



VANCOUVER POLICE MARINE UNIT
SAFETY STRATEGIES
"OPERATION BOAT SAFE 2009"



*The Vancouver Police Marine Unit is committed to providing a high quality service to all members of the boating community within the City of Vancouver. We hope that this information provides a base for ensuring you will be a responsible boater and **GET PREPARED** for the fast approaching 2009 boating season. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable season. We appreciate that the majority of the boating community make safety **a priority**.*

Safe Speed

Coal Harbour

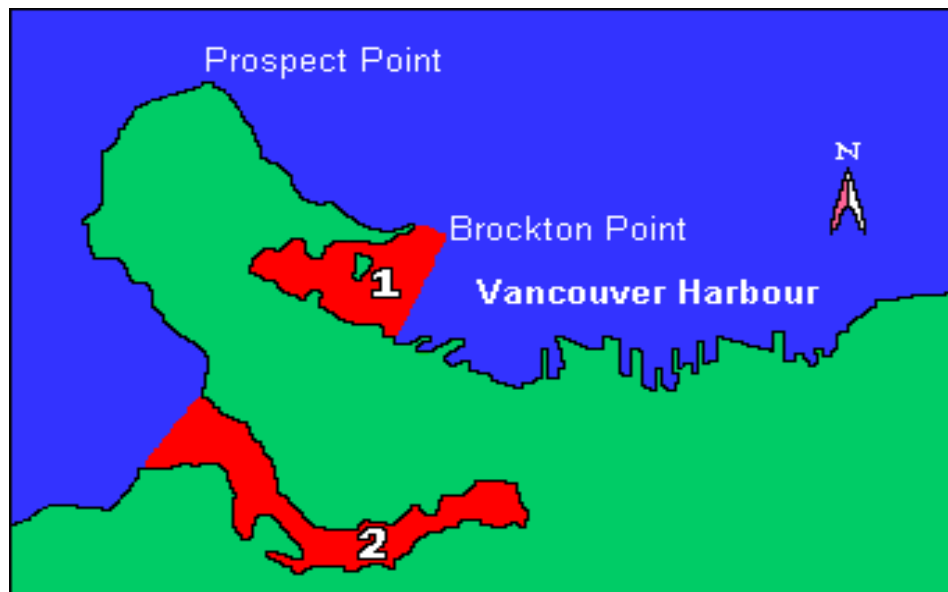
All inland waters within area, line draw from Brockton Point Light to Burnaby Shoal, a line directly south from Burnaby marker. A 5 knot (10km/h) speed restriction is enforced. (See area 1 on the map below)

Sailing is prohibited in the Inner Harbour except for an area inside a line joining Centerm to Lonsdale Avenue and east from Terminal Dock to Neptune Terminal.

False Creek

The area lying east of a line drawn from Kitsilano Point 045° (T) across the mouth of the Creek. A 5 knot (10km/h) speed restriction is enforced. (See area 2 on the map below)

Sailing is not permitted in this area unless special permission is obtained from the Harbour Master.



Wear a lifejacket or PFD



Unexpected immersion in cold water can place any boater at serious risk if they are not wearing a personal flotation device to assist them in the first few minutes with immersion. The body's reaction to the surprise of going overboard and the shock of cold water can profoundly affect breathing, nerves and muscle strength. Wearing a lifejacket gives you time to adjust to the emergency and allows you to assist others. Buckle up before getting on board.

Don't cruise with booze

Besides the possible legal consequences, mixing alcohol and boating is far more dangerous than you may realize. Fatigue, sun, wind and the motion of the boat dull your senses. Alcohol intensifies these effects, leaving you with poorer fine motor skills. Impaired operation of a vessel is a criminal offence so please leave the booze at the dock.

Operator Card (PCOC) [Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations](#)

Proof of competency can take 1 of 3 forms: The Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations require operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes to have proof of competency on board at all times. If you are operating a sailing vessel under sail but have a small motor attached, you are still required to carry proof of Competency.

A Pleasure Craft Operator Card;

- Proof of having successfully completed a boating safety course in Canada prior to April 1, 1999; or,
- A completed rental-boat safety checklist.
- All operators born after April 1, 1983, proof of competency required on board by September 15, 1999.
- All operators of craft under 4 m in length, including personal watercraft, proof of competency required on board by September 15, 2002.
- All operators, proof of competency required on board by **September 15, 2009**.

Boat Licence Number- Small vessel regulations



A pleasure craft license is the set of identification numbers displayed on a boat. All pleasure craft powered by an engine 10 horsepower (7.5 kW) or more must be licensed, unless they are registered. It is no longer mandatory for pleasure craft over 15 gross tonnage to be registered.

Delivery of Pleasure Craft Licensing now at Service Canada Counters

Since April 1, 2006 Service Canada delivers Pleasure Craft Licensing at all of their offices across Canada.

Equipment- Small Vessel Regulations (Refer to the safe boating guide for the size of your vessel)

[Required by Size & Type](#)

[Lifejackets & PFDs](#)

[Rescue / Distress](#)

[Navigational / Lighting](#)

[Radio](#)

[Check Lists & Maintenance](#)

Preparation- Pre departure checks of the vessel, pre voyage planning, emergency plans, sail plans, checking you equipment and refuelling safety.

[Charts](#)

[Trip / Rescue Plan](#)

[Equipment Checks](#)

[Fuelling Safety](#)

There are standard procedures that all boaters should be aware of and implement before every departure. Each type of boating activity has its own body of knowledge and set of procedures to be followed for a safe and enjoyable experience.

Be Prepared!

Take an accredited Canadian [boating course](#)

Safe Operation

Steer clear of shipping lanes

- Some operators do not realize the gamble they take when they cut across shipping lanes or in front of larger vessels. These vessels probably will not see you until it is too late, so apply these codes of conduct when boating.
- Always, but especially at crossing zones, maintain a vigilant lookout and be prepared to yield to large vessels. Use all available means adapted to the circumstance and conditions, including radar and radio (if so equipped).
- Small craft should navigate in groups so they are more visible.
- In fog or high winds, small craft operators should avoid taking to the water.
- Above all, keep clear of docked ferries, ferries in transit, or vessel in tow.

With the 2009 Alaska cruise ship season soon to commence, pay particular attention to large cruise ships entering and leaving the harbour. Keep clear of the inshore traffic zones and First Narrows Bridge when larger commercial vessels are underway in these areas. Listen to VHF channel 12 for traffic information and scheduled movement of all shipping.

An enjoyable recreational boating experience depends on the ability of owners and operators of pleasure craft to protect their passengers and other boaters from risk and harm and to respect the environment.

Learn all you can about the operation of your vessel and the waterways in which you will be traveling

Be constantly aware of changing [weather and water conditions](#) and the actions of other boaters

Demonstrate knowledge and leadership by wearing your lifejacket or PFD and asking all your passengers to do the same

Don't cruise with booze

- [Safe Starting](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide](#)

- [Rules of the Road](#)
- [Towing Activity](#)
- [Speed / Alcohol](#)
- [Emergencies](#)
- [Enforcement / Fines](#)
- Refer to the office of boating website for further information.

Safety Tips for Boating in Vancouver

<http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/obs-bsn/>

- Small craft must keep well clear of all commercial traffic underway;
- Do not attempt to pass between a tug and tow;
- No craft powered by oars or sail alone may transit either First or Second Narrows;
- Coal Harbour is a high activity area for aircraft landing and taking off. Operators of small craft are required to keep clear;
- Vessels approaching Second Narrows Rail Bridge be aware of clearance height;
- Contact operator on VHF Ch. 12 to lift bridge;
- Vessels rounding Ferguson Point should observe the West Cardinal Buoy. Shallow water lies to the east of this marker;
- Boaters should not consider leaving the dock unless first obtaining formal training such as Canadian Power and Sail Squadron, Basic Boating Course; and
- Make sure your vessel has at least minimum required safety equipment for your vessel size as outlined in [Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide](#).
- *Please do not hesitate to call the Vancouver Police Marine police patrol vessel for a courtesy vessel inspection at your marina.*

****Violations of the various regulations related to recreational boating may result in excessive fines under the Contraventions Act.**

RG McBeath Patrol Vessel 604-817-1946

Regards, Robert Holland, Steve Kempton

Vancouver Police Marine Unit

Regulations are taken from the Office of Boating Safety who are responsible for recreational vessels (part of Transport Canada).