

CONTENTS

Preparation	1
Boater Education Requirements	1
Weather	2
Safety Communications	2
Fueling	2
Boat Capacity	3
Loading	4
File a Float Plan	4
Waterway Markings	6
Federal Lateral System	6
Uniform State Waterway Marking System	7
Mooring to Buoys	8
Aids to Navigation	9
Rules of the Waterways	10
Navigation Rules	10
Boater Responsibility	10
Navigation Signals	10
Meeting or Crossing Situations	11
Overtaking Situations	12
Other Situations	13
Rules for Sailing Vessels	13
Fog Signals	14
Operational Law	15
Peace Officers	15
Trailerage	15
Stolen Vessels	15
County and City Laws	15
Age Restrictions	16
Speed	16
Carbon Monoxide	16
Reckless or Negligent Operation of a Vessel	17
Hit-and-Run Accidents	17
Operation of a Vessel While Intoxicated	18
Designated Driver Theory	18
Court-Ordered Boating Education	18
Personal Watercraft Operation	19
Water Skiing	20
Diving	21

CONTENTS

Emergency and Accident Procedures **22**

Radio and EPIRB Procedures/Marine Emergency Distress	22
Accident Reporting	23
False Search and Rescue Calls	23

Required Equipment **24**

General Information	24
Sailboats and Manually Propelled Vessels	24
Motorboats Less Than 16 Feet in Length	25
Motorboats 16 Feet to Less Than 26 Feet in Length	26
Motorboats 26 Feet to Less Than 40 Feet in Length	31
Motorboats 40 Feet to 65 Feet in Length	31
Life Jackets	32
Life Jackets and Flotation Devices	34
Underwater Maneuvering Devices	36
Fire Extinguishers	36
Muffling Systems	37
Ventilation Systems	38
Two-Stroke Engines	38
Backfire Flame Control Devices	39
Running Lights	40
Anchor Lights	41
Visual Distress-Signaling Devices	42
Marine Sanitation Devices	44

Green Boating Guidelines **46**

Boater Responsibility	46
Boat Maintenance	46
Oil and Gas	47
Bilge Oil	48
Oily Waste Discharge Placard	49
Aquatic Invasive Species	49
Restrictions on California's Waterways	50
Solid Waste and Marine Debris	50
Marine Pollution Placard	50
Household Hazardous Waste	52
Sewage	52
No Discharge Areas	53
Graywater	53
Fish Waste Management	54
Waste Management Plan	54
Marine Protected Areas	54
Proper Vessel Disposal	55

CONTENTS

Registration 56

General Guidelines	56
How to Register	56
Display of Numbers and Stickers	57
Emission Standards	58
Notification Requirements	58

Resources and Contact Information 59

CHARTS AND TABLES

Boater Education Card Requirement Phase-in Schedule	1
Storm Advisories	2
Checklist And Float Plan	5
Federal Channel Marking System	6
California Waterway Marker System	7
Main Channel Buoys	8
Safe Water Aids	9
Secondary Channel Buoys	9
Navigation Signals	11
Water Skiing Hand Signals	20
California Boating Accident Report	27
Table A–Fire Extinguisher Requirements	37
Table B–Fire Extinguisher Characteristics	37
Night Boating Navigation Lights	40
Recognized Signals	43
Table C–Visual Distress Signals	44
Recommended Additional Equipment	45
Alternatives To Toxic Products	47
Marine Pollution (MARPOL) Regulations	51