



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Wilmington District

AIWW – WRDA 2016, Section 1149 No Wake Zones for Recreational Vessels

- Section 1149 of WRDA 2016 enacted a Federal no wake zone law along the AIWW applicable only to recreational vessels.
- The Corps is working to ensure that any no wake zone recommendation under this law ensures that commercial and/or recreational navigational interests are not impacted and safe navigation is ensured to all users of the waterway.



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 3,7

DATE: 25 March 2019

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Implementation guidance for Section 1149 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016
2. **BACKGROUND:** Section 1149 of WRDA of 2016, provides for the allowance of implementation of measures for addressing navigation safety hazards in federally marked or maintained navigation channels that are part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) and adjacent to a marina resulting from wakes created by recreational vessels only, while maintaining the navigability of the channel.
3. **OTHER INFORMATION:** In general, the law applies to any marina located along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, which extends from Virginia to Florida, and is focused on wakes created by recreational vessels only. The law does not specifically mention a marina by name or location, appears to have an eastern coastline national scope and excludes commercial traffic.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, received a request from Brunswick County, NC to implement a no wake zone for recreational vessels along the AIWW adjacent to the town of Southport, NC in December 2017. The Wilmington District Commander submitted an initial recommendation to the South Atlantic Division Commander in April 2018. In May 2018, the South Atlantic Division staff requested the District obtain additional information from the applicant in order to document that all reasonable alternatives had been considered and investigated in lieu of the establishment of a no wake zone. The applicant's response to these

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alternatives was reviewed by the District and provided an addendum to the District Commander's original recommendation to the Division in June 2018. The Division Commander provided her recommendation to the Corps' Headquarters in November 2018. The District understands the no wake zone request is currently under review at the Headquarters, which is working through several outstanding issues with the Division headquarters that should be resolved soon. After these issues have been resolved, the recommendation will be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for a final decision. The District is uncertain when a final decision is expected.