

BOAT LIKE A PRO



KNOW THE ROUTE

Use nautical charts and state and local maps to determine your route and be aware of markers and hazards.



WEAR A LIFE JACKET

Set the example and always wear a life jacket.



USE AN ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH

Stops the boat's engine should the operator, or in some cases even passenger, unexpectedly fall overboard.



MAINTAIN 360° AWARENESS

Keep situational awareness at all times to watch for dangers from all directions.



MAINTAIN SAFE SPEED

Follow local regulations, buoys, and signs; your speed will be determined by visibility, weather, and boat traffic.

WHAT'S THAT BUOY MEAN?



WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com



YOUR BOATING
DOLLARS AT WORK



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Reference to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Coast Guard.

BUOYS AND MARKERS

Buoys and channel markers function similar to lanes on a highway—designating the safest navigable channel and marking any hazards on the water.

Remember, what you see depends on where you boat—whether inland or o’ shore. If you are traveling to an unfamiliar area, always review nautical charts for safe navigation. These will note buoys and markers in the area.

COMMON TERMS

BUOY—Floats on top of the water and moored to the bottom; shape (cylinder or triangular), color, and numbering is important

BEACON—Permanently fixed, such as pole, lighthouse, or another structure, often with reflective tape or light

CHANNEL MARKER—A buoy or beacon that marks a channel

DAYBOARD/DAYMARKER—Informational signs

WHAT’S THAT COLOR MEAN?

RED AND GREEN

Mark the best channel; like road lanes, stay between these markers and keep to the right.

Navigation Tips:

- Red are even-numbered, green are odd-numbered
- Number on the buoys will decrease as you head further out in open water, and increase as you head toward shore
- Remember the phrase, “Red, Right, Returning”
 - ◊ If returning to land, keep the red buoys on your right (starboard)
 - ◊ If heading out to open water, keep the green buoys on your right (starboard)
- Markers with both red and green indicate a junction of navigable channels; the top color indicates the direction of the preferred, or primary, channel



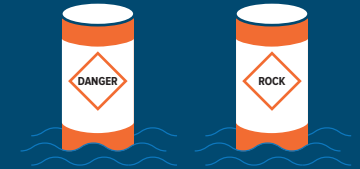
ORANGE AND WHITE

Alerts boaters to potential dangers and regulations, such as swim areas, no wake zones, or other hazards.



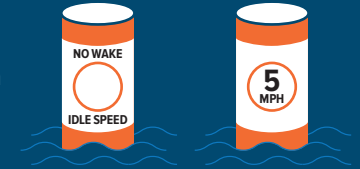
DANGER

A diamond shape alert boaters to hazards



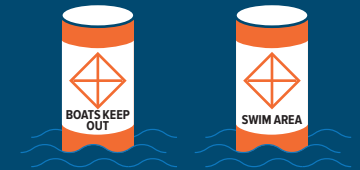
RESTRICTED OPERATIONS

Marks with a circle indicate areas with regulated operations



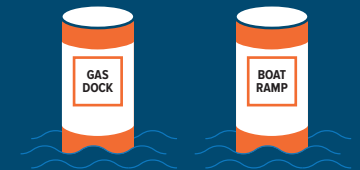
EXCLUSION

A diamond shape with a cross means boats are prohibited from the area



INFORMATION

Marks with a square provide helpful information such as directions, distances, and locations



BLACK AND WHITE

Black and white vertical stripe buoys marks dangers such as shallow areas or rocks; never pass through a group of these buoys or pass between the buoys and shore.



WHITE AND BLUE

Indicates where mooring or tying up is allowed; check your local waters to see which are public versus private.

