



# THE BOATER

## Your guide to safe boating

Welcome to the Safe Boating Guide! Boating is part of our great Canadian heritage. From the traditional use of kayaks and canoes for hunting, fishing and transportation by the Inuit and First Nations people, to the wide variety of recreational uses today, boating has always played a significant role in Canadian life.

For many, it's a passion.

Knowing the basics of boating safety gives peace of mind and lets you make the most of your time on the water. Whether you are a boater, diver, angler, hunter or watersports enthusiast there are rules and information to know before setting out.

This guide is an overview of the rules and regulations for recreational boating, but should not be your only resource for boating safety. For most pleasure craft operators, having a Pleasure Craft Operator Card is the law (see page 11). Of course, to get your card you will need to pass a test offered by a course provider. Taking a boating safety course is a smart choice and the best method of obtaining your operator card.

If you, your family or friends are new to boating thoroughly familiarize yourselves with the following pages. Treat this guide as a piece of safety equipment and keep it on board your boat, refer to it and apply what you have learned. If you are an experienced boater, use it as a refresher for safe boating.

Boating laws change from time to time and it is your responsibility to make sure you have the most current information. This guide is revised periodically so visit [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca) or contact a Transport Canada Centre for the most up-to-date regulations. Make every trip a safe one.

**In the event of discrepancies between the Safe Boating Guide and the regulations, the regulatory text takes precedence.**