

NYS Boater's Guide Selected Items

Vessel Definition:

The following are also considered a "vessel" under New York State Navigation Law: a sailboard; a personal watercraft; and a paddle boat.

Change of Address:

If your boat is stolen, lost, abandoned or destroyed, you must notify the Department of Motor Vehicles in writing within 15 days.

Personal Flotation Devices:

Every pleasure vessel operated upon the waters of NYS must have on board one USCG approved **WEARABLE** Personal Flotation Device (PFD) for each person on the vessel. In addition, pleasure vessels sixteen feet and greater in length shall carry at least one type IV throwable personal flotation, which shall be of a type approved by the United States Coast Guard and shall be in good condition.

New York State requires the mandatory wearing of Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) by all persons under 12 years of age on vessels less than 65 feet in length unless the youngster is situated within a fully enclosed cabin.

Speed:

In New York State, speed is limited to 5 mph when within 100 feet of any shore, dock, pier, raft, float or anchored boat.

Boater Responsibility and Accident Reporting:

The operator of any boat involved in an accident must notify N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation if a person dies; a person disappears or is injured; or if property damage exceeds \$500.00.

Boating Safety Certificates:

In New York State, the following qualifies as the "Boating Safety Certificate" required of youngsters between the ages of 10 and 18 operating a motorboat without adult supervision: a Boating Safety Certificate issued by New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; a Boating Safety Certificate issued by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; and a Boating Safety Certificate issued by the U.S. Power Squadron.

Water Skiing:

New York State Navigation Law requires that a boat engaged in water skiing must have an

Water Skiing cont'd:

observer on board of at least 10 years of age.

Water skiing on New York State waters is only permitted between the hours of sunrise and sunset, provided that visibility is not reduced.

Personal Watercraft Summary:

All of the following are New York State regulations which apply to personal watercraft:

- a. PFDs - must be worn by each person on or towed behind (impact rated models recommended). Fully inflatable PFDs should not be used.
- b. engine cutoff - if so equipped, must be functional and attached to the rider
- c. horn, whistle - capable of a two second blast, audible 1/2 mile
- d. visual distress equipment (VDS) - a fluorescent orange flag (1 foot sq.) or other appropriate US Coast Guard approved distress signaling device
- e. backfire flame arrestor - manufacturer installed, do not remove; prevents explosion/fire
- f. ventilators - manufacturer installed, do not remove; removes potentially explosive vapors from engine/fuel space
- g. hours of operation - between sunrise and sunset, and only when conditions are not classified as restricted visibility. The installation of an after market light kit will not allow you to legally operate a PWC at night.

PWC Prohibited Operation:

- a. boating while intoxicated (BWI) - prohibited on all watercraft; laws are strict, penalties severe
- b. swim areas - no operation within 500 feet of a designated bathing area; should a designated access site exist within the 500 foot exclusion area, PWCs may access and exit at no more than 10 mph.
- c. reckless operation - strictly prohibited; examples of such operation would be:
 - wake jumping too close to other vessels,
 - weaving through congested traffic,
 - last minute swerving to avoid collision,
 - any maneuver which unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb or property, including carrying more passengers than is recommended by the manufacturer.

Source: 12/00 edition of the New York State Boater's Guide