

Enforcement on the Water

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), provincial and municipal police forces and other authorized local authorities enforce the laws that apply to boats. They may inspect your boat and monitor your boating activities to make sure that requirements are being met. This may include checking for safety equipment, your Pleasure Craft Operator Card and careless operation on the water.



Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety helps boaters learn about boating laws with the help of tools like this guide. However, it's important to remember that these laws only set minimum requirements. Many boaters go above and beyond these laws to enhance the safety of their boat and guests, and Transport Canada encourages everyone to do the same.

Boating Laws and Regulations

- Canada's Criminal Code applies to boating and makes activities like operating a boat while impaired, failing to stop at the scene of an accident and operating a boat that is not seaworthy, crimes.
- The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* is the law that, along with its regulations, governs pleasure craft. It includes the requirements of some international agreements that govern the conduct of all vessels. The most important regulations affecting pleasure craft under this law include the:
 - *Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations*;
 - *Collision Regulations*;
 - *Small Vessel Regulations*;
 - *Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations*; and
 - *Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals*.

These and other boating regulations are available at www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

Fines

Here is a list of some boating offences along with the associated fines.

BOATING OFFENCE	FINE*
Operating vessel if you are under age	\$250
Failing to have proof of competency on board	\$250
Failure to have the required pleasure craft licence on board	\$250
Altering/Defacing/Removing hull serial number	\$350
Operating a boat in a careless manner, without due care and attention for others	\$350
Operating a vessel with safety equipment not in good working order or not readily accessible and available for immediate use	\$200
Operating human-powered pleasure craft without personal flotation devices or lifejackets of appropriate size for each person on board (\$200) (Plus \$100 for each PFD or lifejacket missing.)	\$200 + \$100
Operating a power-driven vessel without a muffler that is in good working order	\$250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without seating space on board for every person being towed	\$250
Operating a vessel to tow a person on water or in air without a person on board other than the operator keeping watch on every person being towed	\$250
Operating a vessel in a careless manner, without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons	\$350
Operating a vessel in an unsafe manner	\$500

*Not including administrative charges

You should also know that some boating offences can result in fines to both the operator of the boat and to the person who allowed the operation of the boat. An example of this would be allowing someone under the age of 16 to operate your PWC.

Fine amounts are subject to change from time to time. You can find a complete list of boating offences and fines under the *Contraventions Regulations* by visiting www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.