

A Guide to Boating Law and Safety

ABCs of California Boating

DEAR CALIFORNIA BOATER:

You are among California's four million recreational boaters who visit marinas, lakes, rivers and the ocean seeking an enjoyable outdoor recreational experience. In order to ensure that your experience is a safe and enjoyable one, it is important for you to know and follow the regulations and guidelines found in this booklet.

The *ABCs of California Boating* is based upon the California Harbors and Navigation Code, Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and California Code of Regulations, but uses everyday terms rather than legal language in most instances. Not all provisions of law pertaining to boating are included. Consequently, the booklet is not suitable for use in law enforcement or in litigation.

This booklet is one of many resources available through the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). The division brings together a body of knowledge as the state's expert in recreational boating-related matters, including public access, safety and education, marine law enforcement, and consumer and environmental protection.

Recreational boaters provide the funding for DBW through state fuel taxes paid by boaters when gas is purchased, interest and principal repayment of DBW loans by boating facility owners, state registration fees paid by boaters for motorized recreational boats, and license fees paid by yacht and ship brokers and salespersons.

Visit www.BoatCalifornia.com to learn more about DBW and about the resources available to you.

Have a safe and pleasant boating season.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
California Natural Resources Agency
California State Parks
DIVISION OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS