

## **Boating Safety Requirements for Southwest Harbor Boat Owners and Users.**

The following requirements are specified in this document and are adopted as safety requirements for the Town of Southwest Harbor, Maine. These regulations apply to both recreational and commercial vessels:

- Registration and Documentation-All recreational boats must be properly documented and registered in the state of principal use.
- Equipment Requirements-All recreational boats must have on board their vessel required equipment that meets U.S. Coast Guard “approved” or “certified” standards including;
  1. One wearable life jacket for each person on board and one throwable device;
  2. Visual distress signals (VDS) for all boats sixteen feet or longer;
  3. Fire extinguishers (marine type) that are inspected monthly. The required minimum number depends upon vessel length as specified in the above document;
  4. A natural ventilation system is required for each compartment in a boat;
  5. Backfire Flame Control (except outboard motors) must be equipped with an acceptable means of backfire flame arrestor (BFA) suitably secured to the air intake with a flame tight-connection. Other acceptable means of backfire flame control include velocity stacks (attachments to carburetors), and reed-type (found in outboards);
  6. Sound Producing Devices are present on all recreational boats to address meeting, crossing, and overtaking situations, described in the Navigation Rules published by the U.S. Coast Guard (COMDTINST M16672.2D), as well as use of such sound producing devices to use sound signals during periods of reduced visibility and while at anchor;
  7. Navigation Lights that are in workable condition and checked for each recreational boating occurrence. Boats are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility (fog, rain, haze, etc.);
  8. All recreational boats are required to adhere to pollution regulations prohibiting throwing, discharging, or depositing any refuse matter of any kind (including trash, garbage, oil, and other liquid pollutants) into the waters of the U.S.;
  9. All recreational boats with installed toilets facilities must have an operable sanitation device (MSD) on board.
- Operating Procedures-All recreational boat operators are required to adhere to the navigation rules-the basic laws governing the steering or sailing of a boat (The Rules of the Road), which define the roles and responsibilities of vessel operators. All recreational boat operator of a vessel 39.4 feet (12 meters) or greater is responsible for having and maintain a copy of the Navigation Rules on Board while operating inland waters.
- All recreational boat operators are expected to be familiar with and understand navigation buoys and beacons to mark safe waters and hidden dangers, as well as to assist boat operators in determining their position in relation to land.

- All recreational boat operators are required to adhere to law enforcement activities conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard as well as other federal, state and local maritime law enforcement officials.
- All recreational boat operators are required to adhere to safe operation of their vessel and avoid any and all negligent operations of a vessel and/or interference with the safe operation of a vessel so as to endanger lives and/or property.
- All recreational boating operators or owner is expected to file a Boating Accident Report if the boat is involved in an accident that results in loss of life; a person disappears from the vessel that indicates death or injury; personal injury that requires medical treatment beyond first aid; damage to the boat and other property damage of \$2000 or more; complete loss of the boat.
- All recreational boat operators are obligated by law to provide assistance that can safely be provided to any individual in danger at sea.

2] The Southwest Harbor Ordinances adopt and support the U.S. Coast Guard recommendation that all recreational boat operators wear a life jacket and require that their passengers do the same.

3] The Southwest Harbor Ordinances adopt and support the U.S. Coast Guard recommendation that all recreational boat operators undergo an annual vessel safety check (VSC) conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the United States Power Squadrons. This is a voluntary action taken by boat operators to ensure that their vessel is in compliance with equipment carriage requirements and safely operate. These vessel safety checks are free of charge and can be scheduled and conducted at the town dock in Southwest Harbor. For more information to schedule a Vessel Safety Check, or more information on the Vessel Safety Check Program, contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or United States Power Squadrons, or visit the Vessel Safety Check website at [www.safetyseal.net](http://www.safetyseal.net). All boats passing an inspection are awarded an annual vessel safety check certificate for mounting on their vessel.

For any questions about the Southwest Harbor Safety Requirements/Recommendations, please contact the Harbor Master, Adam Thurston (207)244-7913.