

# 2012 INFORMATION UPDATE

## 1. Tide Tables for 2012

Obtain current tide tables from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) web site at [www.coops.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.coops.nos.noaa.gov).

Or use your smart phone to scan the code.



## 2. Vessel Registration

Remember, your vessel registration dollars support boating services around the state including local on-the-water law enforcement. Contact the Washington State Department of Licensing at (360) 902-3770.

Renew online or in a vehicle licensing office.

For more information on how to register,

[www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration](http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration).

## 3. Be sure your boat is ready.

A vessel safety check is a courtesy examination of your boat and is a great way to make sure your boat has all the safety equipment to protect you and meet state and the federal regulations.

Find a vessel examiner near you at [www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net).

## 4. Clean boats protect our waterways.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) such as the New Zealand mudsnail are invading our waters. They commonly spread by hitchhiking on boats and trailers.

### DO YOUR PART:

- Always clean your boat between uses. Wash it with hot water; 140 degrees or higher.
- Drain the livewell, bilge and all internal compartments.
- Dry your boat between uses if possible. Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water.

**For more information on boating safety and boating in Washington visit [www.boat.wa.gov](http://www.boat.wa.gov).**

# IMPORTANT BOATING TIPS

**Recreational boating is one of the most popular outdoor activities in Pacific Northwest. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and our boating partners around the state want you to follow these important steps:**

## **1. Always wear a life jacket.**

Nine out of 10 drownings occur in inland waters and involving boats less than 20 feet long. Most drowning victims had access to a life jacket, but did not wear it. Today's life jackets are manufactured in a wide variety of designs that boaters can find a comfortable, easy-to-use life jacket for any type of activity. A life jacket can save your life – *if you wear it!*

**The USCG's Recreational Boating Statistics 2010 state:**

*"Almost three-fourths of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, eighty-eight (88) percent were not reported as wearing a life jacket."*

## **2. Take a Boating Education Course and know the rules of the road.**

Nearly 70% of all reported fatalities occur in accidents where the operator had not received boating safety education, Washington State boating laws require boat operators to complete an approved boating education course, pass the exam and obtain a Boater Education Card. To learn more about Washington's Boater Education Program and find a boating course near you visit [www.BoaterEd.org](http://www.BoaterEd.org).

**Operator inattention, improper lookout, operator inexperience excessive speed and alcohol rank as the top five primary contributing factors in accidents.**

## **3. Don't drink and boat.**

Alcohol is the leading contributing factor in all recreational boating fatalities. Operating a boat with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 is against the law. Research shows that environmental stressors such as wind, sun glare, noise and motion increase the effect of alcohol on boat operators and passengers.

**Never boat under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication.**

## **4. Keep our waters clean. Nothing goes overboard.**

There are proper places to recycle or dispose of all your refuse and rubbish including; trash, oil, cleaning products and human waste. Help keep our waters clean. For more information, visit [www.boat.wa.gov/green-boating](http://www.boat.wa.gov/green-boating).

**Never toss or dump overboard.**

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