PURPOSE AND FINDINGS:

Pursuant to Town Law Section 130(17), we enact this law to regulate vessels operating on Otsego Lake. The findings of the Town Board of the Town of Middlefield are that water vessel activity along the shore line of Otsego Lake, especially such vehicles operating at speeds in excess of five miles per hour, cause detrimental effects to the health of the lake; specifically such vessel activity causes re-suspending sediment, which results in additional introduction of phosphorus to the water column, and such vessel activity increases shore line erosion, which results in additional sediment being deposited into the lake, all of which are harmful to the quality of the lake waters.

SECTION II

No vessel shall be operated within two hundred feet of the shore line of Otsego Lake, a dock, pier, raft, float, or anchored or moored vessel within such lake at a speed exceeding five miles per hour, unless such vessel is being operated near such shore line, dock, float, pier, or anchored or moored vessel for the purpose of enabling a person engaged in water skiing to take off or land. A violation of this section shall constitute an offense punishable by a fine not to exceed $50.

SECTION III

This local law shall take effect immediately upon its passage by the Town Board of the Town of Middlefield and its filing with the Secretary of State as provided by Law.