

BOATING SAFETY HINTS

- Wear a life jacket
- Take a boating safety class
- Carry all your required safety gear
- Know your boat and its limitations
- Follow the boating 'rules of the road'
- Be aware of weather and water conditions
- Boat sober: Don't drink and operate your boat





NAVIGATION RULES AND AIDS

The main purpose of navigational rules is to prevent collisions and other avoidable accidents, such as grounding in poor visibility, injuring people in the water, and damaging property.

While under way, boat operators are required to keep a proper lookout for other vessels, light and sound signals, obstructions, and swimmers.

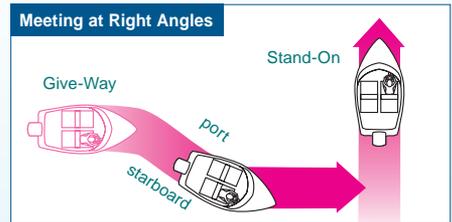
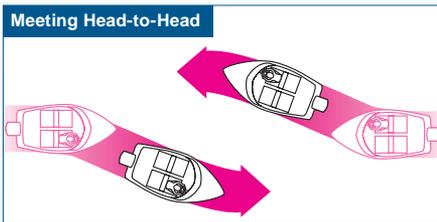
- Do not enter restricted areas and do not moor to buoys other than a specially marked mooring buoy.
- Never obstruct or anchor in a channel, launching area, or route, or interfere with the travel of other boats.
- Do not exceed 5 miles per hour within 100 feet of a swimmer, or 200 feet of a swimming beach, a swimming float, a diving platform, a lifeline, or a dock with boats tied to it.
- Whenever you are traveling through a narrow channel or coming around a bend where it is hard to see oncoming traffic, always keep to the right side.

BOAT-TO-BOAT COMMUNICATION

- You have three ways to communicate between vessels: Light signals, sound signals, and radio. The most common method is radio, but you also need to know how to communicate using light and sound.

MEETING A BOAT HEAD-TO-HEAD

- Signal your intention to pass port to port by sounding one short (1-second) blast of the horn.
- Signal your intention to pass starboard to starboard by sounding two short (1-second) blasts.
- When using a light signal at night, a 1-second light flash equals a 1-second sound blast.



WHEN APPROACHING AT RIGHT ANGLES AND AT RISK OF COLLISION

- The boat on the right is the **stand-on** vessel—the other boat is the **give-way** vessel.
- The stand-on is the privileged vessel and must hold its course and speed.
- The give-way vessel must direct its course to starboard and pass the stand-on vessel astern. If necessary, the give-way vessel should slow, stop, or reverse.
- You should **never** turn your vessel to port during a crossing situation. Doing so may result in a serious collision.