



Intracoastal Waterway “Slow, No Wake Zone” Extension



City Council
August 31, 2021



Background



Amendment to Section 12-31 of the City Code regarding “Slow, No Wake zones” in the Intracoastal Waterway between Packery Channel and Marker 37





Original Ordinance



The current ordinance went into effect in 1993 and states all man-made canals adjacent to and through residential developments and the entire width of Packery Channel are designated a “Slow, No Wake zone”.





Background



The state of the waterway between Marker 37 and the Packery Channel has changed significantly since 1993:

- Improved technology has led to more powerful and faster watercraft
- Development along Marker 37 and the Packery Channel has become denser
- Larger boat population has led to increased traffic in the waterway

As a result, witnesses have seen an increase in damage and injuries due to excessive boat wakes:

- Adult female broke her leg when a boat traveling at fast speed created a wake and she was stepping off a boat
- Child standing on her dad's boat flew causing her to hit her face/mouth on steering wheel
- Off-shore boat at high speed created wake causing shrimp boat to rock so violently the mooring post snapped and fell on customers eating at Doc's





Amended Ordinance



Proposed amendment would expand on the existing “Slow, No Wake zone” to include the Intracoastal Waterway between Packery Channel and Marker 37





Enforcement



- Given the increase in incidents, the Parks and Wildlife Department has requested the City consider amending the “Slow, No Wake zone”.
- Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife enforces City ordinances in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Section 31.092(a)
 - Amending ordinance would allow for enforcement of Slow, No Wake Zone in waterway between Packery Channel and Marker 37
- Through the extension of the “Slow, No Wake Zone” our additional partnering agencies will also be able to enforce the regulated waterway speed zone
 - Nueces County Sheriff’s Department
 - Texas Highway Patrol
 - Coast Guard



Financial Impact



Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Wooden Posts (20ft or larger)	8	\$500 each	\$4,000
Wooden Post installation	8	\$325 each	\$2,600
Large No Wake Signs	4	\$200 each	\$800
Sign installation	4	\$100 each	\$400
Stainless steel Bolts	32	\$6.25 each	\$200
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$8,000</u>



Recommendation



The Island Strategic Action Committee (ISAC) supports the proposed ordinance amendment.

Staff recommends adoption of the amendment to section 12-31 of the City Code regarding no wake zones in the Intracoastal Waterway between Packery Channel and Marker 37.