

ECO-FRIENDLY BOATING

Clean water is the foundation for enjoyable boating. Every action from an individual boater has a major impact on the water, marine life, and the near-shore and shoreline ecosystem and inhabitants.

Sea Lamprey, Eurasian Ruffe, Spiny Water Fleas, Zebra Mussels, and Round Goby are destructive and aggressive invader species looking for a ride to a new lake or stream. People, boats, and fishing gear easily transport these pests. Prevent the spread of exotic species, which cause severe habitat alteration and degradation, with a thorough inspection of your boat and fishing gear. Clean all mud and plant debris from your boat's hull, trailer, propeller, motor, bilge, live well, and anchors before leaving the boat launch. Properly dispose of collected material.

Use suitable facilities for fish wastes. Recycle fish wastes by using in compost and gardens. State regulations prohibit the dumping of fish wastes into surface waters.

Be responsible boat and help protect our precious and fragile environment. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/deq

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES

Who must wear a life jacket?

- ✔ Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II personal flotation device (PFD) when riding in the open deck area of a boat.
- ✔ Each person 12 years of age or older operating, riding on, or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear
- ✔ Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Checklist

- ✔ All vessels should be equipped with a PFD that is U.S. Coast Guard – approved, wearable, and of proper size for each person on board.
- ✔ These flotation devices are of the Type I, Type II, or Type III variety. (Vessels under 16 feet, canoes, or kayaks can substitute wearable PFD's for a Type IV throwable PFD.)
- ✔ If a vessel is 16 feet or longer, you must have a Type IV throwable onboard.
- ✔ All children under 6 years old must wear a Type I or Type II PFD while on the open deck.
- ✔ All persons being towed behind or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a Type I, Type II, or Type III PFD.
- ✔ All PFDs are in good condition and readily available.

PFDs cannot be enclosed in plastic bags or other containers. Check your PFDs for damaged buckles and straps. Squeeze PFDs to check for buoyancy. If the device feels spongy, or does not return to its original shape, it may need to be replaced.

Type I: Offshore Life Jacket. Vests geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take some time. They are excellent for flotation and will turn most unconscious people face up in the water.

Type II: Near-Shore Vest. Vests created for calm waters and fast rescues. However, they may lack the capacity to turn unconscious wearers face up.

Type III: Flotation Aid. Vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters and fast rescues. They are not for long hours in rough waters since they will not turn a person face up.

Type IV: Throwable Device Cushions or ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. They are not for long

hours in rough waters, non-swimmers, or the unconscious.

Check out the Michigan Boating Handbook
available online

www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook