

ON THE WATER

Everyone has the right to enjoy a safe, fun time on the water. This means that everyone also has a responsibility to respect and share waterways with wildlife, swimmers, divers, other boaters and watercraft ranging from sail boats to float planes. This section outlines some basic rules for Canada's waterways and guides you through some of the things you need to be aware of and watch out for while you are out on the water.



KNOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD AND SAFETY ON THE WATER

The “rules of the road” for Canada’s waterways help everyone avoid collisions on the water by setting out what every boater should do to avoid hitting or being hit by another vessel. This is not just a way to be polite – it is the law set out in the *Collision Regulations*, which apply to every vessel and operator on all navigable waterways – from canoes to supertankers.

Know the “rules of the road” and boat by them!

Avoid Close Quarters Situations

Keep Watch and Steer Clear of Shipping Lanes

Keep constant watch for others on the water. If you are sharing the water with large vessels, remember that it is harder for them to see you or change their route to avoid you. It also takes them longer to stop. These are all good reasons to be ready to move out of their way. Some boaters do not realize the risk they take when they cross shipping lanes or pass in front of larger vessels.

Here are some tips to remember since these vessels probably will not see you until it is too late.

- Always watch for others on the water and be ready to yield to large vessels in the safest way – keeping in mind the water and weather conditions. Use radar and radio if you have them.
- Navigate in groups of other small boats when possible, to be more visible.
- Stay off the water in fog or high winds.
- Stay clear of docked ferries, ferries in transit, vessels in tow and working fishing vessels.

Vessels less than 20 m (65’7”) and sailing vessels must stay out of the way of larger vessels that can safely navigate only within the navigation channel. A large vessel will remind you to give way by giving five or more short blasts of its horn. This means there is an emergency and you must get out of the way.

Give Plenty of Space to Tugs and Other Towing Vessels

Tugs may tow vessels on a long tow line that extends behind the tug. The tow line is often so long that it hangs below the surface of the water and is nearly invisible. Never pass between a tug and its tow. If a small boat were to hit the hidden line, it could capsize and be run down by the object being towed. Many towed objects will also have a long trailing line behind them. Give the tug and its tow plenty of space in every direction.

Learn How to Recognize a Towing Vessel at Night

Be alert for special lights displayed by tugs (or any vessels) towing barges, other boats or objects. The tug is usually more visible than its tow. In fact, the navigation lights of the tow may not include masthead lights and are often much dimmer than the tug lights.

If a power-driven vessel is towing another vessel or object from its stern, the power-driven vessel must display:

- sidelights;
- a sternlight;
- a towing light (yellow light with the same characteristics as the sternlight);
- two masthead lights in a vertical line – three if the tow exceeds 200 m (656’); and
- a diamond shape where it will be easy to see if the tow exceeds 200 m (656’).

The barge, vessel or any other object being towed must display:

- sidelights;
- a sternlight; and
- a diamond shape where it will be easy to see if the tow exceeds 200 m (656’).

If it is impractical for the vessel being towed to exhibit the lights stated above, it must have one all-around white light at each of the fore and aft ends.

Display the Right Lights When Towing Another Vessel

As a pleasure boater, you may need to tow another vessel in distress. Do everything you can to light the towing boat or object and the towing line. If you can't, find a way to indicate its presence and attract attention. If you are looking to fit your boat with navigation lights for towing, refer to Rule 24 of the *Collision Regulations* for details.

Avoid Dangerous Behaviours

Never try to spray swimmers, or cut in front of or try to jump the wake of other vessels. Some of the worst boating incidents happen when operators misjudge speed or distance.

Operate at a Safe Speed

Remember that you may have to stop or turn suddenly to avoid a collision, so operate at a safe speed. A safe speed depends on:

- your ability to see ahead – slow is the only safe speed in fog, mist, rain and darkness;
- current, wind, and water conditions;
- how quickly your boat can change direction;
- how many and what types of vessels are near you; and
- the presence of navigational hazards such as rocks and tree stumps.

Be very careful when boating where visibility is poor, such as entering or exiting a fog bank.

A boat's wake can damage other vessels, docks and the shoreline. It can also be a risk for swimmers, divers and people on small boats that might capsize. Be aware of how your boat's wake might affect others when choosing your speed. You will be responsible for any damages or harm you cause.

Impaired driving on the water

Boating under the influence of alcohol, or drugs is illegal. It is also a danger to yourself and others.

Staying sober is your responsibility

Boating while drinking or taking drugs can lead to dangerous situations.

When boating impaired, you are not just a danger to yourself but to others too. Each time you operate a boat, you are responsible for the safety of your guests and other people using the waterway. You must always be prepared and alert.

Mixing alcohol and drugs with boating is far more dangerous than you may realize. Fatigue, sun, wind and the motion of the boat may dull your senses. Alcohol and drugs intensify these effects, leaving you with reduced fine motor skills (for example, hand-eye coordination) and impaired judgement.

Consequences

Impaired driving, whether on land or water, is punishable under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Convictions for a first offence can result in:

- fines
- prohibition from operating a boat or motor vehicle
- seizure of the boat for a period of time
- possible prison terms

The laws and penalties for when a boater is considered impaired follow provincial and territorial driving laws.

REMEMBER: provinces and territories also have their own rules on:

- impairment limits
- when you can drink alcohol on a boat
- how alcohol can be carried on board from one location to another

Contact your local, provincial or territorial law enforcement authorities for more information.

Reduce Engine Noise

Every boat equipped with a motor other than a stock (unmodified) outboard engine must have a muffler and use it while operating within five nautical miles (9.26 km) of shore.

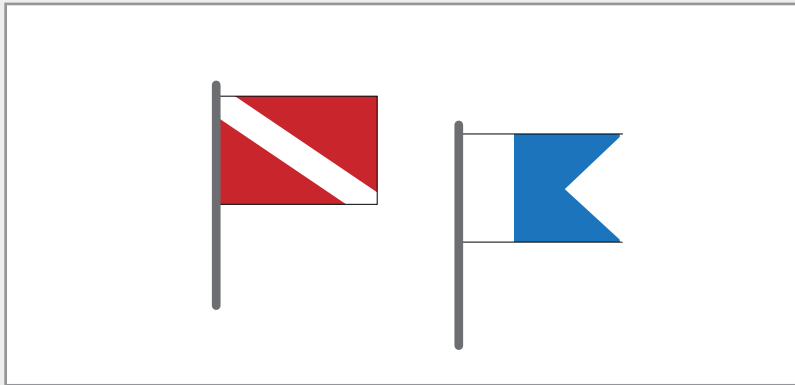
This does not apply to you if your boat was built before January 1, 1960, or if you are in an official competition or in formal training or final preparation for an official competition.

To learn more, see Section 1000 of the *Small Vessel Regulations*.

Be Aware of What is Going on Around You

As a boater, you must be aware of what is going on around you, both on the water and in the skies.

Divers Below the Surface



Diving is a popular water sport so know what a diver down flag looks like and keep careful watch for such flags. This is very important because the wake from your boat, along with weather and other factors, can make it hard to see divers' bubbles on the surface of the water.

Divers' boats must display the international blue and white Code Flag Alpha. A red and white flag on a buoy may also mark the area where diving is in progress, although divers may stray from the boundaries of the marked areas. If you decide to go diving from your boat, remember to display these flags as well. Best practice includes staying within 100 m (328') of your flag.

When you see either flag, give divers plenty of room by keeping your boat at least 100 m (328') from the flag. If you cannot stay that far away because of the size of the waterway, slow down as much as possible, move ahead with caution, and keep clear of the vessel and diving site.

Seaplanes



Watch for aircraft when you are out on the water and give plenty of space to any aircraft that is landing or taking off.

Safety Around Dams

Be very careful near canal dams and waste weirs where currents and undertows can be very hazardous.

Low-head dams are especially dangerous. Boaters and anglers often get too close to the downstream side of the dam, become drawn or sucked into the backwash current that takes them to the base of the dam, and are then forced under water and pushed away from the dam. After surfacing, the victim is drawn back in toward the base of the dam, starting the cycle over again.

Find out if there are any dams where you plan to go boating before you head out – and stay clear of them. When boating in an area with dams, be sure to follow the signage posted by dam authorities.

Safety Under Electric Lines

Contact with an aerial electric line or an electric arc zone (invisible) can kill you. That is why you should:

- Know the height of your boat above water (including gear installed on top of the mast).
- Know the minimal clearance identified on marine charts and avoid electric lines when this information is not available.
- Be careful at night: electric lines are more difficult to see.

Be Safe in Canals and Locks



Visiting Historic Canals and Locks

When visiting one of Canada's historic canals, make sure your boat has enough properly sized mooring lines and securely fastened floating fenders.

Many water activities are not allowed in a canal. Some rules include:

- no excessive noise between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.;
- no fishing within 10 m (32'10") of a lock or approach wharf or from a bridge that passes over a navigation channel;
- no diving, jumping, scuba diving or swimming in a navigation channel or within 40 m (131') of a lock gate or a dam in a historic canal;
- no waterskiing or other towing activities while in a navigation channel or within 100 m (328'1") of a lock structure; and
- no mooring a vessel to a navigation aid.

Visit [Parks Canada](#) to learn more about historic canals and see [Historic Canal Regulations](#) for more information about the regulations that apply.

Passage through a Lock

Obey the posted speed limits and be aware of your boat's wake when approaching a lock. Other things to remember include:

- Keep clear of the channel near lock gates so that vessels can come and go.
- Look for the blue line on the mooring wharf that shows where to wait for the next lockage.
- Follow the instructions given by lockmasters and bridge operators (at a number of lock stations, a green traffic light is your signal to go ahead).
- Enter the lock slowly (no faster than 10 km/h) and have people at the bow and stern of your boat ready with mooring lines.
- If the lock has drop cables, loop boat lines around them, not to them, and only once your boat is safely positioned. If the lock has floating docks, lockmasters may tell you to tie up to one inside the lock chamber.
- Tend vessel lines carefully during the lockage. Looping a line around a deck cleat may provide extra leverage.
- Never leave bow or stern lines unattended.
- Switch off the engine(s) and generator. No open flames or smoking are allowed during lockage. The bilge blower must be operating during lockage.

When the lock gates open, wait for staff to direct you to restart your engine. Make sure you have brought all your mooring lines back into your boat and exit slowly and in order. Watch out for wind, currents and other vessels.

If you plan to use the St. Lawrence Seaway locks, consult the [Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System](#) to learn how they operate.

Know What is Specific to Your Activity

Personal Watercraft (PWC)



Safe use of a personal watercraft (PWC) requires skill and experience. PWC operators must be at least 16 years old and have proof of competency and proof of age on board.

Before you let someone borrow your PWC, you must make sure that they know how to operate it safely and responsibly. Here are some other basic tips:

- Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD (inflatable PFDs are not allowed). Choose a bright color for better visibility.
- Wear thermal protection when operating in cold water (water less than 15°C).
- Read the owner's manual before setting out.
- Attach the engine shut-off line securely to your wrist or lifejacket or PFD.
- Respect speed limits and other vessel operation restrictions.
- Be cautious, courteous and respect your neighbours. Many people dislike the noise a PWC makes when it is operated for long periods of time at high speed in one place, especially when it is used to jump waves.
- Be aware of the impact your PWC can have on the environment. Avoid high speeds near shore.
- Stay alert! At high speeds, it is hard to see swimmers, water skiers, divers and other PWCs in time to avoid them.

- Do not operate your PWC after dark or when visibility is poor.
- Make sure your PWC is properly licensed and marked.
- Do not start your PWC if you smell gasoline or fumes in the engine compartment. Have a qualified technician check it.
- Replace the engine cover or seat before starting.



Waterskiing and Other Recreational Towing Activities

The rules that govern waterskiing also apply to other recreational towing activities like barefoot skiing, tubing, kneeboarding and parasailing. Here are rules to remember when towing someone with your boat:

- You must have a spotter on board the boat who can keep watch on each person you are towing and communicate with you.
- There must be an empty seat on your boat for each person you are towing in case they need to come on board.
- You may only tow persons with a personal watercraft made to carry three or more people.
- If someone you tow is not wearing a lifejacket or PFD, you must have one on board for him or her.
- You may not tow anyone when visibility is poor or from one hour after sunset to sunrise.
- No towing boat may be remotely controlled.

These requirements do not apply to a boat during formal training, in an official competition or in a skill demonstration if the boat meets the safety requirements of a governing body respecting such training, competitions or demonstrations.

Kayaking



Choose a bright colour such as red, yellow or orange for your lifejacket or PFD and kayak so that other boat operators can see you. Keep signalling devices within easy reach in case of emergency.

Sea kayakers should be aware of water temperatures, tides, currents, wind and maritime traffic.

Fishing and Hunting



Are you planning a trip across the lake to do some fishing or hunting? It takes more than steering your boat to get from point A to point B. You should:

- Always wear a Canadian-approved lifejacket or PFD. The brighter the colour the more visible you are to others.
- Have the minimum required equipment on board.
- Avoid overloading the boat. Overloading affects stability and causes the craft to be more difficult to handle.
- Know your craft's limitations and handling.
- Never cruise with booze.
- Learn about weather patterns, hypothermia and cold shock. One small mistake can put you in the water and your survival could depend on being prepared.
- Dress for boating.
- Make and file a sail plan. Have a way to contact your loved ones to let them know if your plans change.

HELP ENSURE SMALL VESSEL AND FACILITY SECURITY

Transport Canada believes the best way to keep small vessels and small vessel facilities safe and secure is to promote security awareness.

In Canada, small vessels including pleasure craft often operate near critical infrastructure such as hydro dams, power plants, chemical factories, bridges and key marine assets such as merchant vessels, ferries or cruise ships — potential targets for terrorist attacks.

A person or group could use a small vessel as:

- a floating bomb;
- a launch pad for attacking maritime industry or other critical infrastructure; or
- a means of smuggling weapons or terrorists.

Using small vessels for such activities could put our public safety and security, as well as our national commerce, trade and economy at risk. That is why you should know how to reduce the risk of terrorists using small vessels and know what to do if you see any suspicious activity on or near Canada's waterways. To learn more about security and terrorism in Canada, search the Internet for *Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre*.

Maritime Security: A Global Concern

The *International Maritime Organization* (IMO) is the United Nations agency responsible for improving maritime safety and security. In 2008, it issued voluntary security guidelines for small vessels and facilities that Transport Canada helped to draft. They encourage you to report suspicious activities to appropriate authorities and describe best practices that we hope you will consider. The IMO voluntary guidelines will help you:

- plan for security incidents;
- offer security awareness programs; and
- prevent the theft or hijacking of, and unauthorized access to, small vessels.

Guidelines for Pleasure Craft

The following section is a summary of the IMO guideline's Appendix relating to pleasure craft.

REMEMBER: The overall safety and security of your boat, crew and passengers are your responsibility. That is why you should follow the advice below.

- **Search Your Boat**

Search your pleasure craft often to make sure that nothing suspicious has been placed on board, left behind or removed while the boat was unattended. If you find something suspicious, contact the appropriate local authorities right away. Do not handle suspicious packages or objects.

- **Secure Your Vessel**

Where possible, lock external doors, hatches and storage areas, and secure windows when you leave your pleasure craft. If you plan to leave it unattended for some time:

- moor the vessel according to local port by-laws;
- lock ignition switches to prevent theft/unauthorized use; and
- take the ignition key with you.

You may also choose to:

- install a small craft alarm system to alert you to any unauthorized movement (integrating the alarm system with smoke and fire sensors will give you a complete vessel protection system);
- using steer locks, if practical;
- etch the hull serial number onto windows and hatches; and
- install a hidden device to shut off the fuel line, or an engine immobilizer

- **Protect Your Property**

It is a good idea to mark and photograph your vessel and equipment. This will help authorities identify stolen equipment. Think about installing a radio frequency identification device (RFID) anti-theft system, if available. Why? Such systems reduce theft risk, increase recovery rates and in some instances, reduce insurance fees.

- **Choose a Safe Route**

Plan your route and ports of call carefully before a voyage. Make every effort to avoid areas where terrorism and criminal activities, including piracy and armed robbery, are a major threat. If you must travel through unsafe waters:

- travel with other vessels as quickly as possible;
- notify the local maritime authorities before you arrive or leave; and
- keep to a strict contact schedule, preferably via satellite, mobile telephone or similar system that terrorists cannot use to locate the vessel through radio direction finding.

- **Be Prepared**

Make sure your emergency plans include procedures for navigation problems, health and safety issues, and security alerts and incidents.

Conduct regular drills to make sure that everyone on board knows what to do if a safety or security incident occurs.

If you are navigating in high security-risk areas, **always** search your pleasure craft carefully before getting underway. Take extra care when searching places where a stowaway might hide, such as sail lockers. If possible, conduct the search with another person for your own safety. If you do find a stowaway, contact the appropriate authorities right away.

- **Report Security Incidents**

Have a plan for reporting and recording security incidents. The plan should include contacting the nearest police and/or coastal authorities, and nearby vessels.

To learn more about the IMO security guidelines, search the Internet for MSC.1/Circ.1283.

United States Small Vessel Strategy

If you navigate on waterways Canada shares with the United States, you may be interested in the Department of Homeland Security's Small Vessel Security Strategy, released in 2008. To learn more, search the Internet for *DHS Small Vessel Security Strategy*.

Reporting Suspicious Activities

Transport Canada believes the best way to keep small vessels and small vessel facilities secure is to promote security awareness. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has a suspicious coastal activity awareness and reporting program. To learn about this program, search the Internet for RCMP suspicious coastal activity.

Reporting suspicious activities is important because the RCMP, provincial and municipal police need the marine community and people who live in remote coastal areas to be their eyes and ears. There is just too much navigable water within Canada and along our borders for the police to maintain marine security without help.

To learn more about Transport Canada Marine Security Activities, visit www.tc.gc.ca.

How You Can Help

We know that most people using small vessels and facilities are law-abiding, and that activities that appear suspicious may not be. Answer the questions below and use your best judgment to decide whether or not you should report what you may see.

- Are unauthorized persons trying to gain access to vessels or facilities?
- Are a vessel's crew members not typical for the type of small vessel?
- Are crew members reluctant to leave a vessel while it is being serviced and/or are they taking unusual security measures?
- Is a vessel anchored or running without lights in the dark?
- Are there smaller vessels hovering near a larger vessel?
- Are there lights flashing between boats?
- Are crew members recovering items from or tossing items into the water or onto the shoreline?
- Are people or things being transferred between vessels, between a vessel and a floatplane, or between a vessel and the shore?
- Are vessel owners reluctant to fully identify themselves to a marina or harbour authority? Is it hard for those authorities to locate owners?
- Do people appear too interested in potential targets such as hydro dams, power plants, chemical factories, bridges and key marine assets such as merchant vessels, ferries or cruise ships?
- Is there unusual diving activity?
- Has someone stolen a marine facility vehicle, vehicle pass, personnel identification or personnel uniforms?
- Do vessels appear to be purposely avoiding other vessels by changing direction?

Do not approach or challenge anyone you think is suspicious. Report suspicious activity to your local police service or call the RCMP at one of the telephone numbers in the **CONTACT INFORMATION AND REFERENCES** section of this guide.

RESPECT AND PROTECT CANADA'S WATERWAYS

Canada's lakes, rivers and coastal waters are ours to share. Do your part to take good care of them so they can be enjoyed long into the future.

Do not pollute the water with things like oil, garbage, hydrocarbons and untreated sewage in inland waters. It is not just a trend – it is the law!

Canada has laws that protect our waterways and shorelines. Some apply to pleasure boating. You must know and obey the laws in force **wherever** you go boating.

Prevent Pollution

The *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations* address major risks to the health of our waterways and shorelines such as sewage, garbage and hydrocarbons. Sewage contains, among other things, human or animal body waste, drainage and other waste from toilets.

Sewage Management Solutions

The *Vessel Pollution and Dangerous Chemicals Regulations* require that boats fitted with toilets be equipped with either a holding tank, a marine sanitation device or temporary storage. Make sure you comply.

Many sewage management equipment and solutions exist. Choose sewage management equipment that works for you.

Holding Tanks

A holding tank collects and stores sewage or sewage sludge. Remember you must empty it at approved pump-out facilities on dry land only. Make sure to follow pumping instructions and avoid using disinfectants that may be harmful to the environment.

Marine Sanitation Devices

A marine sanitation device is designed to receive and treat sewage on board. Only sewage treated with a marine sanitation device that meets the standards set out in the regulations may be discharged in inland waters.

Temporary Storage

A porta pottie is considered a temporary storage. The only vessels that may use temporary storage on board are those that:

- are under 15 GT;
- carry no more than 15 persons;
- do not operate on inland waters.

When planning your trip, check with local authorities for pump-out facility locations.

Reduce Pollution from Bilges

Oil, fuel, anti-freeze and transmission fluid are a few examples of pollutants that harm the environment when pumped overboard – usually by automatic bilge pumps. Bilge cleaners, even the biodegradable ones, just break down the oil into tiny, less visible droplets – but it is still present. Absorbent bilge cloths are very useful because they are designed to absorb petroleum products and repel water.

Here are a few tips to help keep bilge pollution at a minimum:

- Make sure your bilge is clean before you turn on automatic bilge pumps. Only use them when needed and when the bilge contains only water.
- Use towels or bilge cloths to absorb oils, fuel, anti-freeze and transmission fluid. Dispose of used towels or bilge cloths in an approved garbage container.

Help Keep Out the Invaders

Invasive exotic species are plants, fish, shellfish and even tiny algae or bacteria that enter into waters that are not their natural home. They then multiply and crowd out the plants and animals that do belong there. Many have seen invasive species, such as zebra mussels and green crab, take over local waters.

You can do your part by keeping your hull clean. This is very important if you operate your boat on a lake or river and then tow it over land to use in another area. Rinsing or cleaning your hull after use or before entering new waters helps to remove spores and other invasive organisms. Some communities require this in their local bylaws.

Remember that dumping live bait, such as fish bait or crayfish in a lake is one way you risk bringing invaders into an area where they do not belong. This can cause serious harm to the food chain and local ecosystem.

To learn more about aquatic intruders, read [*Aquatic Invasive Species – Identification Booklet*](#). J'ai aussi changé le lien dans le document Word.

Use Environmentally Friendly Cleaners

All-purpose cleanser

Mix 30 ml of baking soda or borax, 30 ml of tea tree essential oil, 125 ml of vinegar, 15 ml of biodegradable dish soap and 2 litres of hot water. Spray on the surfaces you plan to clean.

Chromium

Rub with baking soda. Rinse and polish with vinegar in hot water.

Deck and floor

Pour 250 ml of vinegar in 2 litres of water.

Drain

Pour 60 ml of baking soda in the drain, followed by 60 ml of vinegar. Let it rest for 15 minutes, then pour in a full kettle of boiling water.

Mold

Add 60 ml of borax and 30 ml of vinegar to 500 ml of hot water. Spray the mixture to eliminate germs.

Toilet

Pour 125 ml of baking soda and 125 ml of vinegar into the toilet bowl. The foaming reaction cleans and deodorizes. Brush and flush.

Window and mirror

Mix 2 ml of liquid soap, 45 ml of vinegar and 500 ml of water in a spray bottle. Use a cotton rag to clean and shine.

Wood (polish)

Mix 30 ml of edible linseed oil, 30 ml of vinegar and 60 ml of lemon juice in a glass pitcher. Rub the solution into the wood with a soft rag until it is clean. To store the solution, add a few drops of vitamin E from a capsule and cover.

Green Boating Tips

- Make sure your engine is well maintained to reduce air pollution.
- Use only paints approved for marine use.
- When fuelling, do not top off tanks and clean up any spilled fuel.
- Keep your bilge clean and do not pump oily water overboard.
- Use bilge absorbents in place of detergents.
- Do not pump your sewage over the side – use a holding tank.
- Obey all sewage regulations.
- Bring your garbage home (including cigarette butts) – do not litter.
- Try not to use detergents – even biodegradable cleaners are hard on plants and animals that live in the water.
- Avoid shoreline erosion – watch your wake and propeller wash.
- Obey all speed limits for better fuel economy.
- Report pollution when you see it.

If you accidentally pollute the water or you witness or see the result of someone else polluting, report it to a Government of Canada pollution prevention officer or call one of the telephone numbers identified in the **CONTACT INFORMATION AND REFERENCES** section of this guide.

KNOW THE RESTRICTIONS THAT APPLY

Local restrictions may be in force on some Canadian waterways to promote public safety, and protect the public interest as well as the environment. Some of these include a ban on power boats, maximum engine power limits, speed limits and a ban on recreational towing activities. These restrictions are listed in the schedules to the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations. Local authorities are responsible for implementing these regulations.

Province-Wide Shoreline Speed Limits

Some provinces have adopted speed limits of 10 km/h within 30 m (98'5") of shore on all waters within their boundaries. This speed limit applies in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the inland waters of British Columbia and Nova Scotia. This limit is in effect whether it is posted or not. Exceptions include:

- recreational towing while traveling perpendicular from the shore;
- rivers less than 100 m (328') wide, as well as canals and buoyed channels; and
- waters where another speed limit is set in a schedule to the regulations.

New Restrictions

If you feel a restriction is needed in your area, read the Local Authorities' Guide. Before your request can be added to the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations, the need for the restriction must be assessed and public consultations held at the local level. If successful, local authorities are responsible for all sign and buoy maintenance and replacement, including all costs.

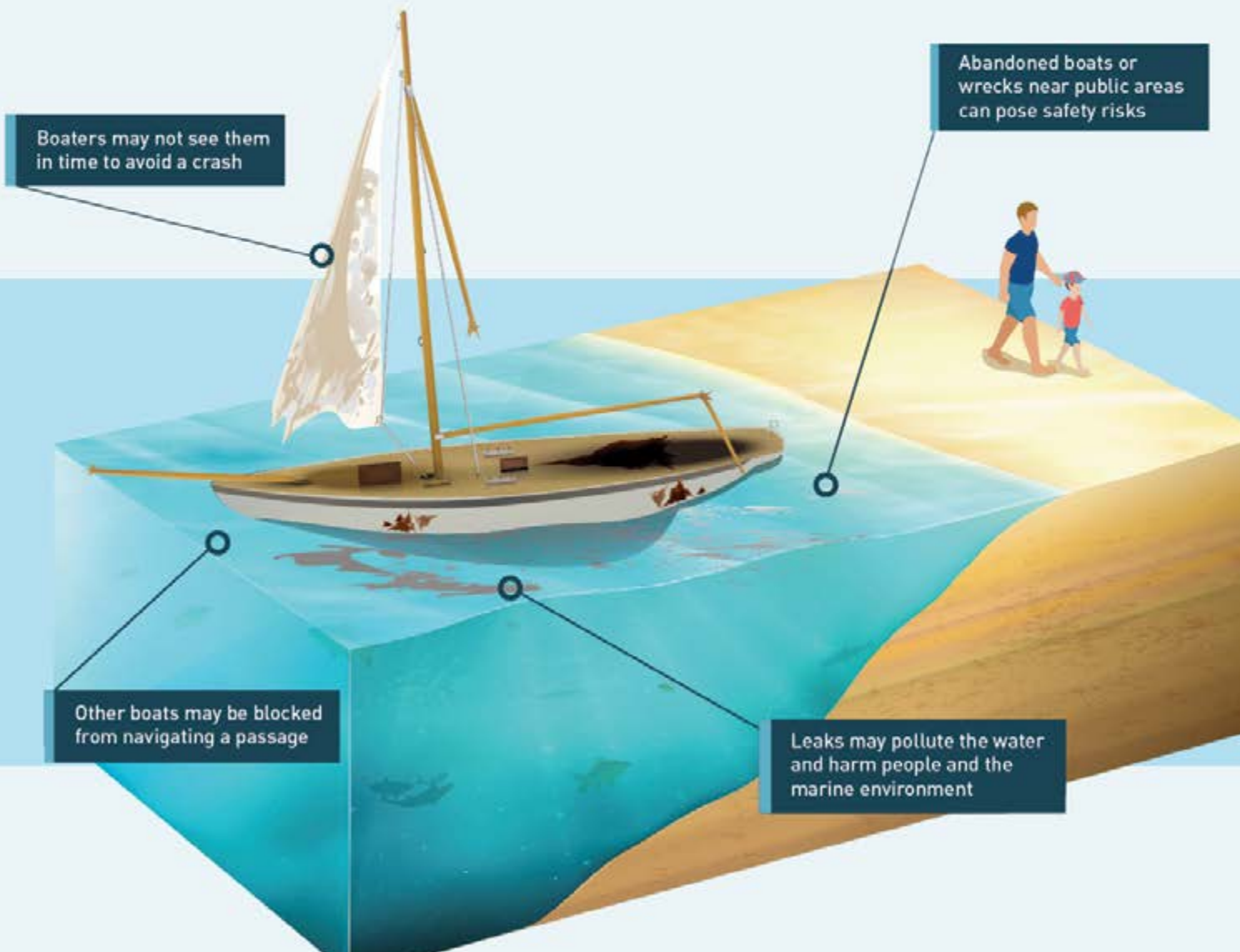
Once a vessel operation restriction is in place, it can be enforced (in the form of tickets or summons) by:

- police officers; and
- persons identified in the regulations.

Failure to comply can result in fines.



IMPACTS OF ABANDONED BOATS AND WRECKS



KNOW HOW TO READ A RESTRICTION SIGN

Vessel operation restriction symbols come in five shapes. The colour of the frame is international orange. When part of a symbol has a green border, a special condition applies to the restriction. The symbol tells you the type of restriction that applies. If it is arrow-shaped, the restriction applies in the direction of the arrow. Know what these symbols mean.



No motorized vessels
(including power-driven and electric powered vessels)



No power-driven vessels
(vessels propelled by an internal combustion engine or a steam engine)



No recreational towing activities north
of the sign



No motorized vessels
(including power-driven and electric powered vessels) between the hours
and days in red



Speed limit



No sporting, recreational, or
public event or activity



Combined symbol
(no recreational towing activities
and speed limit)



No vessels



Power limit
(in public parks and controlled bodies
of water only)



No towing activities



No motorized vessels (including power-driven and electric powered vessels)
in the direction indicated by the arrow

BE READY TO COMPLY



Safety is a shared responsibility of Canadian waterway users and the organizations that govern them. Boaters must operate their boats safely. This means you must learn and follow the rules that apply to your boat as well as to the waters where you will be boating. The previous sections of this guide provided you with an overview of the laws and regulations that apply to pleasure boating.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), provincial and municipal police forces and other authorized local authorities enforce the laws that apply to boats. They may inspect your boat and monitor your boating activities to make sure that you meet requirements that apply. This may include checking for safety equipment, your Pleasure Craft Operator Card and careless operation on the water.

Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety helps boaters learn about boating laws with the help of tools like this guide. However, it is important to remember that these laws only set minimum requirements. Many boaters go above and beyond these laws to enhance the safety of their boat and guests, and Transport Canada encourages everyone to do the same.

Boating Offences and Associated Fines

Here is a list of some boating offences and their fines as presented in the *Contraventions Regulations*. Note that they do not include administrative charges.

Operating a vessel if you are under age	\$ 250
Failing to have proof of competency on board	\$ 250
Failing to have the required pleasure craft licence on board	\$ 250
Altering/Defacing/Removing hull serial number	\$ 350
Operating a boat in a careless manner, without due care and attention for others	\$ 350
Operating a vessel with safety equipment not in good working order or not readily accessible and available for immediate use	\$ 200
Operating human-powered pleasure craft without PFDs or lifejackets of appropriate size for each person on board (\$200). (Plus \$100 for each PFD or lifejacket missing.)	\$ 200 + \$ 100
Operating a power-driven vessel without a muffler that is in good working order	\$ 250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without seating space on board for every person being towed	\$ 250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without a person on board other than the operator keeping watch on every person being towed	\$ 250
Operating a vessel in an unsafe manner	\$ 500

You should also know that some boating offences can result in fines to both the operator of the boat as well as to its owner. An example of this would be allowing someone under the age of 16 to operate your PWC.

Fine amounts are subject to change. You can find a complete list of boating offences and current fines under the *Contraventions Regulations*.