

"No Wake" – is defined as the slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway. All boat operators must maintain no wake operation when within 50 feet or less of docks, piers, boathouses, boat ramps, and people in the water. In addition, PWC operators must also operate at no wake when within 50 feet of vessels other than other PWCs.

Want to Report a Violation But Remain Anonymous?

Tell the person taking your call that you want to remain anonymous and ask him or her not to broadcast your name or telephone number. We will need your contact information, however, so the responding officer can call you.



The Department of
Game and Inland
Fisheries



Water Safety
Council



United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary



Sail & Power
Squadron

Be a Smart Boater.
Take a Boater Safety Course and
Wear Your Life Jacket!



www.dgif.virginia.gov

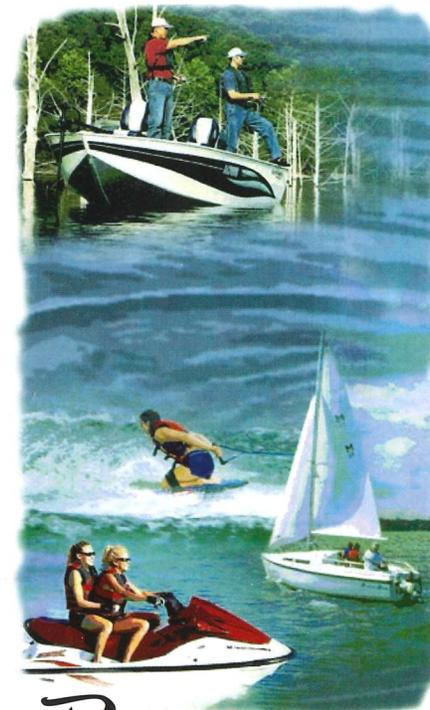


Report Boating Violations 1-800-237-5712

- Boat Number and Description
- Violation Observed and Direction of Travel
- Description of Operator
- Nearest Channel Marker # or Other Landmark

For an Emergency Call
Marine Channel 16
or
911

1-800-237-5712 may also be
used to report
hunting and fishing violations.



Boating Safety Watch

A community-based
program promoting
boating safety

Sponsored in cooperation with The Virginia
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to
promote boating safety by all users of our
inland lakes and rivers.

Purpose

The intent of Boating Safety Watch is to gather and utilize information provided by individuals who have witnessed a violation of law that directly affects the safety and well-being of all participants of water-related activities.

Who Can be a Part of Boating Safety Watch?

Any individual or group who has a direct relationship to water-related activities, including but not limited to, boating, fishing, skiing and environmental issues can participate. Examples: recreational boaters and fishermen, home owners associations, fishing clubs, ski groups, water safety councils.

How Can Individuals Not in Law Enforcement Help?

By Being a Good Witness!

Everyone can do their part to promote boating safety by reporting those violations of law that directly affect the safety of those who use our public waters.

These violations would include but not be limited to:

- Reckless Operation of a motorboat
- Operating a motorboat under the influence of alcohol or other substance.
- Reckless skiing activity
- "Rules of the road" violations

How to Report a Violation

By calling the Law Enforcement dispatcher of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries or your local law enforcement agency, participants can do their part to promote boating safety on Virginia's waters.

Information To Give to Dispatcher

What You Observed: _____

Description of Vessel/Occupants: _____

Boat #: _____

License #: _____

Date & Time: _____

Direction of Travel: _____

Other Information: _____

Witnesses: _____

Numbers to Call:

1-800-237-5712 – DGIF Law Enforcement

Marine Channel – 16

911 – Use 911 for emergencies

Be aware that you may reach a dispatcher who is not familiar with the area you are describing. Be patient, give precise information, and a telephone number where the dispatcher or Law Enforcement Officer can contact you.

For more information on Boating Safety Watch and Boater Safety Courses contact

www.dgif.virginia.gov

What to Look For

Think "who, what, when and where." To report a violation make note of the following:

- Date and time
- Activity observed
- Registration number of vessel
- Description of vessel
- Description of occupants
- Direction of travel
- Unique features of vessel and occupants
- Name of operator

A Few Basic Boating Laws

Reckless Operation – Reckless operation of a Personal Watercraft (PWC) includes: (1) weaving through other vessels which are underway, stopped, moored, or anchored, while exceeding a reasonable speed; (2) following another vessel or skier, crossing the path of another vessel, or jumping the wake of another vessel more closely than is reasonable and prudent; (3) crossing between the towing vessel and a skier; or (4) steering toward an object or person and turning sharply in order to spray or attempt to spray an object or person with the wash or jet spray of the PWC.

Unsafe Practices – It is unlawful to allow any person to ride or sit on the bow, gunwales, transom, or on the decking over the bow of the vessel while under power unless such motorboat is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from falls overboard. Passengers or other persons aboard a watercraft may occupy these areas of the vessel to moor or anchor the watercraft, to cast off, or for any other necessary purpose.

Slacken Speed – Operators shall reduce speed to avoid endangering persons or property by the effect of the motorboat's wake when approaching or passing vessels under way, lying to, at anchor, or made fast to the shore; or when approaching or passing piers, docks, or boathouses; or when approaching or passing persons in the water or using water skis or surfboards.