

December 22, 2022

RE: St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, UMN – Healthy Water Initiative Phase 2 Update

Dear Michigan Lakes and Streams Associations,

I'm writing to thank you for your financial contribution this past summer/fall to our crowdfunding campaign and research project. The Healthy Water Initiative Phase 2 study is focused on characterizing the propeller wash produced by motorized recreational boats and their potential environmental impacts. Your donation was critical to funding our 2022 field work and continues to help support our team this winter as we analyze data and develop a technical report.

The project team successfully completed their field work and data collection on Lake Minnetonka this past September and October. We tested the propeller wash of five boats, with two being wakesurf boats. The field work involved driving boats over water velocity sensors that were deployed on the lake bottom at two different water depths. We also collected water samples before and after the boat passes to measure any changes in water quality. Our team will spend much of the winter analyzing the data and writing a report for external peer review that we anticipate publishing summer 2023. I'm including a few photographs below from the field work that I hope you find interesting.

In addition to our Phase 2 study, I also want to share the good news that it appears the Healthy Waters Project will receive funding for a Phase 3 study. We submitted a proposal to the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) this past spring that has now been recommended to the MN Legislature for funding. If approved, funding for this three-year project would start July 2023. The project will expand our research on boat generated wake waves and propeller wash impacts on inland lakes. Moreover, the team will also look at wind generated waves to parse out similarities and differences to boat generated waves. I believe a major strength of our proposal was being able to point to the tremendous financial support we've received from donors these past few years through our crowdfunding campaigns. The hundreds of donations that we have received, has without a doubt, conveyed a powerful message that studying boating impacts on our shared lakes is a critically important topic to Minnesotans and others across North America.

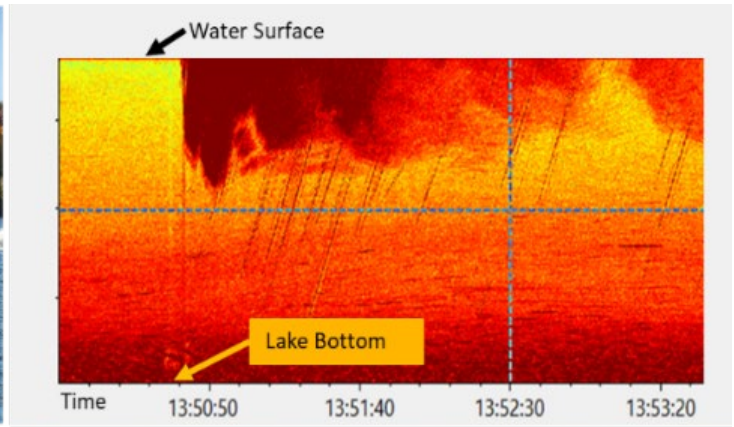
Thank you again for investing in high-quality scientific research through SAFL. Our team looks forward to continuing to conduct research that provides useful data that can inform future strategies for managing and protecting our lakes and rivers for future generations to come.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (612) 624-2995 or via email at riesg029@umn.edu.

Sincerely,



Andy Riesgraf
HWI Project Manager/Researcher



Images from SAFL's Phase II research on propeller wash. Upper left - one of the wakesurf test boats. Upper Right - data showing the propeller wash plume extending from the water surface into the water column as a boat passes over the sensor. Lower left - UMN researchers Chris and Jess preparing for a full day of collecting water samples. Lower right - the view of waves and propeller wash generated during the operation of a wakesurf boat.