



**Meeting Materials: Personal Watercraft**

**Last Updated: 7-18-17**

**Version 2**

**Personal Watercraft**

**2016 Buoy Survey Summary**

The 2016 survey counted a total of:

| State        | Mooring Buoys | Personal Watercraft (PWC)* | PWC as Percent of Total |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| NV           | 1,188         | 97**                       | 8%                      |
| CA           | 3,698         | 99                         | 3%                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4,886</b>  | <b>196</b>                 | <b>4%</b>               |

\*This number is included in the total # of mooring buoys. Personal watercraft includes all buoys used for personal watercraft (jet skis), floating platforms, slides or inflatable water toys, or small boats, such as a kayak or dinghy. All other buoys were observed as being used for full sized boats and generally placed further offshore in deeper water.

\*\*In July 2017, the TRPA Boat Crew did a count of jet skis on the Nevada side of the lake and identified a total of 142.

**Buoy Allocation Proposal**

| State                | Buoys   |
|----------------------|---|
| 2016 Buoy Survey     | 4,886   |
| New Buoy Allocations | 1,430 (800 new + 630 in a reserve pool, 330 of which for marinas) |
| <b>Cap/Total</b>     | <b>6,316</b>  |

Note: In 2008, TRPA received 4,412 buoy applications (3,421 were approved with another 981 pending).

**PWC Buoys and Lifts**

PWCs may be stored on a buoy, string line, small temporary buoy near shore, lift or ramp, as well as on the shore. Examples of PWCs stored on a string line, small buoy, lift and temporary ramp are provided below. An example of the visual impacts of PWCs is also provided below.

**Visual Mass**

The visual mass for a typical personal water (PWC) craft is 24.61 square feet. The visual mass for a typical boat is approximately 83.475 square feet. Thus, the visual mass ratio of a typical PWC to boat is 3.5:1. Refer to the attached Jet Ski Visual Mass Estimates.

**Example 1: PWCs Stored on a String Line**

Concession next to Tahoe City Marina that is using 8 regular buoys to store power boats and two string lines with 3 PWCs on each.



Source: Jim Phelan, Tahoe City Marina

Nevada side of Lake Tahoe



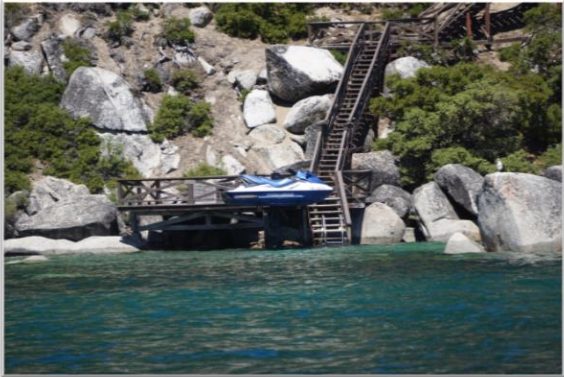
Source: TRPA Boat Crew

**Example 2: PWC Stored on Small Temporary Buoy Near Shore**



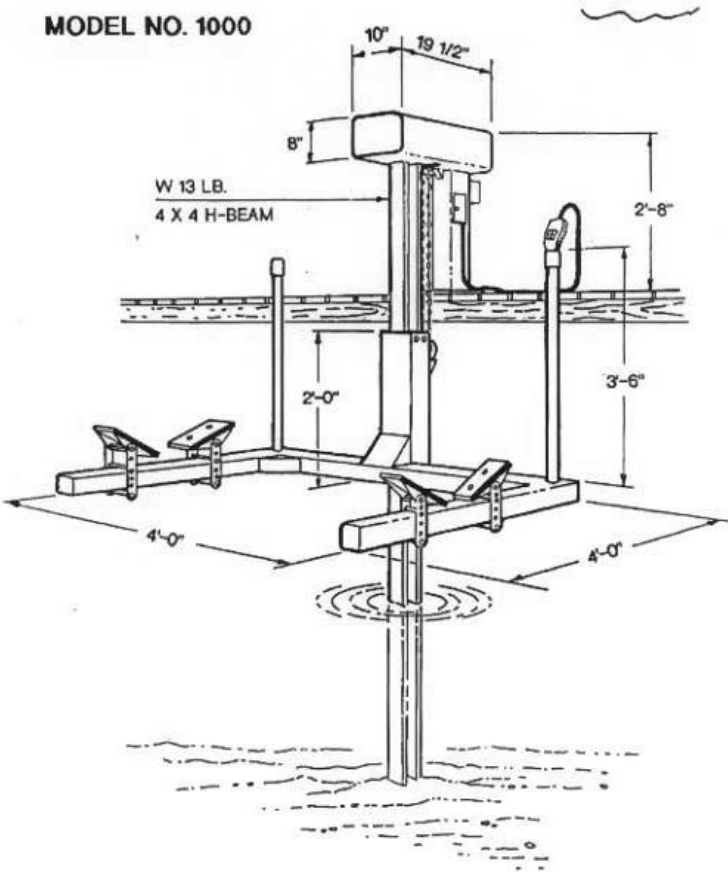
Source: TRPA Boat Crew

**Example 3: PWC Lift**



Source: TRPA Boat Crew

**Model of 1,000 lb lift for a PWC**



Source: TLOA



#### **Example 4: PWCs Stored on a Temporary Ramp**



Source: TRPA Boat Crew

#### **Environmental Impacts**

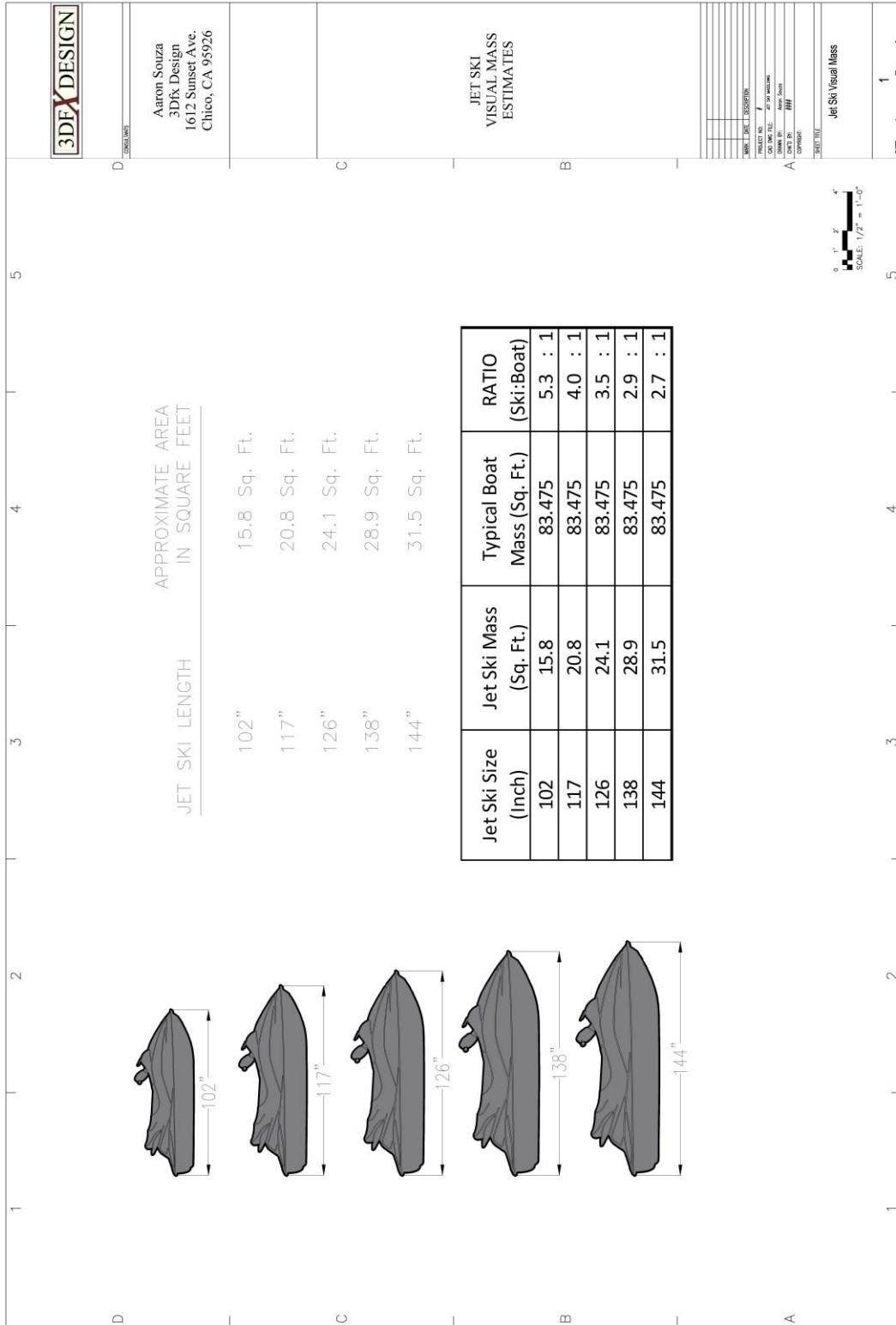
The main impacts that need to be considered when developing a system for PWCs are water quality impacts from emissions, recreation impacts, primarily lateral access if PWCs are located close to shore, and scenic impacts, primarily visual clutter.

#### **Example 5: Visual Clutter**



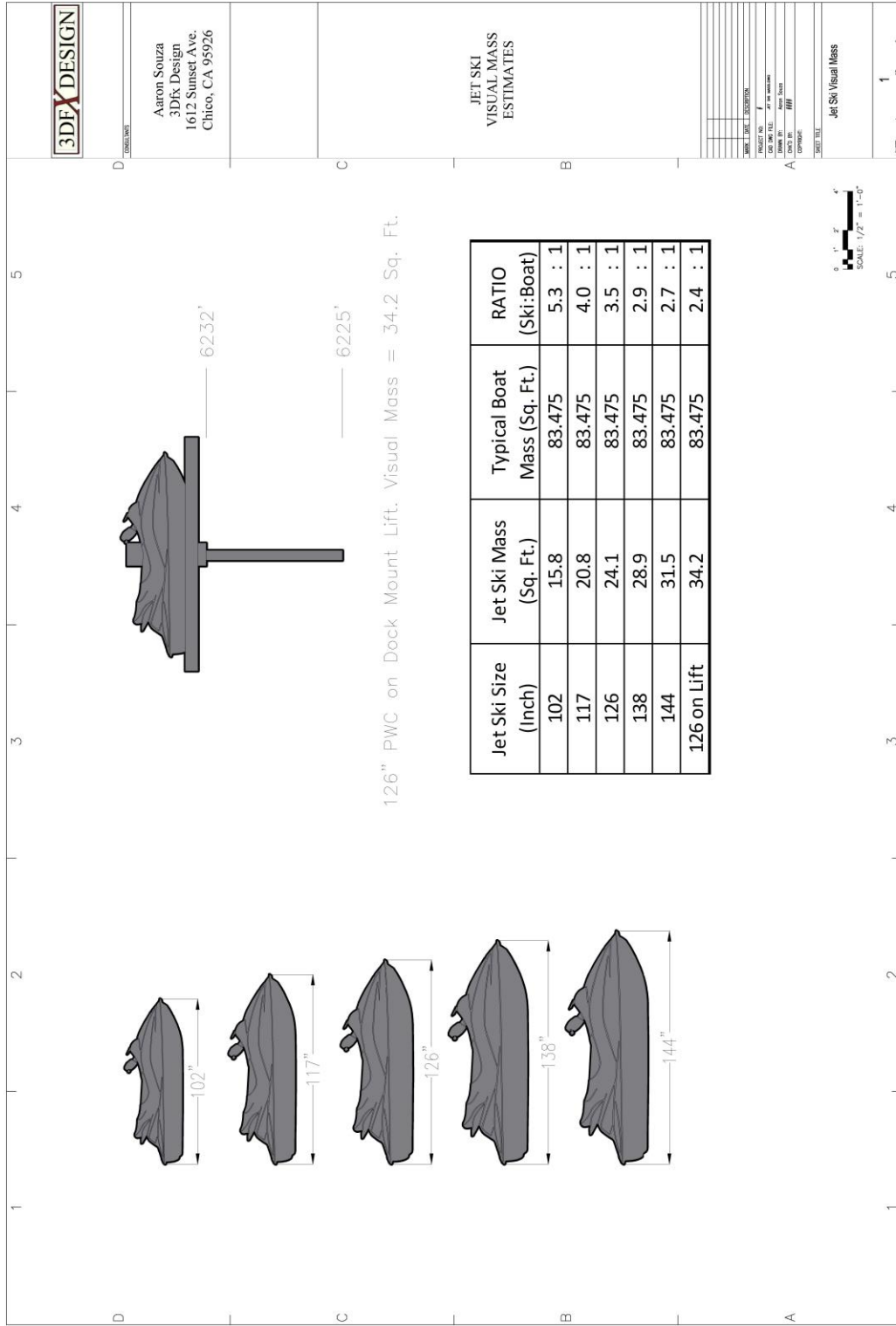
Source: TRPA Boat Crew

# Jet Ski Visual Mass Estimates



Source: TLOA

# Jet Ski Visual Mass Estimates on Lift



Source: TLOA