

Boating Safety on Long Lake and Michigan Marine Law

Sharing boating fun with friends and family is all part of the boating experience on our beautiful lake. Most of our 490+ property owners own at least one boat, and many have multiple crafts. The number of boats cruising the lake swells on weekends and holidays as non-resident boaters launch for a day's fun.

It is essential that all boat operators recognize the responsibility they have for their passengers and for others who share the water, and that all boat owners realize that they are legally responsible when they allow someone else to drive their boat. Owners can be held liable for any damage caused by their boat, no matter who is driving at the time.

LLPOA wants everyone to enjoy their time on the water; but keeping people safe is our primary concern. It is our hope that resident and non-resident boaters know and follow water safety rules and abide by Michigan Marine Law for the safety and well-being of everyone. It is incumbent on each of us to report to the authorities any reckless operation of a watercraft that we observe.

A complete handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available for free download on the internet at: www.boat-ed.com or refer to the Michigan Lake & Stream website: <https://www.mymlsa.org/michigan-marine-law-boater-safety/>

Examples of Operating a Vessel Recklessly



- Disregarding the safety or rights of others or endangering the person or property of others.
- Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is restricted
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel

Speed Limits



- There is a no wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, any watercraft, pier, person, raft, swimming area, and swimmers.
- The maximum speed is 55 mph.

Towing Persons

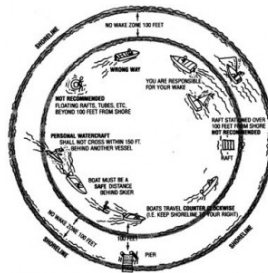


- No water skiing between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise.
- At least one competent person, in addition to the driver, shall be in any boat towing persons on water skis, sleds, etc. This additional person shall be in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed.
- The tow boat must be equipped with a 170 degree wide angle rearview mirror affixed to permit the driver to observe the progress of the person being towed.

Distance Between Persons Being Towed and Other Objects

Vessels and persons being towed on water skis, water sleds, etc. shall maintain a distance of **100 feet** from any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing areas, or vessels moored or at anchor, except when the vessel is proceeding at a slow-no wake speed or when water skiers are being picked-up or dropped off.

Counter-Clockwise Operations



Persons operating vessels shall operate in a **counter-clockwise** fashion when it reasonably possible.

Noise Level of Boats

Motorboats are required to have mufflers or an underwater exhaust system such that it does not produce sound levels in excess of 90 dB when subjected to a stationary (neutral) sound level test of its engine at no closer than one meter (3.3 feet).

Children Operating Motorboats

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division

BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____ Certificate Number _____

Student Signature _____

I certify that this student has successfully completed the Boating Safety Education Program or course, issued under authority of Part 607 and Part 608-401-405 of Code of Administrative Procedures, and is in compliance with the provisions of this Act as a holder of State Law.

Instructor (print name): _____ Instructor Signature _____ Date Completed _____

Instructor Number _____

NOT VALID UNLESS SIGNED BY INSTRUCTOR

Can be added to: Carry key position in a vessel. Permit holder's picture in a suit case.

- Persons under 12 years old operating motorboats:
 - Must be under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age or older; and,
 - The boat must have no more than 35 HP.
- Persons 12 through 15 years may operate motorboats if either condition below is met;
 - Accompanied by at least one person 16 years or older, or, the person has a boating safety certificate.
- Any person may operate a motorboat that is powered by a motor of no more than 6 HP.
- As of October 1, 2011, a person **less than fourteen (14) years of age** may not legally operate a PWC under any circumstances.
- A person who was born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a PWC on Michigan waters unless they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

Liquor and Controlled Substances

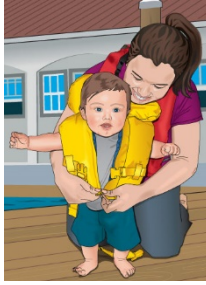


Michigan law prohibits anyone from boating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This includes operating any boat, sailboat, or personal watercraft. The Michigan implied consent law applies for boat operator intoxication testing. Severe fines and/or jail time await those who are observed operating a watercraft while intoxicated on alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal).

Remember: It is also unlawful for the owner of a vessel to allow anyone else to operate their vessel if that person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Operation of Vessels

- Sailboats have the right-of-way to motorboats while they are under sail power.
- Motorboats shall give way to non-motorized vessels.
- When two vessels are approaching each other head-on, or nearly so, the operator of each shall cause his vessel to pass on the port (left) side of the other (i.e. keep the approaching boat to your left).
- When over taking a vessel proceeding in the same direction, the operator of the over taking vessel, unless it is not feasible to so do, shall pass on the port (left) side of the vessel ahead (i.e. keep the overtaken boat to your right).
- When two vessels are approaching each other at right angles or obliquely so as to involve risk of collision, the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own port (left) side shall hold his course and speed, and the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own starboard (right) side shall give way to the other by directing his course to starboard so as to cross the stern of the other vessel or, if necessary to do so, shall slacken his speed, stop or reverse.



All vessels are required to provide at least one United States Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE per passenger. Each child under the age of 6 years, and in an open deck area is REQUIRED by law to wear a PFD AT ALL TIMES !

Responsibility for Vessel Wake

The owner of any vessel is personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by the negligent operation of the vessel, where the vessel is being operated with his consent. Always maintain safe speeds and follow no-wake laws.

Distance from Scuba Diver's Flag

A vessel shall not be operated within 200 feet of a buoyed diver's flag unless it is involved in tendering the diving operation. A person diving shall stay within a surface area of 100 feet of a diver's flag.

PCW Regulations



- A person shall maintain a distance of 100 ft. from any dock, boat, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing area while driving at other than slow – no wake speed.
- A person shall not cross within 150 ft. behind another vessel other than a personal watercraft, that is moving at greater than a slow – no wake speed.
- A person shall not operate a PWC on the waters of this state from one hour before sunset to 8:00 A.M local time.
- Maneuvers that endanger life, limb, or property, including weaving through congested traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel or turning unnecessarily close to another other vessel and/or swerving at the last moment to avoid a collision constitutes reckless operation of a vessel.
- Carrying more persons than the vessel is designed to carry is prima facie evidence of reckless operation of a vessel.
- Lanyards must be attached to the operator on vessels that are equipped with lanyards.
- As of October 1, 2011, a person of less than fourteen (14) years of age may not legally operate a PWC under any circumstances.
- A person who was born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a PWC on Michigan waters unless they have obtained a boating safety certificate.
- A personal watercraft shall not be operated at speeds in excess of (55 mph) except where otherwise posted.
- A person shall not operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless traveling at a slow no-wake speed.

What You Must Do if You're Involved in an Accident

- Stop your vessel **immediately** at the scene of the accident *and...*
- Assist anyone injured or in danger from the accident, unless doing so would seriously endanger his or her own vessel or passengers *and...*
- Give, in writing, his or her name, address, and vessel identification to anyone injured and to the owner of any property damaged by the accident.

It is illegal for a boat operator involved in an accident to leave the scene of the accident without assisting those who were injured in the accident. You cannot be held liable for any civil damages for any assistance rendered in good faith and in a prudent manner.

The operator of a vessel involved in an accident must notify a police officer as soon as possible if a person dies, disappears, or has injuries requiring medical treatment beyond first aid.

Stop the Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plants and Animals – It's the Law



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**



Introducing aquatic nuisance species into state waters can upset the balance of the ecosystem, thereby harming the environment. Aquatic nuisance species, such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels, milfoil, and hydrilla, most often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on vessels and trailers. When transplanted into new waters, these organisms proliferate, displacing native species and damaging the water resource.

Prior to the 2019 amendment, the law only required that a person not place watercraft or trailer in the waters of Michigan if an aquatic plant were attached. In addition to this requirement, the new changes require all of the following prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring that the watercraft, trailer, and any conveyance used to transport the watercraft or trailer are free of aquatic organisms, including plants.

This means that after trailering boats, and before getting on the road, boaters must pull plugs, drain water and remove plants and debris.

Violation of the law is a state civil infraction and violators may be subject to fines up to \$100.