

the
BOATER'S GUIDE
TO
**MAINE BOATING
LAWS**
AND **RESPONSIBILITIES**



In Effect As Of
June 2015

Simple Steps to Safe Boating

Statistics show that drinking alcohol while boating and not wearing a life jacket are major causes of boating accidents and fatalities.

Avoid Alcohol

Research has proven that one-third of the amount of alcohol that makes a person legally intoxicated on land can make a boater equally intoxicated on the water. Most people become impaired after only one drink. To



minimize the risk of an accident, make the wise choice – ***Don't drink and boat!***

Wear a Life Jacket

Recent year averages show that 90% of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. Drownings are rare when boaters wear a proper life jacket. To make your day of boating safe and enjoyable, always carry enough life jackets for everyone on board and have everyone wear them.



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AND

RESPONSIBILITIES

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Where To Find Additional Information

This handbook is a guide to Maine boating laws.

- To stay up-to-date on new boating laws, call the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at:
207-287-8000
Or visit our website at:
www.maine.gov/ifw
- For federal boating laws, visit the U.S. Coast Guard's boating safety website:
www.uscgboating.org

Information in this handbook does not replace what is specifically legal for boating in Maine, which is found in Maine laws and rules and federal laws.

Before Going Out

Before going out on the water, take steps to make the outing safe and enjoyable.

Vessel Length

- Length is measured from the tip of the bow in a straight line to the stern. This does not include outboard motors, brackets, rudders, bow attachments, or swim platforms and ladders that are not a molded part of the hull.

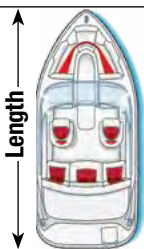
Vessel Capacity

- Always check the capacity plate, which is usually found near the operator's position or on the vessel's transom. This plate indicates the maximum weight capacity and maximum number of people that the vessel can carry safely.
- PWCs and some other vessels are not required to have a capacity plate. Always follow the recommended capacity in the owner's manual and on the manufacturer's warning decal.

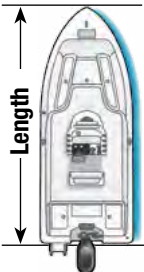
Fueling a Vessel

Never fuel at night unless it is an emergency. If you must refuel after dark, use only electric lights. Try to refuel away from the water or on a commercial fueling ramp.

Inboards



Outboards



Filing a Float Plan

Before going out on a vessel, it is always a good idea to leave a float plan with a relative or friend, or at least with a local marina. A float plan should:

- Describe the vessel, including its registration number, length, make, horsepower, and engine type.
- State where you are going, the detailed route, your planned departure time, and your expected return time.
- Give the name, address, and telephone number of each person on board and an emergency contact.

Pre-Departure Checklist

You can help assure a good time while operating your vessel by performing this pre-departure check.

- ✓ Check the weather forecast for the area and time frame during which you will be boating.
- ✓ Make sure that the steering and throttle controls operate properly and all lights are working properly.
- ✓ Check for any fuel leaks from the tank, fuel lines, and carburetor.
- ✓ Check the engine compartment for oil leaks.
- ✓ Check hose connections for leaks or cracks, and make sure hose clamps are tight.
- ✓ Drain all water from the engine compartment, and be sure the bilge plug is replaced and secure.
- ✓ Check to be sure you have a fully charged engine battery and fire extinguishers.
- ✓ If so equipped, make sure the ignition safety switch and wrist lanyard are in good order.
- ✓ Make sure you have the required number of personal flotation devices (PFDs), and check that they are in good condition.
- ✓ Leave a float plan with a reliable friend or relative.

On the Water

Safe navigation on Maine waterways is everyone's responsibility. All operators are equally responsible for taking action necessary to avoid collisions.

Encountering Other Vessels

Even though no vessel has the "right-of-way" over another vessel, there are some rules that every operator should follow when encountering other vessels. It is the responsibility of both operators to take the action needed to avoid a collision. The next page shows what to do when encountering another vessel.

To prevent collisions, every operator should follow the three basic rules of navigation.

- Practice good seamanship.
- Keep a sharp lookout.
- Maintain a safe speed and distance.

Encountering Vessels With Limited Maneuverability

- When operating a power-driven vessel, you must give way to:
 - Any vessel not under command, such as an anchored or disabled vessel
 - Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, such as a vessel towing another or laying cable, or one constrained by its draft, such as a large ship in a channel
 - A vessel engaged in commercial fishing
 - A sailboat under sail unless it is overtaking
- When operating a vessel under sail, you must give way to:
 - Any vessel not under command
 - Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver
 - A vessel engaged in commercial fishing

Navigation Rules

There are two terms that help explain these rules.

- **Stand-on vessel:** The vessel that should maintain its course and speed
- **Give-way vessel:** The vessel that must take early and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down, or changing course

Power vs. Power

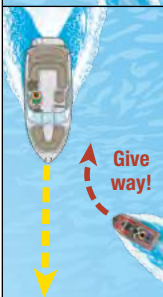
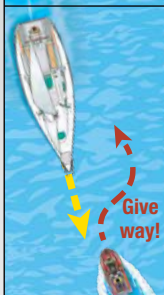


Meeting Head-On

Power vs. Power: Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel. Both vessels should keep to the starboard (right).

Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.

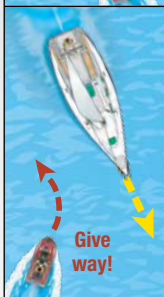
Power vs. Sail



Crossing Situations

Power vs. Power: The vessel on the operator's port (left) side is the give-way vessel. The vessel on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand-on vessel.

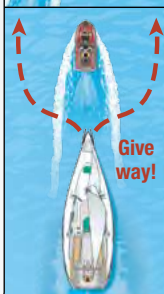
Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.



Overtaking

Power vs. Power: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.

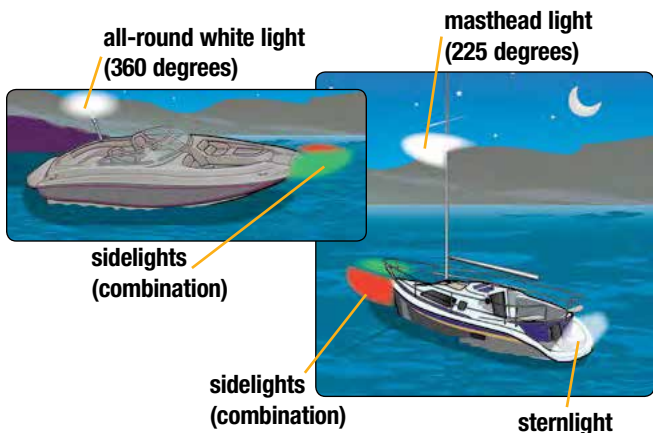
Power vs. Sail: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.



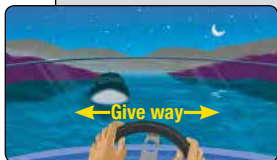
Nighttime Navigation

Be on the lookout for the lights of other vessels when boating at night. Several types of lights serve as navigational aids at night. There are four common navigation lights.

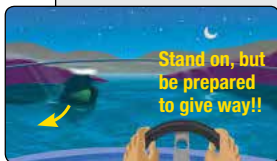
- **Sidelights:** These red and green lights are called sidelights (also called combination lights) because they are visible to another vessel approaching from the side or head-on. The red light indicates a vessel's port (left) side; the green indicates a vessel's starboard (right) side.
- **Sternlight:** This white light is seen from behind or nearly behind the vessel.
- **Masthead Light:** This white light shines forward and to both sides and is required on all power-driven vessels. A masthead light must be displayed by all vessels when under engine power. The absence of this light indicates a sailboat under sail.
- **All-Round White Light:** On power-driven vessels less than 40 feet in length, this light may be used to combine a masthead light and sternlight into a single white light that can be seen by other vessels from any direction. This light serves as an anchor light when sidelights are extinguished.



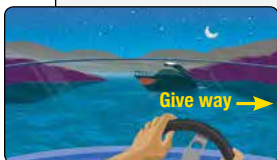
Encountering Vessels at Night



When you see only a white light, you are overtaking another vessel. It is the stand-on vessel whether it is underway or anchored. You may go around it on either side.



When you see a green and a white light, you are the stand-on vessel. However, remain alert in case the other vessel operator does not see you or does not know the navigation rules.



When you see a red and a white light, you must give way to the other vessel! Slow down and allow the vessel to pass, or you may turn to the right and pass behind the other vessel.

U.S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON)

Buoys and markers are the “traffic signals” that guide vessel operators safely along some waterways. They also identify dangerous or controlled areas and give directions and information. As a recreational boat or PWC operator, you will need to know the lateral navigation markers and non-lateral markers of the U.S. Aids to Navigation System.

Lateral Markers

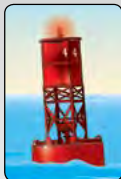
These navigation aids mark the edges of safe water areas; for example, directing travel within a channel. The markers use a combination of colors and numbers, which may appear on either buoys or permanently placed markers.

Red colors, red lights, and even numbers

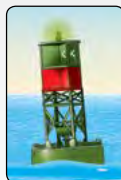
indicate the right side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.

**Green colors, green lights,****and odd numbers**

indicate the left side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.

**Red and green colors and/or lights**

indicate the preferred (primary) channel. If green is on top, the preferred channel is to the right as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream; if red is on top, the preferred channel is to the left.



Nuns are red cone-shaped buoys marked with even numbers.



Cans are green cylindrical-shaped buoys marked with odd numbers.



Lighted Buoys use the lateral marker colors and numbers discussed above; in addition, they have a matching colored light.

Daymarks are permanently placed signs attached to structures, such as posts, in the water. Common daymarks are red triangles (equivalent to nuns) and green squares (equivalent to cans).

They may be lighted also.





Red Right Returning

is a reminder of the correct course when returning from open waters or heading upstream.

Non-Lateral Markers

Non-lateral markers are navigational aids that give information other than the edges of safe water areas. The most common are regulatory markers which are white and use orange markings and black lettering. These markers are found on lakes and rivers.



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.

Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or "slow, no wake."



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.

Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.



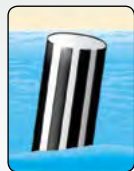
Mooring Buoy

Mooring buoys are white with a blue horizontal band and are found in marinas and other areas where vessels are allowed to anchor.



Other Non-Lateral Markers

Safe Water Markers are white with red vertical stripes and mark mid-channels or fairways. They may be passed on either side.



Inland Waters Obstruction

Markers are white with black vertical stripes and indicate an obstruction to navigation. You should not pass between these buoys and the nearest shore.

Weather Emergencies

Weather can change very rapidly and create unexpected situations for boat operators. Even meteorologists have trouble predicting rapid weather changes. You should always monitor weather developments. One way is to tune a VHF radio to the frequencies listed on Page 14.

What To Do If Caught in Severe Weather

■ Prepare the boat to handle severe weather.

- Slow down, but keep enough power to maintain headway and steering.
- Close all hatches, windows, and doors to reduce the chance of swamping.
- Stow any unnecessary gear.
- Turn on your boat's navigation lights. If there is fog, sound your fog horn.
- Keep bilges free of water. Be prepared to remove water by bailing.

- If there is lightning, disconnect all electrical equipment. Stay as clear of metal objects as possible.
- **Prepare your passengers for severe weather.**
- Have everyone put on a USCG–approved life jacket (PFD). If passengers are already wearing their PFDs, make sure they are secured properly.
 - Have your passengers sit on the vessel floor close to the centerline for their safety and to make the boat more stable.
- **Decide whether to go to shore or ride out the storm.**
- If possible, head for the nearest shore that is safe to approach. If already caught in a storm, it may be best to ride it out in open water rather than try to approach the shore in heavy wind and waves.
 - Head the bow into the waves at a 45-degree angle. PWCs should head directly into the waves.
 - If the engine stops, drop a “sea anchor” on a line off the bow to keep the bow headed into the wind and reduce drifting while you ride out the storm. In an emergency, a bucket will work as a sea anchor.
 - If the sea anchor is not sufficient, anchor using your conventional anchor to prevent your boat from drifting into dangerous areas.

VHF Frequencies Broadcasting NOAA Weather Reports

162.400 MHz	162.450 MHz	162.500 MHz	162.550 MHz
162.425 MHz	162.475 MHz	162.525 MHz	

These are the most commonly used VHF channels on United States waters.

Channel 6 Intership safety communications.

Channel 9 Communications between vessels (commercial and recreational), and ship to coast (calling channel in designated USCG Districts).

Channel 13 Navigational use by commercial, military, and recreational vessels at bridges, locks, and harbors.

Channel 16 Distress and safety calls to U.S. Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels; often called the “hailing” channel. (Some regions use other channels as the hailing channel.) When hailing, contact the other vessel, quickly agree to another channel, and then switch to that channel to continue conversation.

Channel 22 Communications between the U.S. Coast Guard and the maritime public, both recreational and commercial. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation, and other safety warnings are broadcast on this channel.

Channels 24-28 Public telephone calls (to marine operator).

Channels 68, 69, and 71 Recreational vessel radio channels and ship to coast.

Channel 70 Digital selective calling “alert channel.”

Other Boating Emergencies

A safe boater knows how to prevent and respond to other boating emergencies.

Falling Overboard

■ To prevent persons from falling overboard:

- Don't sit on the gunwale, bow, seat backs, motor cover, or any other area not designed for seating.
- Don't sit on pedestal seats when underway at greater than idle speed.
- Don't stand up in or lean out from the boat.
- Don't move about the boat when underway.

■ If someone on your boat falls overboard:

- Reduce speed and toss the victim a throwable PFD.
- Turn your boat around and slowly pull alongside the victim, approaching the victim from downwind or into the current, whichever is stronger.
- Turn off the engine. Pull the victim on board over the stern, keeping the weight in the boat balanced.

Capsizing or Swamping

■ To reduce the risk of capsizing or swamping:

- Don't overload your boat. Balance the load.
- Slow your boat appropriately when turning.
- Secure the anchor line to the bow, never to the stern.
- Don't boat in rough water or in bad weather.

■ If you capsize or swamp your boat, or if you have fallen overboard and can't get back in:

- Stay with the boat.
- Try to reboard or climb onto it in order to get as much of your body out of the cold water as possible.

■ If the boat sinks or floats away, don't panic.

- If wearing a PFD, remain calm and await help.
- If you aren't wearing a PFD, look around for one or for other buoyant items to use as a flotation device.
- In cold water, float rather than tread.

Hypothermia

■ If you are boating in cold water:

- Dress in several layers of clothing under your PFD or wear a wetsuit or drysuit.
- Learn to recognize the symptoms of hypothermia. Symptoms begin with shivering and bluish lips and nails, and progress to a coma and, ultimately, death.

■ To reduce the effects of hypothermia:

- Put on a PFD if not wearing one. It helps you to float without excessive movement and insulates your body.
- Get as much of your body out of the water as possible.
- Don't take your clothes off unless necessary—clothes can help you float and provide insulation.
- Don't thrash or move about. Excess motion consumes energy and increases loss of body heat.
- Draw your knees to your chest and your arms to your sides, protecting the major areas of heat loss.
- If others are in the water with you, huddle together with your arms around their shoulders.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that can be deadly. To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, keep air flowing through the boat and take extreme caution when running a generator at a dock or at anchor.

- Whenever people are using a swim platform or are in the water close to the stern, turn off all gasoline-powered generators with transom exhaust ports.
- Swimmers should never enter the cavity between the swim platform and the stern of the boat.
- When boating, be careful running downwind as exhaust gases may blow back on board. On cabin cruisers, be aware that exhaust gases can blow back into the stern when traveling into the wind.



Specifically for PWCs

Although a personal watercraft (PWC) is considered an inboard vessel and comes under the same rules and requirements of any other vessel, there are specific considerations for the PWC operator.

Steering and Stopping a PWC

- PWCs are propelled by drawing water into a pump and then forcing it out under pressure through a steering nozzle at the back of the unit. This “jet” of pressurized water is directed by the steering control—when the steering control is turned, the steering nozzle turns in the same direction. For example, if the steering control is turned right, the nozzle turns right and the jet of water pushes the back of the vessel to the left, which causes the PWC to turn right.

steering control



steering nozzle

Remember—no power means no steering control ...

Most PWCs and other jet-drive vessels must have power in order to maintain control. If you allow the engine on these PWCs to return to idle or shut off during operation, you lose all steering control. The PWC will continue in the direction it was headed before the engine was shut off, no matter which way the steering control is turned. New PWCs allow for off-throttle steering.

- **Most PWCs do not have brakes.** Always allow plenty of room for stopping. Just because you release the throttle or shut off the engine does not mean you will stop immediately. Even PWCs that have a braking system do not stop immediately.

Ignition Safety Switches

- Most PWCs and powerboats come equipped by the manufacturer with an important device called an emergency ignition safety switch. This is a safety device that is designed to shut off the engine if the operator is thrown from the proper operating position.

- A lanyard is attached to the safety switch and the operator's wrist or PFD. The safety switch shuts off the engine if the operator falls off the PWC or out of the powerboat. If your vessel does not come equipped with an ignition safety switch, you should have one installed.
- In many states, it is illegal to ride your PWC without attaching the lanyard properly between the switch and yourself.



Reboarding a Capsized PWC

After a fall, the PWC could be overturned completely. You should be familiar with the proper procedure to right the PWC and to reboard from the rear of the craft.

- Most manufacturers have placed a decal at the rear or bottom of the craft that indicates the direction to roll your PWC to return it to an upright position. If no decal exists, check your owner's manual or ask the dealer. If you roll it over the wrong way, you could damage your PWC.
- Practice reboarding with someone else around to make sure you can handle it alone. Don't ride your PWC if you are very tired because reboarding would be difficult. Also, avoid riding where there are strong currents or winds, which could hamper your reboarding efforts.



Courtesy When Encountering Other Vessels

- Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another PWC or boat, creates risks and is restricted or even prohibited in some states. The vessel making the wake may block the PWC operator's view of oncoming traffic and also conceal the PWC operator from approaching vessels. See page 40 for specific information on unlawful operation in Maine.

- Excessive noise from PWCs often makes them unwelcome with other vessel operators and people on shore. Be a courteous PWC operator.
 - Vary your operating area, and do not keep repeating the same maneuver.
 - Avoid congregating with other PWC operators near shore, which increases annoying noise levels.
 - Avoid making excessive noise near residential and camping areas, particularly early in the morning.
 - Avoid maneuvers that cause the engine exhaust to lift out of the water because that increases noise levels.
 - Do not modify your engine exhaust system if it increases the noise. Improperly modified exhausts will not make your PWC faster and may raise the noise to an illegal level.

Environmental Considerations

When operating your personal watercraft, consider the effect you may have on the environment.

- Make sure that the water you operate in is at least 30 inches deep. Riding in shallow water can cause bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation to be sucked into the pump, damaging your PWC and the environment.
- Avoid causing erosion by operating at slow speed and by not creating a wake when operating near shore or in narrow streams or rivers. See pages 40-41 for specific speed and distance information in Maine.
- Do not dock or beach your PWC in reeds and grasses. This could damage fragile environments.
- Take extra care when fueling your PWC in or near the water. Oil and gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment. Fuel on land if possible.
- Never use your PWC to disturb, chase, or harass wildlife.



Other PWC Considerations

- Remember that everyone on board a PWC must wear a life jacket (PFD).
- Keep hands, feet, loose clothing, and hair away from the pump intake area. Before cleaning debris away from the pump intake, be sure to shut off the engine.
- Keep everyone clear of the steering nozzle unless the PWC is shut off. The water jet can cause severe injuries.
- Frequently inspect your PWC's electrical systems (e.g., starter and engine gauge connections) to ensure there is no potential for electrical spark. Gas fumes could collect in the engine compartment and an explosion could occur. After fueling, sniff the engine compartment for any evidence of gas fumes.
- Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended capacity for your PWC.
- Know your limits, and ride according to your abilities.



PWC operators must obey laws that apply to other vessels as well as obey additional requirements that apply specifically to the operation of personal watercraft.

Requirements Specific to PWCs

- *Everyone* on board a PWC must *wear* a U.S. Coast Guard–approved wearable, non-inflatable life jacket at all times.
- PWCs may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.
- There are age restrictions on operators of personal watercraft (see page 26).
- If a person under 18 years of age is operating a PWC, the parent or guardian of the operator is responsible for the operator's actions.

Before Going Out

All operators are required to obey laws that regulate your motorboat's registration and operation.

Registering Your Motorboat

- You must have a Maine registration and validation stickers to operate your motorboat legally on public waters in Maine. The only exceptions are:
 - Motorboats owned by the United States government
 - Motorboats documented with the U.S. Coast Guard
 - Motorboats used exclusively for racing purposes and displaying a boat number from a racing association
- For motorboats registered in another state or county using Maine internal waters for less than 60 consecutive days, here are the requirements.
 - Maine registration and validation stickers are not required.
 - A valid Lake and River Protection Sticker is required. See page 25 for more information.
- *The registration must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the motorboat is being operated. The only exception to this requirement is for a motorboat less than 26 feet long that is leased or rented to a person for non-commercial purposes. In this case:*
 - *The registration card may be retained on shore by the owner of the motorboat **and** ...*
 - *The person leasing or renting the motorboat must carry the lease agreement on board. The agreement must show the motorboat's registration number, the time period for the lease, and the signature of the motorboat's owner or his or her representative.*



Spaces should appear here.

Registration/ Invasive Plant Sticker



- The registration number and validation stickers must be displayed as follows.
 - Number must be painted, applied as a decal, or otherwise affixed to both sides of the bow.
 - Number must read from left to right on both sides of the bow.
 - Number must be in at least 3-inch-high **BLOCK** letters.
 - Number's color must contrast sharply with its background.
 - Letters must be separated from the numbers by a space: **ME 3717 ZW.**
 - No other numbers may be displayed on either side of the bow.
 - Sticker must be affixed on both sides of the bow, three inches to the right of and directly in line with the number.
- If your vessel requires registration, it is illegal to operate it or allow others to operate your vessel unless it is registered and numbered as described above.

Annual Excise Tax

- Owners of any vessels located in Maine, including documented vessels, must pay their annual excise tax.
 - Maine residents pay the tax to the town where they reside.
 - Nonresidents or corporations pay the tax to the Maine town where the vessel is principally moored, docked, or located.

- These vessels are not required to pay the excise tax:
 - A lifeboat or raft carried by another vessel
 - A vessel that is for sale by a dealer
 - A commercial vessel that has no established base of operation in Maine
 - A vessel that is not in Maine for more than 75 days
 - A manually propelled vessel 20 feet or less in length
 - A vessel exempt from property tax
- Proof that the excise tax has been paid must be submitted with the registration application or renewal.
- Any vessel exempt from registration but required to pay annual excise tax must display a sticker that shows the excise tax has been paid.

Where To Register

- **Initial Registration:** The Fish & Wildlife Office in Augusta is the central office for vessel registration. Also, many Maine municipal tax collectors or town clerks are Recreational Vehicle Registration Agents for the Fish & Wildlife Office.
 - To register a vessel at the Augusta office or in a town other than your town of legal residence, first pay your annual excise tax in your town of residence. You must have a receipt that shows the excise tax has been paid, or your vessel cannot be registered.
 - For applications or agent information, call **207-287-8000**.
- **Renewals:** Vessel registrations may be renewed online if your town is part of the program. Visit: <https://www5.informe.org/online/boat>

Registration Questions?

Call the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife at **207-287-8000**.

Other Facts About Registering and Transferring Ownership

- Registration is valid for one year and expires on December 31 of the year when it was issued.
- When a registered vessel is sold, follow this procedure.
 - The seller must remove and destroy the vessel's validation stickers and notify the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) of the transfer of ownership within 10 days of the transaction.
 - The validation sticker is not transferable. The new owner must register the vessel and pay the registration fee.
- If you transfer ownership of your vessel and purchase a new vessel, you may apply for a transfer registration.
 - You must turn in your old registration when you apply for the transfer.
 - The registration is valid until December 31 of the current year.
- All motorboats operating on Maine internal waters must display the Lake and River Protection Sticker. This sticker shows that your motorboat complies with the Preserve Maine Waters program.
 - For boats registered in Maine, this sticker is part of the validation sticker and must be displayed on both sides of the motorboat.
 - Owners of motorboats not registered in Maine must purchase separate Lake and River Protection Stickers.
 - The stickers must be affixed to both sides of the bow, three inches to the right of the registration sticker and immediately to the right of the motorboat's validation sticker.
 - The stickers are nontransferable.
 - The stickers may be purchased from most Registration Agents or from the DIFW main office in Augusta. The fee is \$20.
 - Motorboats operating *only* in territorial waters do not need to display a Lake and River Protection Sticker.
- It is illegal to place any vessel that is contaminated with an invasive aquatic plant on any inland waters in Maine.

Schedule of Fees*

Motorboat Registration Fees

Horsepower Rating	Inland Waters**	Tidal Waters
10 hp or less	\$25	\$15
Greater than 10 hp, less than or equal to 50 hp	\$30	\$20
Greater than 50 hp, less than or equal to 115 hp	\$36	\$26
Greater than 115 hp	\$44	\$34
Personal Watercraft	\$44	\$34

* Fees do not include agent fee.

** Includes a \$10 fee for the control and prevention of invasive species.

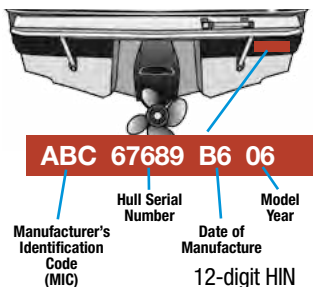
Lake and River Protection Sticker Fees

If motorboat is:	Fee
Registered in Maine	Included in motorboat registration fee
Not registered in Maine	\$20

- The owner of a registered vessel must notify the DIFW within 10 days if:
 - He or she changes address.
 - The vessel is stolen, recovered, destroyed, abandoned, or permanently removed from Maine.
- If you lose or destroy your registration or stickers, you must obtain a duplicate from a Registration Agent or from the DIFW main office in Augusta.
- Larger recreational vessels owned by U.S. citizens may (at the option of the owner) be documented by the U.S. Coast Guard. Call the USCG at **1-800-799-8362** for more information.

Hull Identification Number

- The Hull Identification Number (HIN) is a unique 12-digit number assigned by the manufacturer to vessels built after 1972.
- Hull Identification Numbers:
 - Distinguish one vessel from another.
 - Are engraved in the fiberglass or on a metal plate permanently attached to the transom.
- You should write down your HIN and put it in a place separate from your vessel in case warranty problems arise or your vessel is stolen.



Who May Operate a Vessel

- **A person under 12 years of age** may not operate a motorboat propelled by machinery of more than 10 horsepower *unless* under the immediate supervision of a person in the motorboat who is at least 16 years of age.
- To operate a personal watercraft, the following restrictions apply.
 - **No one under 16 years of age** may operate a personal watercraft.
 - **Persons 16 and 17 years of age** may operate a personal watercraft *only if* they:
 - Have successfully completed an approved safety education course and carry on board proof of age and course completion *or ...*
 - Are accompanied on board by a person 18 years of age or older.

Marine Events

Permits for regattas, races, boat exhibitions, or water-skiing exhibitions to be held on Maine state waters must be obtained by submitting an application to Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at least 15 days prior to the event. The application must include a copy of a letter of intent which was sent at least 60 days prior to the event to the municipality where the event is to be held. If the event is being held on federally controlled waters, a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard is required also.

Local Regulations

Many waterways in Maine have special regulations such as prohibitions on operating personal watercraft.

- Be sure to check for local regulations before you go boating.
- See pages 49-63 for horsepower restrictions on inland waters in Maine.

License To Carry Passengers for Hire

- Vessel operators carrying passengers for hire on state waters must have a license to carry passengers for hire. For more information, call 207-287-3614.
- Operators carrying passengers for hire on federally controlled waters (see page 38) must obtain a license from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Enforcement

Maine game wardens, Maine Marine Patrol officers, local harbor masters, and other law enforcement officers enforce the boating laws of Maine. U.S. Coast Guard officers also patrol and have enforcement authority on federally controlled waters.

- Game wardens and other law enforcement officers have the authority to stop and board your vessel in order to check that you are complying with state and federal laws.
- It is illegal to refuse to follow the directive of a person with law enforcement authority. An operator who has received a visual or audible signal from a law enforcement officer must bring his or her vessel to a stop.



Equipment & Requirements



Wearable Type I: Offshore Life Jackets

These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



Wearable Type II: Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Near-Shore Vest may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



Wearable Type III: Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up. *To be acceptable, inflatable Type III devices must be worn.*



Throwable Type IV Devices

These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a throwable PFD is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.



Wearable Type V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. *To be acceptable, Special-Use PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.*

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- All vessels, including canoes and kayaks, must have at least one USCG–approved wearable PFD (life jacket) for each person on board.
- In addition, one USCG–approved throwable PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer (except canoes, kayaks, or stand-up paddleboards).
- Besides being USCG–approved, all PFDs must be:
 - *In good and serviceable condition.*
 - *Readily accessible*, which means you are able to put the PFD on quickly in an emergency.
 - *Of the proper size for the intended wearer.* Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
 - Used in accordance with the manufacturer's label.
- Children 10 years of age or younger must *wear* a USCG–approved life jacket at all times while on board a vessel unless the vessel is docked, anchored, or moored.
- The following persons must *wear* a USCG–approved life jacket:
 - Each person on board a PWC (PFD cannot be of inflatable design)
 - Anyone canoeing/kayaking on the Saco River between Hiram Dam and the Atlantic Ocean from Jan. 1 to June 1
 - Anyone on board a vessel on the Penobscot River between the gorge and the head of Big Eddy
 - Anyone on board a vessel on the Kennebec River between Harris Station and Turtle Island, at the foot of Black Brook Rapids
- Anyone being towed behind a vessel must *wear* a USCG–approved life jacket, but it cannot be an inflatable PFD.
- These vessels are exempt from PFD requirements:
 - Licensed canoes owned by a summer camp and used for teaching by a camp counselor at least 18 years old while within 500 feet of the camp's shoreline
 - Log rafts with no more than two persons on board and used on ponds, lakes, or inland waters less than 50 acres in area
 - Float tubes when used for fishing

- These persons are exempt from the above PFD requirements:
 - Persons on board a watercraft of the United States operated by foreign competitors while practicing for, or racing in competition, provided there is on board the watercraft one of the sponsoring foreign country's acceptable flotation devices for each competitor on board
 - Persons within territorial waters while utilizing a beach toy or surfboard in the narrow limits of a swimming, surfing, or bathing area
 - Persons within inland waters while utilizing a beach toy or surfboard in the narrow limits of a swimming area, such as a state park swimming area that is roped off and/or has buoys designating the area.
 - Persons actively engaged in competitive racing or training while in racing sculls, racing canoes, and racing kayaks that are recognized by national racing associations for use in competitive racing

Specifically for Paddleboards

The use of stand-up paddleboards (SUPs) is growing in popularity in Maine. All paddleboards are SUPs. The U.S. Coast Guard classifies paddleboards as vessels.

Requirements for Paddleboards

When using a paddleboard, certain requirements apply.

- Paddleboard users must comply with recreational boating laws and rules.
- Paddleboards must have:
 - A life jacket for each person on board the watercraft (see pages 29–30 for PFD requirements in Maine)
 - A sound-producing device such as a whistle
 - Navigation lights when used between sunset and sunrise – this may be a flashlight or a headlamp with a white light
 - Visual distress signals when used on territorial waters between sunset and sunrise



Specifically for Skiing

Vessel operators towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, or any other device have additional laws.

Requirements for Towing Skiers

- All persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis, surfboards, or any other device must *wear* a life jacket, which cannot be of inflatable design. Exception: Performers engaged in exhibitions or tournaments authorized by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife do not need to comply with this requirement. Please review Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife rules for trick water-skiing exemptions.
- It is illegal for boat operators to tow persons on water skis, a surfboard, or any other device between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. If the towing vessel is a PWC, it may tow between sunrise and sunset only.
- Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis, a surfboard, or any other device must have on board, in addition to the vessel operator, a responsible person at least 12 years of age in a position to observe the towed person(s) continuously. Exception: Vessels operating within a regulation slalom course and that are equipped with rear-view wide-angle mirrors are exempt from this requirement.
- It is illegal to operate any vessel in a reckless manner. Specifically, it is illegal to operate a vessel towing a person(s) on any device:
 - Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands, unless operating in a manner that does not endanger any person or property while picking up or dropping off a person on water skis, surfboard, or other device
 - In a way that causes the device or the person on the device to move within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands

A person may not operate a vessel if its capacity would be exceeded by the persons in the vessel plus the persons being towed. If towing a person with a PWC, the PWC should be rated to carry at least three people—the operator, the observer, and the person being towed.

Navigation Lights

The required navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

Power-Driven Vessels When Underway

- **If less than 40 feet long**, these vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 1. Remember, power-driven vessels include sailboats operating under engine power. The required lights are:
 - Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least one mile away on a dark, clear night.
 - An all-round white light or masthead light. These lights must be visible from a distance of at least two miles away on a dark, clear night. The all-round white light (or the masthead light) must be placed as nearly as practical at the vessel's stern.

1. Power-Driven Vessels Less Than 40 Feet



The masthead light must be placed on or near the vessel's stern.



- **If between 40 feet and 164 feet long**, these vessels must exhibit red and green sidelights and a masthead light. Remember, power-driven vessels include sailboats operating under engine power. The required lights are:
 - Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least two miles away on a dark, clear night.
 - A masthead light visible from a distance of at least five miles away on a dark, clear night.

Unpowered Sailing Vessels When Underway

All unpowered sailing vessels must exhibit sidelights and a stern light when underway.

- **If less than 65 feet long**, these vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 2 on the next page.
 - These vessels can combine the required sidelights and stern light by carrying one lantern at or near the top of the mast where it can best be seen.
 - Additionally, these vessels may exhibit two all-around lights at or near the top of the mast in a vertical line. In this arrangement, the top light should be red and the lower light should be green. These lights cannot be shown if the combined lantern is used.
- **If less than 23 feet long**, these vessels should:
 - If practical, exhibit the same lights as required for unpowered sailing vessels less than 65 feet in length.
 - If not practical, have ready at hand at least one lantern or flashlight shining a white light.

2. Unpowered Sailing Vessels Less Than 65 Feet



An alternative to the sidelights and sternlight is a combined lantern, which must be exhibited near the top of the mast.

3. Manually Propelled Vessels



Vessel operators should never leave shore without a flashlight or lantern. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

Manually Propelled Vessels

- All manually propelled vessels that are paddled, poled, or rowed must have ready at hand one lantern or flashlight shining a white light as in illustration 3.
- Any vessel under oars may exhibit the same lights as required for unpowered sailing vessels less than 65 feet in length. If not practical, follow the requirement for all manually propelled vessels.

All Vessels When Not Underway

- **All vessels** are required to display a white light visible whenever they are moored or anchored outside a designated mooring area between sunset and sunrise.
- **Exception:** Manually propelled vessels must have a white-light lantern or flashlight at the ready to prevent a collision.

Fire Extinguishers

- All vessels on federally controlled waters (see page 38) are required to have a Type B USCG–approved fire extinguisher on board if one or more of the following conditions exist:
 - Inboard engine
 - Double-bottoms that are not sealed to the hull or that are not filled completely with flotation materials
 - Closed living spaces
 - Closed compartments where portable fuel tanks may be stored or in which flammable or combustible materials may be stored
 - Permanently installed fuel tanks
- On Maine waters, an outboard vessel less than 26 feet in length that is not carrying passengers for hire is not required to have a fire extinguisher on board if the vessel is constructed in a way that does not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.
- Even if a fire extinguisher is not required on your vessel, it is recommended that you always carry one on board in case of an emergency.
- Use this chart to determine the size and quantity required for your vessel.

Fire Extinguisher Requirements

Classification type & size	Foam minimum gallons	Carbon Dioxide minimum pounds	Dry Chemical minimum pounds
B-I	1¼	4	2
B-II	2½	15	10
Length of Vessel	Without Fixed System	With Fixed System*	
Less than 26 ft.	one B-I	None	
26 ft. to less than 40 ft.	two B-I or one B-II	one B-I	
40 ft. to less than 65 ft.	three B-I or one B-II and one B-I	two B-I or one B-II	

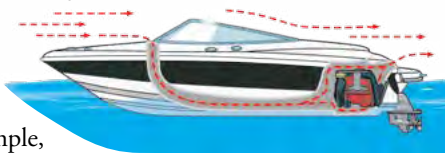
* refers to a permanently installed fire extinguisher system

- Approved types of fire extinguishers are identified by the following marking on the label—"Marine Type USCG Approved"—followed by the type and size symbols and the approval number.
- Extinguishers should be placed in an accessible area—not near the engine or in a compartment, but where they can be reached immediately. Be sure you know how to operate them, and inspect extinguishers regularly to ensure they are in working condition and fully charged.

Ventilation Systems

The purpose of ventilation systems is to avoid explosions by removing flammable gases. Properly installed ventilation systems greatly reduce the chance of a life-threatening explosion.

- All gasoline-powered vessels, constructed in a way that would entrap fumes, must have at least two ventilation ducts fitted with cowls to remove the fumes.
- If your vessel is equipped with a power ventilation system, turn it on for at least four minutes both after fueling and before starting your engine.
- If your vessel is not equipped with a power ventilation system (for example, a personal watercraft), open the engine compartment and sniff for gasoline fumes before starting the engine.



Backfire Flame Arrestors

Because vessel engines may backfire, all gasoline engines installed in a powerboat (except outboard motors) must have a U.S. Coast Guard–approved (comply with SAE J-1928 or UL 1111 standards) backfire flame arrestor on each carburetor.

Mufflers

Vessel operators may not hear sound signals or voices if the engine is not adequately muffled.

- All vessels must be equipped with an effective and suitable muffling device to deaden or muffle the noise of the exhaust. The muffling system must be in good working order and in constant operation.
- It is illegal to alter the muffler if the result is increased noise.
- A vessel may not be operated if it exceeds:
 - A noise level of 90 decibels during a stationary sound level test *or* ...
 - A noise level of 75 decibels during an operational test.

Visual Distress Signals (VDSs)

Visual Distress Signals (VDSs) allow vessel operators to signal for help in the event of an emergency.

- Vessels on federally controlled waters must be equipped with visual distress signals that are U.S. Coast Guard–approved, in serviceable condition, and readily accessible. VDSs are not in serviceable condition if they are older than the expiration date.
- All vessels, regardless of length or type, are required to carry night signals when operating between sunset and sunrise. Most vessels must carry day signals also; exceptions to the requirement for day signals are:
 - Recreational vessels that are less than 16 feet in length
 - Non-motorized open sailboats that are less than 26 feet in length
 - Manually propelled vessels
 - Vessels competing in any organized marine parade, regatta, race, or similar event on coastal waters.
- If pyrotechnic VDSs are used, a minimum of three must be carried in the vessel.
- It is prohibited to display visual distress signals while on the water unless assistance is required to prevent immediate or potential danger to persons on board.



VDSs are classified as day signals (visible in bright sunlight), night signals (visible at night), or both day and night signals. VDSs are either pyrotechnic (smoke and flames) or non-pyrotechnic (non-combustible).



Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals

Orange Smoke—Handheld

Orange Smoke—Floating

Day Signal

Red Meteor

Day and Night Signal

Red Flare

Day and Night Signal

Non-Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals

Electric Light

Night Signal

Orange Flag

Day Signal

Federally Controlled Waters

Vessels must observe federal requirements on these waters:

- Coastal waters
- The Great Lakes
- Territorial seas
- Waters which are two miles wide or wider and are connected directly to one of the above



Arm Signal

Although this signal does not meet VDS equipment requirements, wave your arms to summon help if you do not have other distress signals on board.

Sound-Producing Devices

In periods of reduced visibility or whenever a vessel operator needs to signal his or her intentions or position, a sound-producing device is essential. All devices must be capable of producing a blast that lasts at least two seconds.

Length of Watercraft	Type of Device
Less than 40 feet no bell required	Some means of making efficient sound signals.
40 feet to less than 65 feet no bell required	Whistle audible for 1/2 mile (12 dB)
65 feet to 330 feet bell required	Gong and whistle audible for 1 mile (130 dB)

Diver-Down Flags

The U.S. Coast Guard requires recreational vessels engaged in diving, scuba diving, or snorkeling on federally controlled waters to display the Alfa diver-down flag.



Divers Flag



Alfa Flag

A rectangular red flag with a white diagonal stripe can be attached to a vessel, float, or buoy.

A blue-and-white International Code Flag A (or Alfa flag) must be displayed on vessels on federally controlled waters.

On the Water

Unlawful Operation

Maine law states that these dangerous operating practices are illegal.

- **Reckless Operation** of a vessel, water ski, surfboard, or similar device is operating in a manner that recklessly creates a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to another person. For example, weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic is illegal, reckless operation.
- **Operating To Endanger** is operating a vessel, water ski, surfboard, or similar device in a manner that endangers any person or property.
- **Imprudent Operation of a Vessel** is engaging in prolonged circling, informal racing, wake jumping, or other types of continued and repeated activities that harass another person while operating on Maine waters.
- **Operating Within a Bathing Area** is operating a motorboat in an area that is marked or buoyed for bathing (swimming).
- **Operating To Molest Wildlife** is chasing, molesting, harassing, driving, or herding wildlife with your vessel, unless allowed during the open season on that species.
- **Improper Speed or Distance** is not keeping a proper speed and distance while operating a vessel. You may not:
 - Operate at a rate of speed that is not reasonable and prudent for existing conditions.
 - Operators must regulate their speed to avoid endangering, injuring, or unnecessarily inconveniencing another vessel and its occupants, whether anchored or underway.
 - Operators also must also consider the effect of their vessel's wake on waterfront piers, floats, other property, or shorelines.

“Headway Speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the vessel.

- Operate a vessel at greater than “headway speed” while:
 - Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands
 - Within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters

Exception: Vessels may operate at greater than headway speed in the areas listed above while actively fishing or while following a direct course to pick up or drop off skiers.

- **Unlawfully Permitting Operation** is negligently permitting another person to operate your vessel in violation of Maine law.

Obstructing Navigation

It is illegal to:

- Operate any vessel in such a way that it will interfere unnecessarily with the safe navigation of other vessels.
- Anchor a vessel in the traveled portion of a river or channel in a way that will prevent or interfere with any other vessel passing through the same area.
- Moor or attach a vessel to a buoy (other than a mooring buoy), beacon, light, or any other navigational aid placed on public waters by proper authorities.
- Move, displace, tamper with, damage, or destroy any navigational aid.
- Obstruct a pier, wharf, boat ramp, or access to any facility.

Homeland Security Restrictions

- Do not approach within 100 yards and slow to minimum speed within 500 yards of any U.S. Naval vessel. If you need to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. Naval vessel for safe passage, you must contact the vessel or the USCG escort vessel on VHF-FM channel 16.
- Observe and avoid all security zones. Avoid commercial port operation areas, especially those that involve military, cruise-line, or petroleum facilities.
- Observe and avoid other restricted areas near dams, power plants, etc. Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel.
- Keep a sharp eye out for anything out of the ordinary and report it to the closest authority.

Alcohol and Drugs

- Maine law prohibits anyone from operating or attempting to operate a vessel:

- While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or a combination of liquor and drugs *or...*
 - While having 0.08% or more by weight of alcohol in his or her blood if 21 years of age or older *or ...*
 - While having any amount of alcohol in his or her blood if under 21 years of age.
- Anyone operating or attempting to operate a vessel while intoxicated is guilty of a criminal violation. Penalties include a fine, imprisonment, or both a fine and imprisonment.
 - By operating a vessel on Maine waters, you must complete a blood-alcohol test if requested by a law enforcement officer when:
 - The officer has probable cause to believe that you operated or attempted to operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor *or ...*
 - You were operating a vessel involved in an accident that resulted in the death of a person.

Boating Accidents

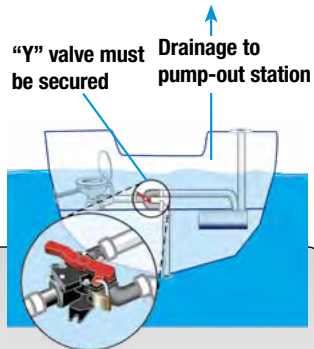
- An operator involved in a boating accident must:
 - Stop his or her vessel *immediately* at the scene of the accident *and ...*
 - Assist anyone injured or in danger from the accident, unless doing so would seriously endanger his or her own vessel or passengers *and ...*
 - Give his or her name, address, and vessel identification to anyone injured and to the owner of any property damaged by the accident.
- Vessel operators involved in an accident must report the accident to the nearest law enforcement officer by the quickest possible means if the accident has caused:
 - Injury to or death of any person *or ...*
 - Disappearance of any person under circumstances that indicate the possibility of death or injury.
- Accidents also must be reported in writing to the Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW), using a boating accident report form. Report forms are available online on the DIFW website: www.maine.gov/ifw.

- The operator must report the accident in writing within 24 hours if a person dies, disappears under circumstances that indicate the possibility of death or injury, loses consciousness, receives medical treatment, or is disabled for more than 24 hours.
- The operator must report the accident in writing within 72 hours if damage to the vessel or other property exceeds \$2,000.

Discharge of Waste

- If you have a recreational vessel with permanently installed toilet facilities, it must have an operable marine sanitation device (MSD) on board.
- Vessels 65 feet or less in length may use a Type I, II, or III MSD. Vessels more than 65 feet in length must install a Type II or III MSD.
- All installed devices must be U.S. Coast Guard-certified and working properly.

Typical Marine Sanitation Device



Types of MSDs

There are three types of MSDs.

- Types I and II MSDs are usually found on large vessels. Waste is treated with special chemicals to kill bacteria before the waste is discharged. Types I and II MSDs with “Y” valves that would direct the waste overboard must be secured so that the valve cannot be opened. This can be done by placing a lock or non-reusable seal on the “Y” valve or by taking the handle off the “Y” valve in a closed position.
- Type III MSDs provide no treatment and are either holding tanks or portable toilets. Collected waste should be taken ashore and disposed of in a pump-out station or onshore toilet.

Discharge of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances

- You are not allowed to discharge oil or hazardous substances into the water.
- You are not allowed to dump oil into the bilge of the vessel without means for proper disposal.
- You must dispose of oil waste at an approved reception facility. On recreational vessels, a bucket or bailer is adequate for temporary storage prior to disposing of the oil waste at an approved facility.
- If boating on federally controlled waters and your vessel is 26 feet or longer, you must display a 5 x 8-inch placard made of durable material, fixed in a conspicuous place in the machinery spaces or at the bilge pump control station, stating the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's law.

If your vessel discharges oil or hazardous substances into the water:

- Immediately call the National Response Center at **1-800-424-8802**.
- Also call the Maine Bureau of Land & Water Quality at **1-800-452-1942**.

Discharge of Trash

It is illegal to dump refuse, garbage, or plastics into any state or federally controlled waters. In Maine, this includes throwing, dropping, depositing, dumping, or otherwise disposing of litter in any manner or amount into any freshwater lake, river, stream, or tidal or coastal water or onto ice over water.

- You must store trash in a container while on board and place it in a proper receptacle after returning to shore.
- Anyone who violates the littering laws may be fined.
- If boating on federally controlled waters and your vessel is 26 feet or longer, you must display a Garbage Disposal Placard that is at least 4 x 9 inches and notifies passengers and crew about discharge restrictions.

Operation Game Thief

Maine Operation Game Thief is a private, nonprofit organization that works with the DIFW and pays rewards to those who turn in poachers.

- To report a fish or wildlife violation:
 - Call Operation Game Thief at:
 - In state: **1-800-ALERT US**
(1-800-253-7887)
 - Out of state: **207-287-6057**
 - Fill out a Tip Reporting Form on our website:
www.maineogt.org



Buckets of Trouble

Some individuals are thoughtlessly jeopardizing the future of Maine's native fisheries by introducing exotic species into state waters. These non-sportsmen illegally stock the types of fish they prefer to catch, without regard for the environmental havoc they are inflicting. Illegal stocking may cause irreversible changes to Maine's entire aquatic ecosystem, creating costly issues with limited solutions.

- Please help fight this serious problem by remaining observant and reporting those who are committing these illegal acts.
 - It is illegal to transport live fish without a permit.
 - It is illegal to dump unused baitfish into any waterway.
- There is a \$10,000 fine for a conviction of illegal stocking.
- There is a \$2,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.
- To report information about the illegal introduction of any fish into any Maine water, please call:
 - 1-800-ALERT-US (253-7887) in-state
 - 207-287-6057 out-of-state
 - U.S. Cellular and Maine Wireless dial #GW
 - Unicef dial *GW



Invasive Species

Three Simple Steps To Keep Maine's Great Ponds Great

Don't let invasive species, such as milfoil, hydrilla, or zebra mussels, invade your favorite lake or pond!

1. Remove plant materials from vessel, trailer, bunks, anchor, and fishing equipment.

2. Drain all water from your bilge and live well. The drier, the better.



3. Never transport plants, live bait, or other lake species.

Definitions

The terms used in this Handbook are defined in the Maine's Revised Statute as follows.

Airmobile – any vehicle propelled by mechanical power that is designed to travel upon a cushion of air on or within two feet of the water or land surface of the earth.

Aquatic Plant – a vascular plant species that requires a permanently flooded freshwater habitat.

Bow (Fore) – the forward half of the watercraft.

Inland Waters – all waters within the State of Maine above the rise and fall of the tide and wholly or partially within the territorial limits of the State.

Invasive Aquatic Plant – a species of aquatic plant as described in Title 38, section 410-N.

Motorboat – any watercraft, including airmobiles, equipped with propulsion machinery of any type, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion, is permanently or temporarily attached, or is available for propulsion on the watercraft.

Operate – when referring to watercraft of any type or description, to use that watercraft in any manner on the waters specified, whether or not the watercraft is underway.

Operator – the person who is in control or in charge of a watercraft while it is in use.

Personal Watercraft (PWC) – any motorized watercraft that is 14 feet or less in hull length as manufactured;

has as its primary source of propulsion an inboard motor powering a jet pump; and is capable of carrying one or more persons in a sitting, standing, or kneeling position.

- Personal watercraft includes, but is not limited to, a jet ski, wet bike, surf jet, miniature speedboat, and hovercraft.
- Personal watercraft also includes motorized watercraft whose operation is controlled by a water skier.
- Personal watercraft does not include a motorized watercraft that does not have a horsepower rating greater than 15 horsepower and does not generate an unreasonable amount of noise.

Stern (Aft) – the rear half of the watercraft.

Territorial Waters – all waters of the State of Maine within the rise and fall of the tide seaward to the three-nautical-mile line as shown on the most recently published Federal Government nautical chart.

Use – when referring to watercraft, to operate, navigate, or employ.

Watercraft – any type of vessel, boat, canoe, or craft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water other than a seaplane.

- This includes motors, electronic and mechanical equipment, and other machinery, whether permanently or temporarily attached, and which are customarily used in the operations of the watercraft.
- Watercraft does not include a vessel, boat, canoe or craft located and intended to be permanently docked in one location and not used as a means of transportation on water.

Water Safety Zone – the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or of an island.

Boating Restrictions on Internal Waters

The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife may adopt rules governing the horsepower of motors used to propel watercraft on all internal waters of this State. For information on this process, please contact the Department's main office in Augusta at **207-287-5201**. No person, except officers empowered to enforce this regulation and in the line of duty or representatives of a governmental agency while conducting authorized studies on these waters shall operate motorboats propelled by machinery in excess of the horsepower limitations listed below. The Land Use Regulation Commission (Department of Conservation) has adopted rules prohibiting the use of personal watercraft (PWC) on some of the waters within their jurisdiction. (LURC) will be listed after the watercraft restriction on any waters affected by this rule. For more information on waters within LURC's jurisdiction, please call **207-287-2631**.

Adams Pond, Boothbay, Lincoln Cty
- No motorboats allowed.

Adams Pond, Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Alford Lake, Hope, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Allagash Lake, T8R14 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Allagash Wilderness Waterway

- A. From the south end of Telos Lake to the north end of Chamberlain Lake, the use of all models of personal watercraft (PWC), hovercraft, airboats, racing boats, and pontoon boats is prohibited.
- B. From Lock Dam Stream, where it enters Eagle Lake north to Twin Brook Rapids, only canoes without motor or motors not exceeding 10 horsepower may be used on the watercourse.

C. On Allagash Lake and Allagash Stream to the red posts at the entrance of Chamberlain Lake, all watercraft are prohibited except canoes without motors.

D. Except on Telos and Chamberlain Lakes, the use of inflatable watercraft is prohibited.

E. Water skiing or other activities in which individuals are towed behind watercraft are prohibited.

Alligator Lake, T34 MD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Alligator Pond, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Androscoggin Lake, Wayne, Leeds, Kennebec & Androscoggin Cty - No PWC.

Arnold Brook Recreation Watershed Lake, Presque Isle, Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Attean Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Aunt Betty's Pond, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Aziscohos Pond, Magalloway, Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Back, Jewett, Middle, Mud & Little Mud Ponds (Five Kezar Ponds), located singly or jointly in Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Baker Pond, Bowdoin College Grant West, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bald Mountain Pond, Bald Mtn. Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Barrett Pond, Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Baxter State Park, - No motorboats allowed except on Webster and Matagamon Lakes.

Bay Pond (West), T7 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beals (Crystal) Pond, Turner, Androscoggin Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Bean Pond, T02 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bean Pond (Lower) Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bean Pond (Middle), Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bean Pond (Upper), Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bear Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bear Pond, T6 R15 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beauce Lake, Baring, (Moosehorn NWR), Washington Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Beattie Pond, Beattie Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond, Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Beaver Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Beaver Pond, Magalloway Plt., Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond, Shawtown Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond (Big), Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond (Little North), T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Beaver Pond (Little South), Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Benjamin Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Benson Pond (Big), T7 R9 NWP, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Berry Pond (Little), T2 R6 BKP WKR, Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Big Brook from Burt Garrity Road in T13 R10 WELS to and including Big Brook Lake, in T14 R10 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Big Pond, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Cty - No PWC.

Birch Ridge Pond #1, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Black Lake, Fort Kent, Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Black Lake, T15 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Black Pond (Little), T15 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Black River (Little), tributary to the St. John River in Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited from June 1 to September 15.

Bluff Pond, Frenchtown, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bluffer Pond, T8 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Blood Pond, T2 R13 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Boardway Pond (Big), TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bog Lake, Northfield, Washington Cty - No PWC.

Bogus Meadow, T7 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Boston Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Boulder Pond, T5 R7 BKP, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bowlin Pond (Little), T5 R7 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Boyd Pond, Bristol, Lincoln Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Brackett Pond, Blanchard Plt., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bradley Pond, Lovell, Oxford Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Branch Lake (South), Seboeis Plt. T2 R8 NWP, Penobscot Cty - No PWC.

Branch Pond (Middle), Waterboro & Alfred, York Cty - No PWC. Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Branch Pond (Middle), T5 R9 NWP, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Brandy Pond, Naples, Cumberland Cty - Personal watercraft prohibited between sunset and 9:00am and may not be operated without a visible decal affixed to the personal watercraft identifying the rental agent.

Brayley Pond, T7 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Bryant Pond (aka Christopher Lake), Greenwood & Woodstock, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Bubble Pond, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Buck Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cape Horn Pond, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Caribou Pond (Big), T7 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Carry Pond (East), T2R3, Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Caucomgomoc Lake, T6 R14 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cedar Pond, Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cedar Pond, TB R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Center Pond, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Cty - No PWC.

Chain of Ponds, Chain of Ponds Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Chairback Pond (East & West), T7 R9 NWP, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Chase Stream Pond, Misery Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Chesuncook Lake, T3 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Chesuncook Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Christopher Lake (aka Bryant Pond), Greenwood & Woodstock, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Churchill Lake, T9 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clay Pond, Fryeburg, Oxford Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Clayton Pond, T6 R17 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clear Lake, T10 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clear Pond, Lowelltown Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clearwater Pond, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clearwater Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cliff Lake, T9 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clifford Lake, T26 ED BPP, T27 ED BPP, Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clifford Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Clish Pond, T5 R20 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cobbosseecontee Lake (Little), Winthrop, Kennebec Cty - No PWC.

Cold Rain Pond, Naples, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Coleman Pond, Lincolnville, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Concord Pond & Little Concord Pond, Woodstock, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Conic Lake, Baring, (Moosehorn NWR), Washington Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Cox Pond, South Berwick, York Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Cranberry Pond, Bowdoin College Grant West, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Crosby Pond, Coburn Gore, Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Crystal (Beals) Pond, Turner, Androscoggin Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Crystal Lake, Washington, Knox Cty - No PWC.

Cupsuptic Lake, Adamstown Twp, Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Currier Pond (First & Second), T9 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Cushman Pond, Lovell, Oxford Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Daisey Pond, T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Deboullie Lake, T15 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Debsconeag Lake, T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Debsconeag Lake (First), T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Debsconeag Lake (Third), T1 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Debsconeag Pond (Sixth), T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Dingley Pond (Little & Upper), T4 R5 NBKP, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Dipper Pond, Pittston Academy Grant, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Dixon Pond, Pierce Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Donnell Pond, T9 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Doughnut Pond, Rainbow Twp, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Dubois Pond, Prentiss, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Durgin Pond, T2R6 BKP WKR, Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Eagle Lake (Big), Eagle Lake, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Eagle Lake, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Echo Lake, Mount Desert, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Eddy Pond, Sandy River Plt., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Ell Pond and/or L Pond, Sanford, Wells, York Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Enchanted Pond, Upper Enchanted Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Enchanted Pond (Little), Upper Enchanted Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Fahi Pond, Embden, Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Farrington Pond, Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Fish Pond, Hope, Knox Cty - No PWC.

Fish Pond (Big), Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Five Kezar Ponds, (Mud, Little Mud, Back, Middle, & Jewett), located singly or jointly in Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Flagstaff Lake, Dead River Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Fogg Pond, Bowdoin College Grant, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Foley Pond (Little), Comstock Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Foss Pond, Kingsbury Plt., Piscataquis Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Foster Pond, Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Fowler Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Frost Pond (Little), T3 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Fry Pan Pond, T2R5 BKP EKR, Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Fulton Lake, Northfield, Washington Cty - No PWC.

Furlong Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Gardner Lake, T15 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Garland Pond, Sebec and Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Gauntlet Pond, TB R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Goose Pond (Upper), Shapleigh, York Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Gordon Pond, Upper Enchanted Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Gould Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Granger Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Great Works Pond, Edmunds Twp., Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Green Mountain Pond, T6 R6 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hadlock Pond (Upper and Lower), Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Hafey Pond, T18 R11 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hale Pond, Alder Brook Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Haley Pond, Rangeley Twp. and Dallas Plt., Franklin Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Hall Pond, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hall Pond, T5 R7 BKP, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hamilton Pond, Bar Harbor, Hancock Cty - No PWC.

Harbor Pond (West), Boothbay Harbor, Lincoln Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Harriman Pond, Dedham, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Harrington Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hathorn Pond & Hathorn Pond (Little), T4 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Heald Pond, Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Hedgehog Pond, T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Helen Pond, Pierce Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hicks Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

High Pond, Pierce Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Highland Lake (Woods Pond), Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Personal watercraft may not be operated without a visible decal affixed to the personal watercraft identifying the rental agent.

Hobart Bog, Edmunds Twp., Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hobbs Pond, Hope, Knox Cty - No PWC.

Hobbs Pond (Little Pennessawasse), Norway, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Holbrook Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Holt Pond, Naples, Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Hooper Pond (Little Sabattus), Greene, Androscoggin Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Horserace Ponds, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Horseshoe Lake, Northfield, Washington Cty - No PWC.

Horseshoe Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Horseshoe Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Horseshoe Pond, Stoneham, Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Horseshoe Pond, T16 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Houston Pond (Little), Katahdin Iron Works, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hudson Pond (Upper), T11 R10 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Hurd Pond (Little), T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Indian Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Ireland Pond, T7 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Ironbound Pond, Alder Brook Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jackson Pond #1 & 2, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jerry Pond, so called, situated within the boundaries, or having a shoreline abutting, the incorporated municipality of Millinocket and the unincorporated townships being T1R7 and TAR7, Penobscot Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Jerry Pond, TA R7 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jewett, Back, Middle, Mud & Little Mud Ponds (Five Kezar Ponds), located singly or jointly in Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Jim Pond, Jim Pond Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jo-Mary Lake (Lower & Upper), T1 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jones Pond, Wyman Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Jordan Pond, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Juniper Knee Pond, Ellitsville Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Katahdin Lake, T3 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Keewaydin Lake, Stoneham, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Kelly Pond, T2 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Kennebago Lake (Little), T3R4, Franklin Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Kennebago Lake and Kennebago River, Davis Twp., Stetsontown Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC.

Knickerbocker Pond, Boothbay, Lincoln Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Knight Pond, Northport, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

L Pond and/or ELL Pond, Sanford, Wells, York Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Lake St. George, Liberty, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Lake Wood, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Lane Brook Pond, T6 R06 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lane Pond, Comstock Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lang Pond & Lang Pond (Little), Parlin Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lard Pond, Turner, Androscoggin Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Ledge Pond, Sandy River Plt., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lermond Pond, Union, Hope, Knox Cty - No PWC.

Levenseller Pond, Searsmont, Waldo Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Lily Pond, Edgecomb, Lincoln Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Lily Pond, New Gloucester, Cumberland Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Line Pond, T5 R20 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Little Pond, Damariscotta, Lincoln Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Little Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Lobster Lake, Lobster Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Logan Pond # 2, T2 R9 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lone Jack Pond, T2R6 BKP WKR, Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Long Bog, Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty, No PWC. (LURC)

Long Lake, Naples, Bridgton, Harrison, Cumberland Cty - Personal watercraft may not be operated without a visible decal affixed to the personal watercraft identifying the rental agent.

Long Lake, T12 R13 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Long Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Long Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Long Pond, Forsythe Twp., Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Long Pond, Mt. Desert, Southwest Harbor, Hancock Cty - No PWC.

Long Pond and/or Martin Pond, The Forks Plt., Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Long Pond, Twp. E and Twp. D, Franklin Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Long Pond (Little), T10 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC.

Loon Lake, Rangeley and Dallas Townships, Franklin Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Loon Pond, T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Loon Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lost Pond, Attean Twp, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Lt. Gordon Manuel WMA, Hodgdon, Aroostook Cty - No motorboats allowed from January 1 - June 30. From July 1 - December 31 motorboats over 6 horsepower prohibited.

Machias Lake (Third), T42 MD BPP, Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mainstream Pond, Harmony, Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Manuel, Lt. Gordon - WMA, Hodgdon, Aroostook Cty - No motorboats allowed from January 1 - June 30. From July 1 - December 31 motorboats over 6 horsepower prohibited.

Marble Pond, T5 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Martin Pond and/or Long Pond, The Forks Plt., Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Mary Petuche Pond, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mathews Pond, T8 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

McKenna Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

McKenney Pond, Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

McKenney Pond, Upper Enchanted Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Meetinghouse Pond, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Cty - No PWC.

Megunticook Lake, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, Knox & Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Merrymeeting Bay, Motorboats shall not operate at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour, except within the confines of buoyed channels.

Messer Pond, T5 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Middle, Back, Jewett, Mud & Little Mud Ponds (Five Kezar Ponds), located singly or jointly in Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Midway Pond, Sandy River Plt., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Millimagassett Lake, T7 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Minister Lake (Little), T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Minister Pond (Big), T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Moccasin Pond, T14 R8 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Moose Pond, Otisfield, Oxford Cty - No PWC. Motorboats with more than 5 horsepower prohibited.

Moose Pond (Big & Little), T3 R5 NBP EKR, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mooseleuk Lake, T10 R9 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Moselookmeguntic Lake, Richardstontown Twp., Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Moulton Pond, Dedham, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Mountain Catcher Pond, T6 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mountain Pond, Beaver Cove Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mountain View, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Moxie Long Bog, Bald Mountain Twp., Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Moxie Pond, Twp. D, Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mt. Blue Pond, Avon, Franklin Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Mud Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Mud Pond, Twp. 6 NBPP, Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Mud, Little Mud, Back, Jewett & Middle Ponds (Five Kezar Ponds), located singly or jointly in Waterford, Stoneham and Lovell, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Munsungan Lake, T8 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Murphy Pond, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Murphy Pond (Big), Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Muscalsea Pond, (Big & Little) Russell Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Musquash Lake (West), T6 R1 ND BPP, Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Nadeau Lake, Fort Fairfield, Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Nahmakanta Lake, T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Nequasset Pond, Woolwich, Sagadahoc Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Nesowadnehunk (Sourdnahunk) Lake (Little), T5R11, Piscataquis Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Nicatous Lake, T40 MD, T41 MD, T3 ND, Hancock Cty - No PWC.

Nokomis Pond, Newport & Palmyra, Penobscot Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

North Pond, Buckfield, Sumner (within 300 yards of North Pond Dam), Oxford Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited. Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited on rest of pond.

North Pond, Greenwood & Woodstock, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

North Pond, T14 R9 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Norton Pond, Lincolnville, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Notch Pond, Bowdoin College Grant West, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Notch Pond (Big & Little), T3 R5 NBP EKR, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Otter Pond, Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Oversett Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Oxbrook Lake (Upper) and Oxbrook Lake (Lower) in the towns of T6ND, T6R1 and Talmadge, Washington Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Papoose Pond, T3 R5 NBP EKR, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Passamagamet Lake, T1 R9 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Penessawassee (Little), also known as Hobbs Pond, Norway, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Penobscot Lake, Dole Brook Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Perley's Pond, Denmark, Oxford Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Pickerel Pond, T32MD, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Pickerel Pond, Wayne, Kennebec Cty - No PWC. Watercraft may not be operated at greater than headway speed on any area of Pickerel Pond.

Pierce Pond, Pierce Pond Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Pinkham Pond, Alna, Lincoln Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Pitcher Pond, Lincolnville, Northport, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Pitman Pond, T2 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Pleasant Lake, T6 R1 NBPP, Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Pocasset Lake, Wayne, Kennebec Cty - No PWC.

Poland Pond (Upper), T7 R14 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Polly Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

- Portage Lake**, T13R6 WELS, Aroostook Cty, that portion known as the Floating Island Area, north and westerly of a line beginning at the eastern edge of the marshy peninsula running out from Hutchinson Ridge, running 50 yards outside of the floating islands in a northerly direction to the mouth of Mosquito Brook - No motorboats allowed.
- Porter Pond**, T3 ND BPP, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Quimby Pond**, Rangeley, Franklin Cty - No motorboats allowed.
- Rabbit Pond**, Elliotsville Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rabbit Pond**, T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rainbow Deadwaters**, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rainbow Lake**, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rainbow Pond**, T10 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Range Pond, (Lower)**, Poland, Androscoggin Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.
- Range Pond (Middle)**, Poland, Androscoggin Cty - No PWC.
- Range Pond (Upper)**, Poland, Androscoggin Cty - No PWC.
- Reed Pond (Big & Little)**, T8 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rich Mill Pond**, Standish, Cumberland Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.
- Ripogenus Pond**, T4 R12 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Roach Pond (Fourth)**, Shawtown Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Roach Pond (Seventh)**, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Roach Pond (Sixth)**, Shawtown TWP., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Robar Pond (Big)**, T4 R08 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Roberts Pond**, T5 R20 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Rocky Pond (Little)**, TA R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Round Pond**, Appleton Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Round Pond**, T6 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Round Pond**, T13 R12 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Round Pond**, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.
- Round Pond**, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.
- Round Pond**, T1R6 BKP WKR, Somerset Cty - No motorboats allowed.
- Round Pond (Little)**, Eagle Lake, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)
- Saddleback Lake**, Dallas Plt., Franklin Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Saddleback Pond, Sandy River Plt., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Saint George Lake, Liberty, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

Sand Pond, Embden, Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Sand Pond, Limington Twp., York Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Sand Pond, Sanford, York Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Saturday Pond, Otisfield, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Sawtelle Pond & Sawtelle Pond (Little), T7 R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Scituate Pond, York, York Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Scraggly Lake, T7R8 WELS, Penobscot Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Seal Cove Pond, Tremont, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Secret Pond, Elliotsville, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Sewall Pond, Arrowsic, Sagadahoc Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Shagg Pond, Woodstock, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Silver Lake (Silver Pond), Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Cty - No PWC.

Simpson Pond, Roque Bluffs, Washington Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Slaughter Pond, T3 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Snake Pond, Johnson Mtn. Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Snow's Pond, (as referred to in the Dunham-Daves Work Plan) situated west of Rt. 7, Dover-Foxcroft, Piscataquis Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Socatean Pond #1 & #2, Plymouth Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Somes Pond, Mt. Desert, Hancock Cty - No PWC.

Sourdnahunk (Nesowadnehunk), Little, T5R11, Piscataquis Cty - No motorboats allowed.

South Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Speck Pond, Grafton Twp., Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Spectacle Pond, Augusta & Vassalboro, Kennebec Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Spencer Lake, Hobbstown, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Spencer Pond, E. Middlesex, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Spring Lake, Spring Lake Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Spring Pond, T7 R10 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Spruce Mountain Pond, TB R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

St. George Lake, Liberty, Waldo Cty - No PWC.

St. John Pond (Second), T4 R17 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

St. John Pond (Third), T4 R17 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

St. John Pond (Lower First), T4 R17 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

St. John Pond (Upper First), T4 R17 WELS, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Stevens Pond, Liberty, Waldo Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Stratton Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Sunday Pond, Magalloway Plt., Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Swift River Pond, Twp. E, Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Telos Lake, T6 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

The Horns Pond, Wyman Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Thompson Lake, southernmost part, separated from the main body by a causeway known as The Heath, Casco, Cumberland Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Tilden Pond, T10 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Tim Pond, Tim Pond Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Timoney Lake, Oakfield and Smyrna, Aroostook Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Tobey Pond #1,#2,#3, T5 R7 BKP, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Toddy Pond, Brooks, Waldo Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Torsey Lake, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Kennebec Cty - No PWC. Watercraft may not be operated at greater than headway speed on any area within 1/2 mile of the boat launch on Desert Pond Road in Mt. Vernon or within 1/2 mile from the boat launch on Old Kents Hill Road in Town of Readfield.

Trickey Pond, Naples, Cumberland Cty - No PWC.

Tripp Pond, Poland, Androscoggin Cty - No PWC.

Trout Lake, Kossuth Twp., Washington Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Trout Pond, Bowdoin College Grant West, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Trout Pond, Lowelltown Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Trout Pond, Mason Twp., Oxford Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Trout Pond, Stoneham, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Trout Pond, T3R5, BKP EKR, Piscataquis Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Tumbledown Dick Pond, T1 R11 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Tumbledown Pond, Twp. 6 ND BPP, Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Tunk Lake, T10 SD, Hancock Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Turner Pond & Turner Pond (Little), Forsythe Twp., Somerset Cty - Motorboats with more than 10 horsepower prohibited.

Turtle Pond, Lake View Plt., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Twin (Trout), T2 R9 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Twitchell Pond, Greenwood, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Two Mile Pond, T16 R13 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Umsaskis Lake, T11 R13 WELS, Aroostook Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, Attean Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, Comstock Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, Holeb Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, Parlin Pond, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, T5 R7 BKP, Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Unnamed Pond, T6 R15 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Upper Dam Pool, T4R1, Oxford Cty (from gates of dam, downstream or westerly 150 yards) - No motorboats allowed.

Virginia Lake, Stoneham, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Wadleigh Pond, T8 R15 WELS, Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Walton's Mill Pond, West Farmington, Franklin Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Watson Pond, Rome Twp., Kennebec Cty - No motorboats allowed.

Wat-Tuh Lake, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Cty - No PWC.

Webber Pond, Bremen, Lincoln Cty - Motorboats with more than 6 horsepower prohibited.

Welman Pond, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Weymouth Pond, Stoneham, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Whitney Pond, Stoneham, Oxford Cty - No PWC.

Wing Pond, Skinner Twp., Franklin Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Witch Hole Pond, Mt. Desert Island, Hancock Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.

Woodman Pond, Rainbow Twp., Piscataquis Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Woods Pond (Highland Lake), Bridgton, Cumberland Cty - Personal watercraft may not be operated without a visible decal affixed to the personal watercraft identifying the rental agent.

Wounded Deer, Prentiss Twp., Somerset Cty - No PWC. (LURC)

Wylie Pond, Boothbay, Lincoln Cty - No motorboats allowed.

York Pond, Eliot, York Cty - Motorboats with internal combustion engines prohibited.



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Maine Required Equipment Checklist



	PWC	Boat Less Than 16 Ft.	Boat 16 Ft. To Less Than 40 Ft.	Paddlecraft
Boater Education Certificate On Board	✓ 1			
Registration Certificate On Board	✓	✓	✓	✓ 11
Validation/Lake and River Protection Stickers Displayed	✓ 2	✓ 2	✓ 2	✓ 11
Life Jackets: Wearable 3	✓ 4	✓ 5	✓ 5	✓
Throwable Flotation Device			✓ 6	✓ 6
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher(s)	✓	✓ 7	✓ 7	
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	✓ 8	✓ 8	
Ventilation System	✓ 8	✓ 8	✓ 8	✓ 8
Muffler	✓	✓	✓	
Sound-Producing Device	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daytime Visual Distress Signals			✓ 9	
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	10	✓ 9	✓ 9	✓
Navigation Lights	10	✓	✓	✓ 11,12

- Required for operators 16 and 17 years of age or for operators who are accompanied on board by a person 18 years of age or older (see page 26).
- Vessels not registered in Maine that are operating on Maine inland waters also must display valid Maine Lake and River Protection Stickers. They must be affixed to both sides of the bow, immediately to the right of the vessel's validation sticker.
- Throwable devices do not satisfy this requirement. Also, inflatable life jackets must be worn at all times. All life jackets must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, and of the appropriate size for the intended wearer.
- Every person on board a PWC must wear a USCG—approved life jacket at all times.
- Children 10 years old and under must wear a USCG—approved life jacket at all times while on board a vessel unless the vessel is docked, anchored, or moored. Additional requirements apply on specific waterways (see page 29).
- Required in all paddlecraft over 16 feet, except canoes and kayaks.
- Certain outboard-powered vessels that are not carrying passengers for hire are exempt from this requirement if the vessel's construction will not permit the entrapment of flammable gases or vapors (see page 35).
- Required on all gasoline and diesel engines installed in a powerboat (except outboard motors).
- Required only if operating on federally controlled waters (see page 38).
- Some items are not applicable to personal watercraft since these vessels may not be operated between sunset and sunrise (see page 20).
- Required only on paddlecraft that have a motor attached.
- Manually propelled watercraft must have on board a lantern or flashlight showing a white light. The light must be exhibited in time to prevent a collision.

Other equipment requirements also may apply to your specific vessel.

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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1-800-432-7372

Gray

1-800-228-0857

Houlton

1-800-924-2261

Orono

1-800-432-7381

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