

Motorboat Noise Law Enforced

The Specifics:

Boat Muffling laws are serious business. The Nevada Department of Wildlife reminds boaters that they are responsible for the noise produced by their vessels. If you can't hold a normal conversation on your boat, it may be too loud. All motorboats must comply with motorboat noise statutes, which are outlined below:

All vessels equipped with an engine must be effectively muffled by equipment constructed and used to muffle the noise of the exhaust in a reasonable manner. Excessive noise could prevent a vessel operator from hearing signals and voices.

A person shall not operate any motorboat on state waters if the motorboat is equipped with an altered muffler, muffler cutout, muffler bypass or any other device designed or installed so it can be used continually or intermittently to bypass the muffler system.

It is illegal to exceed a noise level of: 86 dbA measured at a distance of 50 feet or more from the vessel as defined by SAE J34 or... 90 dbA measured using a stationary sound level test as defined by SAE J-2005 if the engine was manufactured before January 1, 1993, or 88 dbA if the engine was manufactured on or after January 1, 1993 or... 75 dbA measured from the shoreline using a stationary sound level test as defined by SAE J-1970.

A peace officer may require an operator to submit his or her vessel to an on-site noise level test. If the vessel's engine exceeds the noise levels stated above, the officer will instruct the operator to take immediate corrective action and may direct the operator to terminate the voyage until the engine is in compliance.

* Exceptions to the above restrictions are made for vessels participating in permitted races or speed trials.

