ALERT TOP STORY

Distance limits between boats, docks increases

Special to The T&D
May 24, 2022

A new law increases the distance limit for boating to 100 feet on most state waters, including Lake Marion but not Lake Moultrie, and prohibits wake surfing within 200 feet on all S.C. waters.
SCDNR

Special to The T&D

A new South Carolina law establishes on most of South Carolina's major reservoirs a new 100-foot distance limit that boats underway must observe when approaching a dock, a person in the water or an anchored vessel.

The new law, which doubles the previous distance of 50 feet, applies to the waters of Lake Greenwood, Lake Hartwell, Lake Jocassee, Lake Keowee, Lake Marion, Lake Monticello, Lake Murray, Lake Robinson, Lake Russell, Lake Secession, Lake Thurmond, Lake Wateree, Fishing Creek Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, or the portion of the Savannah River from the Interstate 20 Savannah River Bridge to the New Savannah River Bluff Lock and Dam. The 100-foot distance limit does not apply to Lake Moultrie.

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The new law also prohibits "wake surfing" on all S.C. waters within 200 feet of a dock, a person in the water or an anchored watercraft. Wake surfing is defined in the new law as "a vessel that is ballasted in the stern so as to create a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another person."

Col. A. Chisolm Frampton, SCDNR deputy director for law enforcement, said: "This is a much-needed change that will increase boating safety for all South Carolina boaters."

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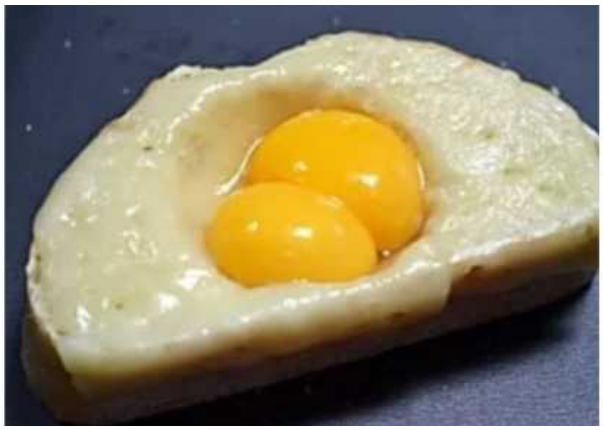

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