

# Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative

Advocating for Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers

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## Shoreland Status Report 2015/16

### What we HAD before last summer.

1. Local control of shoreland zoning.
2. Lake classification system. Lakes were protected by data driven, uncontroversial regulation of setback and minimum lake frontage.
3. All aspects of residential zoning regulation went through towns and counties, including residential lighting.

### What we LOST, without our knowledge or any public hearing.

1. Control of all shoreland zoning was stripped from local government and given to the state. Standards drastically reduced. Puts all lakes in jeopardy
2. Lake classification system eliminated. Years of effort, millions of dollars and tens of thousands of man-hours wasted for no reason.
3. Local control of shoreland residential lighting. Without any state standard, there is now no control of any kind.
4. Local control of non-conforming use structures. As an example, small, non-conforming cottages may now be 35 ft. high.
5. Local control of boathouse regulation.

### What we CLAWED BACK – at least for a while.

1. Our Attorney's research revealed Sec. 236, subdivision law, which allows counties to set standards on shoreland property.
2. They brought DRN and WCA together to give our counties guidance document that helped. Our Attorney's assisted in the creation of the draft document.
3. They also found an ability to declare a development moratorium, which some counties have used. A subsequent bill in late spring had a rider that outlawed any more moratoriums. It was passed.

### What we FOUGHT AGAINST - Numerous new bills that weakened standards.

1. Many bills that included decrease in lake and wetland protection and attack the Public Trust Doctrine.
2. One bill would have allowed riparian owners to **DREDGE** the lake bottom in front of their homes and cottages and **remove** spawning habitat. Allowed removal of up to **30 cubic yards per year** on inland lakes and **100 cubic yards per year** on Great Lakes. This is land owned by the people of the state of Wisconsin. The destruction would have been immediate and irreparable.

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3. In another bill, ATV's would have been allowed to rip through the shallow water of all lakes, destroying shallow water habitat and spawning beds.
4. In yet another bill, all residential zoning would have been changed to allow 7-day rental of all homes, turning residential neighborhoods into transient hotel districts.

While we were able to defeat the above, we know these provisions and other new, ignorant legislation will be attempted next session.

Since 2011, **120** bills reducing local control have passed the Wisconsin legislature.

We are suddenly in a new era of attacks on local government authority. Our property rights, the value of our homes, our tax base and our local economies are threatened by this new wave of uninformed legislation, and we know there is more to come. We must be represented in the capitol to defend our lakes and rivers. Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative is the only group dedicated specifically to this legislative effort with professional lobbyists, and we need your continued support

We will offer legislation in the next session with the support of our states most prominent water groups that will return shoreland zoning to local control. Join us.