

Ahoy! The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wants you to enjoy safe boating in Maryland! Chart a course that keeps you safe and our waterways healthy.

SAFETY FIRST!

BOATING SAFETY COURSE

Boaters born on or after July 1, 1972 must carry a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators approved certificate of boating safety education when operating a motorized boat on Maryland waters.

For more information contact:

- DNR at dnr.maryland.gov/boating or 410-643-8502
- U.S. Sail and Power Squadron at usps.org or 888-367-8777
- U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary at cgaux.org or 877-875-6295

DON'T DRINK AND BOAT!

A boat operator whose blood or breath analysis shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater is considered to be under the influence of alcohol and subject to criminal prosecution. Alcohol has a more dramatic effect on the body while boating.

LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS

Life jackets must be the proper size for the intended wearer, in good serviceable condition, and readily accessible. All recreational boats must carry one wearable life jacket (type I, II, III or V) for each person aboard.

Any boat 16 feet or longer — except canoes and kayaks — must also carry one throwable type IV life jacket.

Children under age 13 must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket while underway on a recreational vessel under 21 feet in length on Maryland waters. It must be the proper size and in good, serviceable condition.

Children under age 4 must wear a life jacket that features additional safety precautions as appropriate for an infant, toddler or young child, so as to: hold the child securely including a strap that is secured between the legs to fasten the front and back; maintain the child's buoyancy, including an inflatable headrest or high collar; or ensure the ready accessibility of the child from the vessel, including a web handle. Child life jacket requirements do not apply when a vessel is moored or anchored or a child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

For current laws and regulations visit dnr.maryland.gov.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Operators of personal watercraft (PWC) in Maryland must be at least 16 years old and possess a valid certificate of boating safety education. A PWC must be operated at 6 knots or less when within 100 feet of a vessel, another PWC, shore, wharf, pier, piling, bridge structure, abutment or people in the water (at least 300 feet from people in the Atlantic Ocean).

- For general information: 410-260-8880
- To inquire about boating regulations and education programs: 410-643-8502

TOOLS FOR BOATERS

BOATING ACCESS GUIDE

Locate more than 425 public boating access sites in Maryland and get details on amenities, such as size of facility, parking, ADA accessibility and hours of operation using dnr.maryland.gov keyword search *boat ramps*.

DOWNLOAD THE APP

DNR's official mobile app — available for free on all Apple and Android devices, search-term *Maryland DNR* — provides outdoor enthusiasts with the tools needed to enjoy everything Maryland's natural world has to offer. With the touch of a screen, users can locate ramps, share photos, make park reservations, identify fish and more. Other features include regulations and guidelines access, as well as news and alerts.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

CONTACT THE NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

Report an emergency, violation or abandoned boat: 410-260-8888
Report a missing, damaged or misplaced buoy: 410-643-6521

CONTACT THE U.S. COAST GUARD

Report a marine casualty: 410-576-2525

CHESAPEAKE BAY SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE

Call 877-224-7229 to report boating accidents or reckless activity, a fish kill or algal bloom, floating debris that poses a hazard to navigation, illegal fishing activity, a public sewer leak or overflow, an oil or hazardous materials spill, or a critical area or wetlands violation.

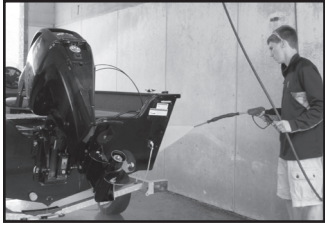
To report an oil spill, chemical release or maritime security incident to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center, call 800-424-8802.

USE VHF FM MARINE CHANNEL 16

The primary marine distress frequency is monitored continuously by the U.S. Coast Guard. Channel 16 must be kept clear — someone's life may depend on it!

Use Channel 9 for non-emergency hailing and then switch to another working channel for routine conversation.

PROTECT OUR WATERS



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Invasive species — which aggressively establish themselves at the expense of native ecosystems — are the second greatest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. In Maryland, aquatic invasives include northern snakehead, blue and flathead catfish, zebra mussels and underwater plants such as hydrilla.

A single drop of water, a bit of mud or a tiny plant fragment is all it takes to spread harmful plants and animals. To minimize that risk...

- thoroughly inspect and clean vehicles, vessels, trailers and all associated gear after any use.
- remove all plant material and deposit in dedicated waste stations or trash receptacles.
- dispose of worms, unwanted bait fish and fish parts in trash receptacles only.
- drain all water before leaving the launch; leave boat plugs out while traveling.
- if possible, allow your boat to dry for five days before launching in another water body.

Learn more at dnr.maryland.gov/invasives.

CLEAN MARINAS AND CLEAN BOATERS

Boaters can help protect our waterways by (1) never littering, (2) preventing fuel spills and (3) avoiding harsh chemicals and cleaners. There are also more than 150 clean marinas boaters can use across the state. Find locations and sign the "Clean Boater Pledge" at dnr.maryland.gov/boating/cleanmarina.

MARINE SEWAGE PUMPOUT FACILITIES

Keep our waters clean — use pumpouts! There are more than 350 pumpout stations in Maryland. Most are grant funded and open to the public. Dumping raw sewage is illegal and harms our natural resources. Locations of grant funded pumpouts and regulations governing boat discharge are available at dnr.maryland.gov/boating/pumpout. Broken pumpouts can be reported to 410-260-8772.

GEAR UP



Make shopdnr.com your one-stop-shop for enjoying Maryland's great outdoors!

The *State Parks & Trail Passport* — valid from date of purchase through December 31, 2016 — offers unlimited boat launch access, unlimited day-use for up to 10 people per vehicle and a 10 percent discount on state-operated concessions and boat rentals.

The *Maryland Natural Resource* magazine serves as a guide to both recreation and conservation. Let this quarterly publication inspire you to enjoy, protect and live in harmony with our great state's breathtaking landscapes, waterways and wildlife.

The online store also stands as a portal for entering DNR's *annual Photo Contest* and sells the wall calendar featuring each year's winning images. Additional items, great for gifts or personal use, include seafood cookbooks, water trail maps, prints and more!

TAKE ME FISHING

A **Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport License** is required to fish in the Chesapeake Bay, Coastal Bays, their respective tributaries and the Atlantic Ocean.

Purchase your \$50 **Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Boat Decal** with your vessel registration or anytime from a sport license agent or DNR service center. The decal allows all boat passengers to fish without an individual sport license, but all anglers must register with the state. The primary boat owner receives a free crab license and an individual Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport license, which allows for fishing from shore or another person's boat.

Waterfront property owners or family members, those fishing in a designated license-free fishing area, and passengers on a vessel displaying a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Boat Decal are exempt from individual licensing, but must register as a saltwater angler at compass.dnr.maryland.gov.

For more information on tidal and nontidal fishing, tagged fish and educational programs, visit dnr.maryland.gov/fishinginmd or call 800-688-3467.

FIND A FISHING SPOT

Visit bit.ly/mdfishaccess to locate a fishing spot and site specific details like species, special regulations, tidal/nontidal dividing lines, and boating and parking information.

FISH BIG, WIN BIG



This free, year-round tournament showcases Maryland as a sport fishing destination with affordable, diverse and high-quality opportunities for residents and visitors, amateurs and pros, youth and families. A grand finale held each September awards achievement in several categories. Learn more online at dnr.maryland.gov/fishingchallenge.

Dear Boaters,

With drownings in Maryland waterways regularly reaching double digits each year, DNR urges every boater to make safety a top priority. No one is immune to a boating or swimming mishap. Accidents can occur in the blink of an eye, resulting in serious injury or death. Life jackets save lives.



Mark Belton
Natural Resources Secretary

