

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Doug Hoehle. My family and I live on Merganser Way in Freeport. We have been negatively impacted by the incredible noise generated by airboats in our area.

It is difficult to explain how bad this situation is. This is an important quality of life issue for my family. We fully support boating in our area and have had no problems with general boating and current noise limits. The noise of the airboat is at a completely different level. The noise is overwhelming when we are outside and inside our home. In addition, airboat traffic occurs during early morning hours (before 5am) and the boat noise wakes us up.

Noise pollution is a real thing and limits are set for a reason. Airboats should not be allowed to exceed other generally acceptable limits such as the 50db limit in Portland next to residential areas. The current limit is 75 decibels which is an insane amount of noise if you live on the water. The decibel noise scale is logarithmic so each 10 decibel increase is a 10x increase in noise level.

My sleep is very important. I'm a professional pilot that works in shifts and I'm constantly being woken up by airboats even when they are not close to our shore. They are just that loud.

The state (IFW) should not be arbitrarily changing noise limits. Each boat (airboat or any other boat) should be required to meet the current noise pollution limits when operating in residential areas. All boats should be held to the same standards. I spoke with Alumitech, an airboat company in Florida. They use blade design, exhaust and muffler modifications to get significant noise reductions in their airboats. Also, airboats are not the only option to clammers.

I respectfully ask that all motorized boats, including airboats, be bound by the 75db "operational test" limit and that you add strict time constraints.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely ~ Doug and Tammy Hoehle