

ATTENTION POWERBOAT RENTERS

**POWERBOAT OPERATORS ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL BOATING
LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**



IMPORTANT BOATING REGULATIONS & OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **"LIFE JACKETS. THEY FLOAT. YOU DON'T."** All boats must have an approved, wearable life jacket on board for each person.
 - **LOOK AROUND!** Most boating accidents involve collisions between boats or between a boat and a fixed object (like a bridge pier). Avoid accidents by remaining aware of everything going on around you. This is called "keeping a PROPER LOOKOUT."
 - **WATCH YOUR WAKE!** A wake is the wave your boat creates while underway. You can't create a wake within 100 FEET of the shoreline, unpowered boats, docks, downed skiers, swimmers, and anchored, moored or drifting boats. Slow down!
 - **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for your actions on the water. NEGLIGENT OR RECKLESS OPERATION is illegal and dangerous. Travel at a safe speed so that your ability to maneuver and stop is never in doubt. Any damage you cause (even from your wake) is your responsibility.
 - When APPROACHING another boat HEAD ON, TURN TO THE RIGHT.
 - When OVERTAKING another boat, you may pass on either side. The boat you are overtaking should maintain its course and speed.
 - In a CROSSING situation, the boat to your right has the right of way and should maintain course and speed. You should change course, slow down and pass behind the boat on the right. You have the right of way over boats on your left. BUT NEVER INSIST ON THE RIGHT OF WAY. WHEN IN DOUBT, GIVE WAY.
 - **STAY AWAY FROM DAMS.** The downstream side is just as dangerous as the upstream side. Don't be lured near a dam by the downstream side's safe appearance.
 - **STOP THAT PROP.** Turn off your engine BEFORE picking up a swimmer or skier.
 - Become familiar with the boat by testing the turning radius and stopping distance. Remember that BOATS DO NOT HAVE BRAKES.
 - **STAY AWAY** from unpowered boats and large commercial craft.
 - **BAD WEATHER CAN KILL BOATERS.** If a storm is near, head for shore or a safe harbor.
- IT IS ILLEGAL TO ...***
- Operate any boat while under the influence of ALCOHOL or a controlled substance. PENALTIES include fines, up to 90 days imprisonment and loss of boating privileges. Don't drink and boat.
 - Weave through congested traffic.
 - Operate within 100 feet of a water skier towed by another boat.
 - Operate a watercraft in a reckless or dangerous manner. Boats may not be operated at a speed that endangers the life or property of any person.
 - Fail to keep a proper lookout or fail to maintain a safe speed so that the boat operator cannot take proper and effective action to avoid a collision.
 - Operate a motorboat less than 20 feet in length at greater than slow, no-wake speed while a person is standing on or in the boat.
 - Operate a motorboat not equipped with railings or other safeguards at greater than slow, no-wake speed while a person is riding on the bow decking, gunwales, transom or motor cover.
- For more information, take a boating course.
Check our web site at www.fish.state.pa.us
or call 1-888-PAFISH-1 to find a course near you.**