



Boating Guidelines

The boating community plays a vital role in protecting our waterways and coastal environments. By practicing the following principles, we can minimize our impact on the environment and ensure these precious ecosystems thrive for generations to come.

ENJOY RESPONSIBLE BOATING BY PRACTICING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES



PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Research local regulations, boating restrictions, and seasonal conditions for the area you plan to visit.
- Check charts, weather, and tides to ensure a safe experience for you and your guests.
- Leave your boating plan with a friend or family member as a safety precaution.
- Ensure your vessel is equipped with fire extinguishers and life jackets, waste collection systems, and eco-friendly cleaning supplies.
- Prepare to handle emergencies, including fuel spills and storm conditions responsibly.



TRAVEL ACROSS DURABLE SURFACES

- Use designated mooring areas, marinas, or established anchorages to avoid damaging sensitive habitats like seagrass beds and coral reefs.
- When anchoring, make sure to anchor in areas with sandy bottoms to avoid harming any reefs.
- Avoid navigating in shallow waters where propellers may disturb marine life or stir up sediment.
- When on shore, establish hangouts only in designated areas and stick to established trails to protect fragile coastal environments.



DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

- Keep all trash, recycling, and organic waste secured on board until it can be disposed of at proper facilities.
- Avoid single-use plastics by choosing reusable items.
- Never dump plastics, fishing lines, or other waste into the water.
- Utilize self-contained portable toilets or marine sanitation devices for human waste.
- Use pump-out stations to empty holding tanks responsibly and avoid discharging waste directly into the water.



LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Avoid collecting shells, coral, or other natural items as souvenirs.
- Leave historical artifacts, such as shipwrecks, undisturbed for others to enjoy.
- Refrain from introducing invasive species by cleaning your vessel and gear thoroughly before entering new waters.
- Never discard or release live bait.



MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Use stoves for cooking instead of building fires on beaches or shorelines.
- Where fires are permitted, use a fire pan or established fire rings and keep them small, ensuring all ashes are thoroughly extinguished and disposed of properly.
- Use dead and downed wood no larger than an adult's wrist to keep the fire small.
- Pack out all charcoal and empty it in the trash to avoid dumping it into the water.



RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Observe animals from a safe distance to avoid disturbing their natural behaviors.
- Practice sustainable fishing methods and know the regulations.
- Never feed wildlife as it disrupts their natural foraging habits and can harm their health.
- Follow local guidelines for speed zones and no-wake areas to protect marine life.



BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS

- Keep a safe distance and speed when passing, meeting, or overtaking another vessel.
- Practice courteous navigation by yielding to non-motorized watercraft and keeping noise levels low, especially near residential areas and natural reserves.
- Share public facilities like docks and boat ramps respectfully.
- Leave the areas you visit cleaner than you found them to create a positive experience for others.

COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE BOATING

By committing to these ethical practices, the boating community can contribute to the health and sustainability of our aquatic ecosystems while enjoying the freedom and beauty of life on the water.