

DISTANCE FROM SCUBA DIVER'S FLAG

A vessel shall not be operated within **200 feet** of a buoyed diver's flag unless it is involved in tendering the diving operation. A person diving shall stay within a surface area of **100 feet** of a diver's flag.

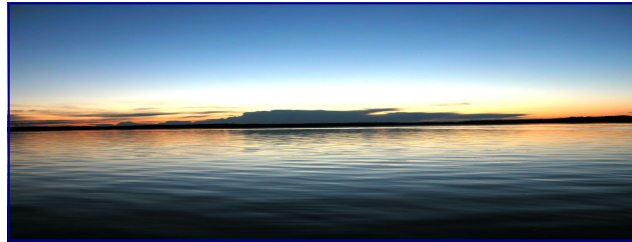


PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) REGULATIONS

1. A person shall maintain a distance of **100 feet** from any dock, boat, raft, buoyed or occupied swimming area while driving at other than slow - no wake speed. A person must stay **200 feet** away from any Great Lakes shoreline.
2. A person shall not cross within **150 feet** behind another vessel other than a personal watercraft that is moving at greater than a slow - no wake speed.
3. A person shall not operate a PWC on the waters of this state from one hour before sunset to 8:00 A.M local time.
4. Maneuvers that endanger life, limb, or property, including weaving through congested traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel, or turning unnecessarily close to another other vessel and/or swerving at the last moment to avoid a collision constitutes reckless operation of a vessel.
5. Carrying more persons than the vessel is designed to carry is prima facie evidence of reckless operation of a vessel.
6. Lanyards must be attached to the operator on vessels that are equipped with lanyards.
7. Approved PFDs must be worn during operation.
8. A person of less than fourteen years of age may not legally operate a PWC under any circumstances.
9. A person who was born on or after **December 31, 1978** shall not operate a PWC on Michigan waters unless they have obtained a boating safety certificate.
10. A personal watercraft shall not be operated at speeds in excess of **55 mph** except where otherwise posted.
11. A person shall not operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless traveling at a slow no - wake speed.



Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a non-profit, primarily volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and effectively managing Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams as well as advocating for the protection of riparian property rights. Our members include lake and stream associations, individuals, corporations and various non-profit advocacy groups that share our concern for the future of our freshwater heritage and associated natural resources.



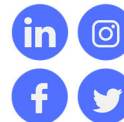
Scan this QR code with the picture app on your phone to be taken to more information on this topic on the MLSA website!



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Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, Inc. hereby disclaims any responsibility pursuant to your interpretation and application of these laws, rules and regulations. **You** are ultimately responsible for knowing the laws as they exist under Michigan's Watercraft & Marine Safety Act.

Michigan's Boating Laws As Of 2020



Watercraft and Marine Safety

MCL 324.80101—324.80322

of the

Natural Resources and Environmental
Protection Act of 1994

Public Act 451

A complete handbook of **Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities** is available for download on the internet at boat-ed.com

It is the responsibility of the watercraft operator to know these laws!

SPEED LIMITS

1. Slow - no wake speed within **100 feet** of the shoreline, any watercraft, pier, person, raft, swimming area, and swimmers.
2. Maximum speed **55 mph.** in all water unless otherwise regulated.
3. Michigan law states that a person operating a vessel shall operate it in a careful and prudent manner and at such a rate of speed so as not to unreasonably endanger the life or property of any person. A person shall not operate a vessel at a rate of speed greater than will permit him, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the vessel to stop within an assured clear distance ahead.
4. A person shall not operate a vessel in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with other persons lawfully using Michigan's water resources.

SLOW - NO WAKE!

Means operating at a very slow speed in order to minimize the wake created by your vessel.

TOWING OF PERSONS

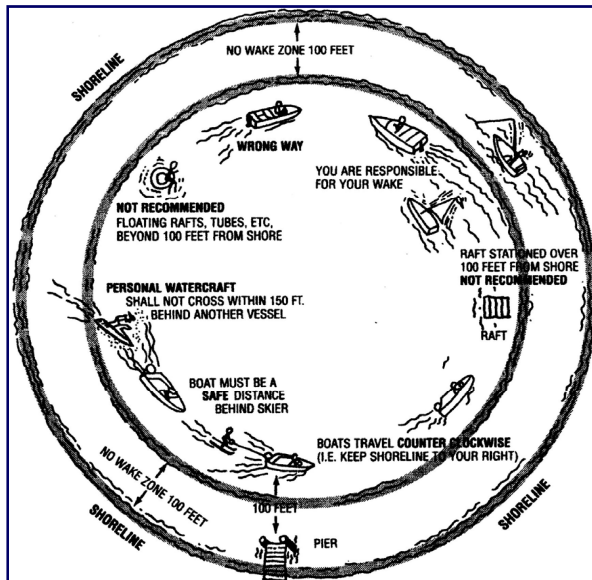
1. No towing between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise. For a PWC (personal watercraft i.e. jet skis, etc), no towing between sunset and 8:00 a.m.
2. At least one competent person, in addition to the driver, shall be in any boat towing persons on water skis, tubes, etc. This additional person (the spotter) shall be in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed.
3. The tow boat must be equipped with a 170 degree wide angle rear view mirror affixed to permit the driver to observe the progress of the person being towed.

DISTANCE BETWEEN PERSONS BEING TOWED AND OTHER OBJECTS

Vessels and persons being towed on water skis, water tubes, etc. shall maintain a distance of **100 feet** from the shoreline and any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied swimming areas, or vessels moored or at anchor, except when the vessel is proceeding at a slow - no wake speed or when water skiers are being picked-up or dropped off.

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE OPERATIONS

Persons operating vessels shall operate in a **counter-clockwise** fashion when it reasonably possible.



CHILDREN OPERATING MOTORBOATS

1. Persons under 12 years of age can operate motorboats if:
 - They have been issued a boating safety certificate & have it on board
 - Are under the direct supervision of a person 16 years of age or older
 - The boat must have no more than 35 HP
 2. Persons born on or after **July 1, 1996** shall not operate a motorboat unless they have been issued a boating safety certificate.
 3. Any person may operate a motorboat that is powered by a motor of no more than 6 HP.
- OPERATING A PWC —
4. A person of **less than 14 years of age** may not legally operate a PWC (personal watercraft) under any circumstances.
 5. A person 14 or 15 years of age may operate a PWC if:
 - They have obtained a boating safety certificate
 - Are accompanied by or are operating the PWC no more than 100 feet from a parent, legal guardian, or another designated person of 21 or older
 6. A person born on or after **December 31, 1978** shall not operate a PWC on Michigan waters unless they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

LIQUOR AND / OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

1. A person who is intoxicated (as defined in the same way as for driving a car) may not operate or be in control of any vessel. The Michigan implied consent law applies for boat operator intoxication testing. Severe fines and/or jail time await those who are observed operating a water craft while intoxicated on alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal).

OPERATION OF VESSELS

1. Sailboats have the right-of-way to motorboats while they are under sail power.
2. Motorboats shall give way to non-motorized vessels.
3. When two vessels are approaching each other head-on, or nearly so, the operator of each shall cause his vessel to pass on the port (left) side of the other (i.e. keep the approaching boat to your left).
4. When overtaking a vessel proceeding in the same direction, the operator of the overtaking vessel, unless it is not feasible to do so, shall pass on the port (left) side of the vessel ahead (i.e. keep the overtaken boat to your right).
5. When two vessels are approaching each other at right angles or obliquely so as to involve risk of collision, the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own port (left) side shall hold his course and speed, and the operator of the vessel which has the other on his own starboard (right) side shall give way to the other by directing his course to starboard so as to cross the stern of the other vessel or, if necessary to do so, shall slacken his speed, stop or reverse.

*All vessels are required to provide at least one **United States Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE** per passenger. Each child under the age of 6 years, and in an open deck area is **REQUIRED** by law to wear a **Type I or II PFD AT ALL TIMES!***



RESPONSIBILITY FOR VESSEL WAKE

The owner of any vessel is personally responsible for any damage to life or property resulting from a wake or swell created by the negligent operation of the vessel, where the vessel is being operated with his consent. Always maintain safe speeds and follow no-wake laws.