

## NO WAKE - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

State laws governing proper speeds and wake restrictions are covered in public courses offered by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Operators of any vessel on New Jersey Coastal waters are held accountable to these requirements.

The following is extracted from: **“BOAT SAFETY COURSE ADDENDUM – SECTION 1 – STATE REQUIREMENTS”**-  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education Course.

### SPEED

1. No person shall operate a power vessel or allow a power vessel to be operated where the speed may cause a danger or injury to life or limb or damage to property. The speed of every power vessel shall be regulated to avoid risk of damage, or injury by any means, from the power vessel's wake.
2. All power vessels shall reduce their speed to “SLOW SPEED” when passing:
  - a. Any marina, pier, dock or wharf **at a distance of 200 feet or less.**
  - b. Work barges or floats while actually engaged in construction.
  - c. Through bridge spans.
  - d. Through **lagoons**, canals or confined areas **of less than 200 feet in width.**
  - e. Vessels not under command.
  - f. Emergency vessels displaying flashing or rotating lights.
3. “Slow Speed” is defined as speed at which a power vessel moves through the water and is able to maintain minimum headway in relation to vessel or structure being passed.
4. All power vessels in a marked “Slow Speed”/No Wake” area shall move only at a no wake speed and not on plane. **“No Wake Speed shall mean speed at which a power vessel moves through the water maintaining minimum headway and producing minimum wake possible.**
5. The **operator of any vessel is responsible for any damage caused from the wake of the vessel.**

“Slow Speed” means we are required to move our vessels to maintain minimum headway when entering or exiting **inlets and lagoons or approaching beaches and docks.** Speed, therefore is not measured in terms of RPM's or miles or knots per hour.

Abiding by the above will minimize the negative effects on our local environment in addition to engendering safety on our waters.