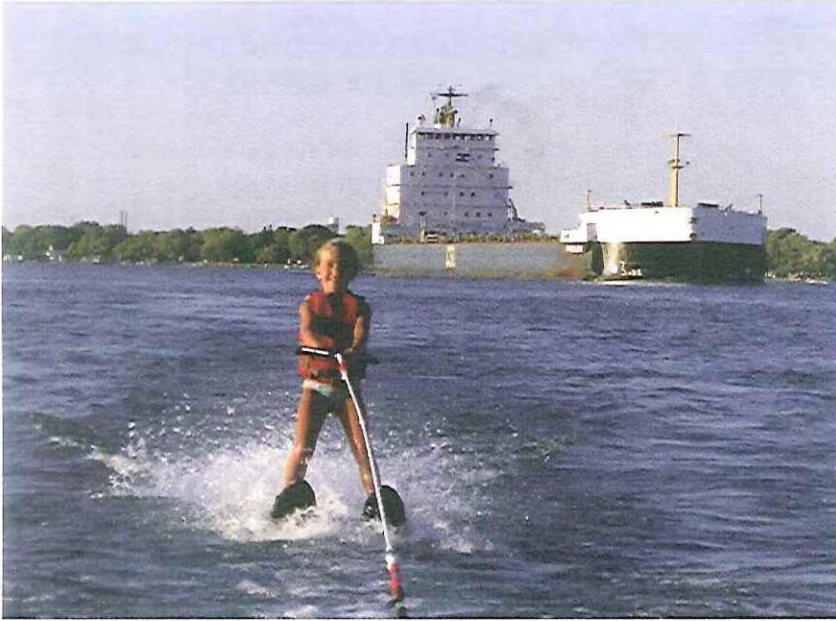


BE READY St. Clair County

In the Water



Boat Responsibly and Wear It!

Michigan requires:

- Children under the age of 6 years must wear a PFD (Personal Floation Device) when riding on an open deck of a boat.
- All persons on a personal watercraft must wear a PFD.
- In all situations on a boat, there must be enough PFDs on the boat for each person aboard.

According to the most recent U.S. Coast Guard statistics, over two-thirds of fatal accident victims drowned. Out of those who drowned, approximately 90% were not wearing a life jacket.

Know the Navigation Rules (Nautical Rules of the Road)

Knowing what to do when meeting, crossing or overtaking another boat can prevent costly damage to your boat, personal injury or even loss of life. Always maintain a proper lookout and a safe speed.

Stay Sober While Boating

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. An operator with a blood alcohol content above .08 is ten times more likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol level.

Get Your Boat Checked

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons® offer a free Vessel Safety Check (VSC). Contact www.vesselsafetycheck.org for information.

Take a Safe Boating Course

Seventy percent of recreational boating accidents are caused by operator factors —such as failure to pay attention, carelessness, recklessness, inexperience, excessive speed, and failure to watch for hazards. Take a free on-line Boating Safety Course. www.boatus.org