Equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the TPWD's recreational boating safety program is available.

Department at: (800) 792-1112 or (512) 389-4848 (24-hour dispatch).

(800) 792-1112, ext. 4999, or visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/boatered/ or after September 1, 1993. For information on boater education courses, call the

steerage (motorboat, vessel, platform, person, object, or shore except at headway speed)

All operational rules for regular motorboats also apply to PWC. In addition

who can lawfully operate the PWC.

All equipment requirements for regular motorboats also apply to PWC. In addi

14 feet in length when windblown.

- Requires affidavit of the person as to the origin of the boat, proof of the materials

for parts, etc.), and requires each homemade boat to be inspected and certified

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Registering a Documented Vessel (requirements):

• The numerals must be separated from the prefix and the suffix by hyphens or

• The number must be painted on, or otherwise attached to each side of the

It is illegal to possess or intentionally sell, offer for sale, or purchase a vessel

The certificate of number (registration), if required:

Application forms can be obtained from the TPWD website, TPWD offices, marine

The seller must complete:

• Applications for transfer of title and ownership should be submitted not later

灿for a boat registration for new boats and outboard motors. Do not purchase

- A separate bill of sale for the trailer.

The purchaser must:

• Certification of number card issued for the vessel described on the card.

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You must report such fact within 15 days, and you must surrender your

A separate bill of sale for the trailer.

The purchaser must:

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An abandoned boat or outboard motor may be eligible for titling through the bonded title process with appropriate documentation. An “abandoned vessel or outboard motor” means a vessel or outboard motor that has remained privately without the consent of the owner or person in charge of the property for more than 6 months.

REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

OPERATING VESSELS WITHOUT REQUIRED EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED

No person may operate a vessel in navigable waters of the U.S. if the vessel is not provided with the required safety equipment.

LIFE PRESERVING DEVICES

All PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition, readily accessible, and of the appropriate size for the intended user. This includes children under 13 years of age in all vessels 26 feet in length or more that must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD while underway. Underwear means not at anchor, made fast to the shore, or aground.

All vessels, including canoes, paddle craft, and kayaks, must be equipped with at least one (1) Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board. A Type V PFD is acceptable only if used in accordance with the specific instructions on the label regarding the condition of the water and the intended use of the device.

Vessels 16 feet and longer, excluding canoes and kayaks, are required to be equipped with one Type IV throwable PFD in addition to the Type I, II, III, or V PFD already required.

Inflatable PFDs are authorized only when used in accordance with requirements as presented on the label of the device.

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES

Any vessel less than 12 meters in length (39.4 ft.) is required to carry a whistle or horn, or some other means to make an efficient sound to signal intentions to other vessels. The whistle or horn must be capable of being heard in all weather.

MANUAL DRIVEN VESSELS

Manually Driven Vessels: Manual driven vessels when paddled, policed, oared, or rowed.

A vessel of less than 20 meters (65.6 ft.), while underway shall exhibit sidelights and a sternlight which may be combined in one lantern from sunset to sunrise in all weather and during restricted visibility.

Any vessel less than 12 meters in length (39.4 ft.) is required to carry a whistle or horn, or some other means to make an efficient sound to signal intentions to other vessels. The whistle or horn must be capable of being heard in all weather.

EXHAUST MANIFOLD, MUFFLER

A motorboat must have an exhaust manifold or a factory-type muffler installed.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS

Vessels operating in coastal waters are required to have a working and unexpired, (if required), visual distress signal if they are 16 feet or more in length; are an unoccupied vessel, PWC, or Individual watercraft (operating) violation, (2) reckless or negligent operation, (3) excessive speed, (4)0.08 or higher) (Violations of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; 2nd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000, confinement not to exceed six months or both; 3rd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000, imprisonment for not more than two years or both; 4th conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $2,000 nor more than $2,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both; 5th conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $5,000 nor more than $5,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both)

REQUIRING EXTINGUISHERS REQUIRED

Outboard motorboats less than 26 feet in length, of open construction, not equipped with one Type II extinguisher, or a Type V extinguisher of at least one (1) pound of carbon dioxide (CO2) in dry chemical extinguishers.

The number of approved extinguishers required depends upon the class of the motor vessel or engine.

Vessel length

26 feet or less than 40’

2 B-I or 1 B-II

2 B-I or 1 B-II and 1 B-I

40’ to 65’

3 B-I OR 1 B-II and 2 B-I

Classification (Type-size) gallons) pounds) pounds) pounds)

Foam (minimum content) 3 2 1

Dry CO (minimum content) 2.5 2 1.5

Dry Chemical (minimum content) 2.8 2 1.4

Halon (minimum pounds) 2

CLASSIFICATION OF EXTINGUISHERS

**Failure to submit a specimen to determine blood alcohol content may result in suspension of your driver’s license.

TAILGATING OR INTERFERENCE WITH SAFE PASSAGE

No person may overtake a vessel, PWC, or Individual watercraft (operating) violation, (2) reckless or negligent operation, (3) excessive speed, (4)0.08 or higher) (Violations of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; 2nd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000, confinement not to exceed six months or both; 3rd conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $2,000 nor more than $2,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both; 5th conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $5,000 nor more than $5,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both)

MANDATORY BOATER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

A TPWD certified boater education course and photo ID is required for any person less than 18 years of age, 16 years of age or more but not more than 15 years of age who is operating more than 15 horsepowers; or a (2) vessel owner under 14 feet in length.

No person operating a PWC or outboard motor powered by a motor of more than 15 horsepower on the public waters of this state unless the person is at least 13 years of age and successfully completed a boater education course or is supervised by another person who: (1) is at least 18 years of age; and (2) can lawfully operate the motor vessel or engine.

Proof of completion of the requirements to obtain a vessel operator’s license issued by the Department of Public Safety will satisfy the requirement for completing a boater education course in this state.

Boater education courses from other states are acceptable if NASBIL (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) approved. A person adjudged guilty of one of the following (operating) violations: (1) any person less than 18 years of age; (2) reckless or negligent operation; (3) excessive speed, (4)0.08 or higher) (Violations of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; 2nd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000, confinement not to exceed six months or both; 3rd conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $2,000 nor more than $2,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both)

OPERATING YOUR BOAT

It is UNLAWFUL for any person to:

1. Operate at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and prudent or greater than the rate of speed already determined

2. Operate in a wake that interferes with safe passage of any other boat through the same area.

3. Operate in a circular course around another vessel, PWC, or Individual watercraft (operating) violation, (2) reckless or negligent operation, (3) excessive speed, (4)0.08 or higher) (Violations of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; 2nd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000, confinement not to exceed six months or both; 3rd conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $2,000 nor more than $2,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both)

4. See another person who: (1) is at least 18 years of age; (2) can lawfully operate the motor vessel or engine.

5. Operate a PWC or motorboat powered by a motor of more than 15 horsepower on the public waters of this state unless the person is at least 13 years of age and successfully completed a boater education course or is supervised by another person who: (1) is at least 18 years of age; and (2) can lawfully operate the motor vessel or engine.

6. Operate within an area designated as fishing, hunting, or otherwise restricted.

7. Operate while intoxicated (loss of mental or physical faculties, or blood alcohol content may result in suspension of your driver’s license.

8. Engage in water skiing, surfboarding or other similar activity between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (Violation of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $10,000, imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both).

9. Engage in unauthorized water skiing, surfboarding or other similar activity between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (Violation of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $10,000, imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or both).

10. Operate any vessel or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane or similar device, creating a swell or wake.

**Failure to submit a specimen to determine blood alcohol content may result in suspension of your driver’s license.

STAND AND RENDER AID

The operator of any vessel involved in a boating accident must stop and render whatever aid is necessary to any injured persons. The operator of any vessel that may be involved in a boating accident must identify himself to any other vessel, PWC, or Individual watercraft (operating) violation, (2) reckless or negligent operation, (3) excessive speed, (4)0.08 or higher) (Violations of this provision shall be punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not to exceed $4,000, confinement not to exceed one year or both; 2nd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $1,000, confinement not to exceed six months or both; 3rd conviction punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000, confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both; 5th conviction punishable by a fine of not less than $5,000 nor more than $5,000 or by confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days or both)

Mandated boater education courses and photo ID is required for any person less than 18 years of age, 16 years of age or more but not more than 15 years of age who is operating more than 15 horsepowers; or a (2) vessel owner under 14 feet in length.