



Boating Program

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
March 6, 2024
Washington State Boating Program
Rob Sendak

Recreational Boating Safety Education & Outreach
Marine Law Enforcement Training & Education
Clean Vessel Act Grant

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Mission



Boating
Program

To **reduce recreational boating incidents and fatalities**, increase **environmental stewardship** of Washington Waterways, and keep recreational boating a **safe, accessible and enjoyable** pastime.



Boating Program Advisory Council

- Washington State Boating Law Administrator **nonvoting*
- United States Coast Guard District 13 **nonvoting*
- US Coast Guard Auxiliary **nonvoting*
- US Power Squadron
- The Sailing Foundation
- Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA)
- Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA)
- Recreational Boating Association of Washington (RBAW)
- Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)
- Washington Association of Counties
- Washington Association of Cities
- Whitewater Paddlers
- Education
- Personal Watercraft Owners
- Hunting & Fishing
- Unaffiliated Boaters
- Manually Powered Watercraft
- Injury & Health Prevention Specialist





Who is on the Water?

- 52% of Washingtonians participate in paddle sports
- 33% of Washingtonians participate in motorized boating
- 14% of Washingtonians participate in sailing
- 220,000 registered vessels in Washington State
- Boating Program distributed over 9,800 life jackets in 2023



Recreational Boating Safety Administration



- *Mandatory Boating Education Program*
- *Education & Outreach Campaigns*
- *Paddle Safe Washington*
- *Local Marine Law Enforcement*
- *Incident Reporting System*
- *WAC's and RCW's regarding recreational boaters*
- *Vessel Identification Requirements*





2023 Mandatory Education

- Certified and delivered **21,949** cards
- Certified and delivered **477,000** cards since law enacted in 2005
- Boating customer service responded to **7,015** emails
- Boating customer service responded to **5,401** phone calls



STEP UP TO THE PLATE.

Be A Safe Boater.



BE A ROLE MODEL.
WEAR A LIFE JACKET.
Llevar un chaleco salvavidas.

*Boat Prepared
Have Fun!*

MOOSE #00

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WASHINGTON STATE PARKS RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM

MARINERS 5 TIPS FOR SAFE BOATING

WEAR A LIFE JACKET.
Wear a life jacket when on or around water. It's the BEST way to keep yourself safe!

BOAT WITH A BUDDY.
Boat with a friend, and make sure to let others know where you're going and when you plan to return.

HAVE FUN!
Have fun, and be safe out on the water!

BOAT PREPARED.
Know marine weather conditions and know your own limitations. Ensure you bring all necessary safety equipment.

BE A ROLE MODEL.
Boat safe and encourage others to do the same!

Learn more at:
BoatSafeWA.ORG




Recreational Boating Safety Program



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WASHINGTON STATE PARKS RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY PROGRAM



Boating Program



Borrow a Life Jacket

Toma prestado un chaleco salvavidas

280

*Life Jacket Loaner
stands throughout
WA State*



Check the label to
choose the right size.

Revisa la etiqueta
para escoger la
talla correcta.



Fasten all buckles
and zippers.

Abrocha las hebillas
y los cierres.



Check for correct fit:
snug but not tight.

Verificar que el
tamaño sea correcto:
ajustado sin apretar.



Wear it here.
Leave it here.

Úsalo aquí.
Déjalo aquí.



Boating
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Provide adult supervision at all times.
Proporcionar supervisión adulta en todo momento.

Life jackets save lives.
Los chalecos salvavidas salvan vidas.

Borrow and use a life jacket
at your own risk.

Toma prestado un chaleco
salvavidas y úsalo bajo
tu propio riesgo.

In Partnership With:

Washington State
Drowning Prevention
Network



Paddle Safe Washington



- Delivered Paddle Safe WA Curriculum to 700 youth in 2023
- Mobile program serving new communities teaching paddle safety and water competency
- Majority of participants first time paddlers
- Leveraged data from DOH and OSPI inequities map to inform which communities to serve directly
- Each participant receives a free life jacket
- No Child Left Inside funding support



No Child Left Inside



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Snohomish County Water Safety Event – Fit over 250 low-income youth with life jackets and taught water safety.

Pierce County School Pilot – Two Tacoma Elementary Schools piloted water safety curriculum across multiple grade levels.

Spokane County Paddle Safe – Partnership with City of Spokane Park District and State Parks.

King County Paddle Safe Franchise – Seattle Parks will facilitate youth paddle training all summer.

Clallam County Paddle Safe – Partnership with State Folklife to facilitate paddle training.

Kitsap County Youth Outdoor Experience – Capstone overnight event at Blake Island for 30 youth from Seattle Parks program.

Thurston County Paddle Safe – Millersylvania will be used all summer as a Paddle Safety Hub.



Paddle Event



Life Jacket Event



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Marine Law Enforcement



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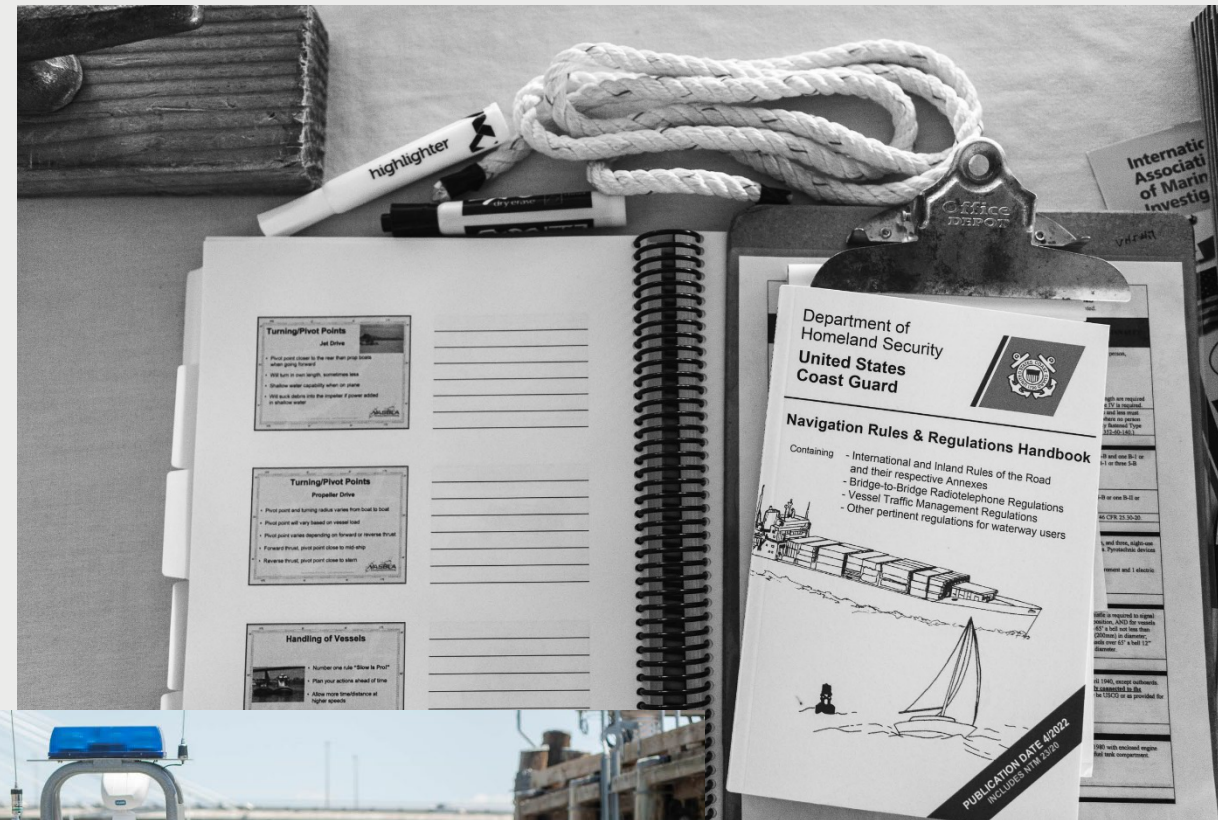
- Certified 48 agencies to be approved MLE programs
- Administered over \$600,000 in Federal Assistance Grants
- Approved \$1,583,044 in Vessel Registration Fees
- Coordinated training for 150 officers
- Reported 9,988 vessel safety inspections



Basic Marine Law Enforcement Academy



Boating Program





Boating Program



Reportable Incident and Fatality Data



Year	Total Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Vessels Involved	Property Damage
2019	131	29	67	184	\$ 2,754,952.00
2020	140	28	57	199	\$ 2,419,248.00
2021	97	14	47	150	\$ 5,256,869.00
2022	55	18	32	66	\$ 1,369,323.00
2023	57	23	15	72	\$ 212,550.00

- In 2023, 20 of those 23 reportable fatalities were not wearing life jackets. 87%.
- In 2023, 15 of those 23 reportable fatalities were from paddle sports. 65%.
- In 2023, 14 of those 15 reportable paddle sports fatalities were not wearing life jackets. 93%.



On Deck for 2024 ...



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- Water Safety Day on May 15th
- Expand WA Safe Paddle Experiences
- Update to Recreational Boating WAC's to harmonize with Federal Law
- USCG determination: **efoils** are vessels



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Thank You, Commissioners!



**Boating
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