



Call to Action – Let your voice be heard at Transport Canada on Excessive Boat Motor Noise!

Hello Decibel Coalition Members and Supporters,

Transport Canada has launched their Let's Talk web portal on boat motor muffler and excessive noise: find it [here](#)! Now we need your help! Please send in your submission by no later than **May 13th 2022** when the portal will close. Thankfully, Transport Canada has recognized that the existing muffler regulation is too difficult and expensive to enforce. The law is rarely enforced anywhere in the country. The current regulation is ineffective and creates frustration for both enforcement agencies and affected communities alike. This situation has allowed the problem to continue to grow unchecked!

Let's Talk – What they are asking

Let's Talk is Transport Canada's public forum and feedback process for regulatory change. The portal includes a summary of the issue and the regulatory options for discussion. They are seeking comments from lake associations, marine enforcement agencies, industry and academics.

Transport Canada has laid out five proposed options for addressing the issue of excessive boat motor noise or "small vessel noise emissions" as they refer to it. **Our preferred solution** - and the only approach that will truly enable the problem to be dealt with - is "**Option 5**": introduce performance standards, i.e. decibel limits, for manufacturers, importers and vessel operators to follow. This would update the *Small Vessel Regulations* to require manufacturers, importers and operators to ensure their vessels don't exceed defined, objective noise-emission levels.

With these enhancements in place enforcement agencies will have a low cost, easily enforced process for measuring noise levels based on internationally recognized standards which will result in quieter waterways for everyone. And the government will be viewed as repairing a very poor regulation that has been in place for about 20 years!

How Can Your Organization Help?

We need you to submit your comments and support via the [Let's Talk portal](#) supporting Option 5. You will be required to register before answering. To facilitate your submission, below is a template response which addresses the question.

It is IMPORTANT that you tailor the template response to reflect the specific issues and sentiments of you/your members. It is better that Transport Canada receive unique, independent comments. There is no need to reference the Decibel Coalition. Also, we know there are other issues such as loud stereo on boats (not being addressed at this time). Please keep your comments to the issue of "small vessel noise emissions" as unnecessary information will distract from our goal of decibel limits for motors.

The consultation is open until **May 13, 2022**. However, we ask that you submit your supportive comments to Transport Canada as soon as possible, ideally before April 15.

With your organization's support, we have made tremendous progress on this issue over the past 2 years. Now is the moment to show Transport Canada that this issue is national, pervasive and getting worse each year. I hope we can count on your support and your participation in the Let's Talk platform

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions at all. Here is the link again to submit your response. [Let's Talk portal](#)

Best regards,



Rob Bosomworth
Chair, the Decibel Coalition
Director, Safe Quiet Lakes

Notes related to Let's Talk - Question #5

Question 5: What do you think about introducing performance standards for manufacturers, importers and vessel operators to follow? These standards would make sure vessels don't exceed certain decibel limits.

- Yes to performance standards. This is the only option that can realistically address excessive boat motor noise levels for both new and existing vessels.
- The standards for manufacturers, importers and vessel operators should include clear, objective, internationally recognized decibel limits (e.g., consistent with the USA and the EU) and should outline efficient and effective enforcement procedures.
- Compliance costs for manufacturers and importers would be minimal.
- Enforcement costs would be low – much lower than under the current regulations.

Decibel Coalition Members...



CASA LOMA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



WASA

WASA & AREA SAFETY ADVOCATES