

# ATTENTION

## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) RENTERS

### IMPORTANT BOATING/OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

#### SAFETY ON THE WATER

- **Wear a Life Jacket:** All PWC operators and passengers must wear a USCG-approved and properly sized life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable.
- **Carry a Whistle:** Attach a whistle to the life jacket to meet sound-producing device legal requirements.
- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Most PWC accidents occur due to collisions between boats, other PWCs or stationary objects.
- **Be Cautious of Your Wake:** PWCs must not create a wake within 100 feet of shorelines, launching ramps, docks, downed skiers, swimmers and anchored/moored/drifted boats.
- **Use the Engine Cut-off Switch Lanyard:** Attach it to your life jacket, body or clothing to shut off the engine if ejected from the PWC.
- **Stay Away from Dams:** Signs and buoys mark many dams. It is illegal and dangerous to boat near dams. Strong hydraulic currents can trap and drown individuals. Keep your distance upstream and downstream.
- **PWCs Do Not Have Brakes:** Practice using the throttle to steer away from objects. Test the PWCs turning radius and stopping distance.
- **Watch the Weather:** Bad weather can kill boaters. If a storm is near, head for shore or a safe harbor.

#### NEGLIGENT OR RECKLESS BEHAVIOR IS ILLEGAL

- Maintain a safe speed. Any damage, including from your wake, is your responsibility.
- When approaching another boat head on, yield to the right.
- When overtaking, pass on either side. The boat being overtaken should maintain its course and speed.
- In a crossing situation, the boat on your right has the right of way. Adjust course, slow down, and pass behind the right-side boat. You have the right of way over boats on your left, but yield when in doubt.
- Wake jumping is dangerous and illegal in some situations.

#### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
- Operate a watercraft in a reckless or dangerous manner.
- Operate a PWC between sunset and sunrise.
- Operate within 100 feet of anyone being towed behind a boat.
- Operate closer than 100 feet behind or 50 feet beside a boat.

#### MINIMUM AGE OF OPERATION

- Must be 16 years or older to rent and operate a PWC. All operators, regardless of age, must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate.

More information:



[fishandboat.com/Boating/Pages/default.aspx](http://fishandboat.com/Boating/Pages/default.aspx)



**Penalty for Violation as Provided by Law**  
**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**



**WEAR IT**  
National Safe Boating Council  
Pennsylvania