



Summer Boating Safety



A safe and enjoyable boating trip in Alaska waters requires planning, close attention to safety, proper training and knowledge of regulations.

Every boater's responsibilities:

- Make sure the boat is in top operating condition and no tripping hazards exist.
- The boat should be free of fire hazards and have clean bilges.
- Ensure required safety equipment is on board, maintained, and in good condition, and that you know how to properly use these devices. **All boats must have a USCG-certified PFD for every person on board. Persons under 13 must wear a PFD at all times.**
- File a float plan with a relative or friend and inform them when you return.
- Have a complete, working knowledge of the operation and handling characteristics of your boat and how to fix common problems.
- Continuously track your position and be ready to alter your route, if necessary.
- Always maintain a safe speed to avoid collision with other boats and obstacles.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions and act accordingly.
- Know and practice all navigational boating rules.
- Learn and obey Federal and state regulations and waterway markers.
- Maintain a clear, unobstructed view forward at all times, while scanning the water ahead. Most boating accidents and collisions are caused by inattention.

For more information go to the Alaska Office of Boating Safety at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/boating/>