Alcohol and Boating Don't Mix
California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways
www.BoatCalifornia.com

The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) recommends neither boat operators nor passengers drink alcoholic beverages while boating.

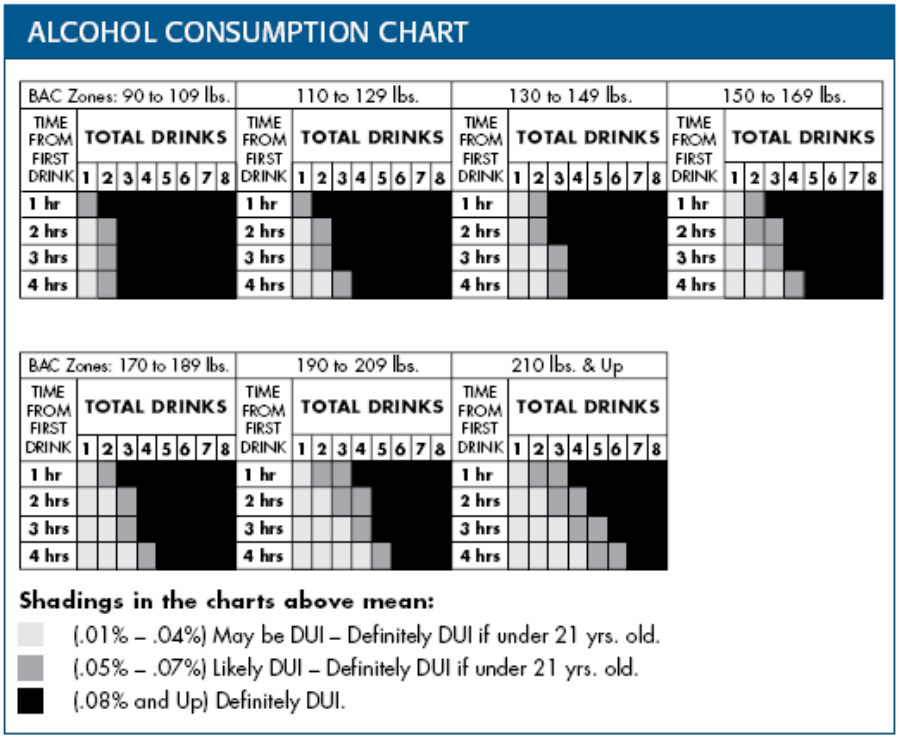
The Law

- It is against the law to operate a boat or water ski with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 percent or more
- You can be arrested even when the BAC is less than 0.08% if conditions are deemed to be unsafe
- If convicted, you may be sentenced to jail for up to 6 months and assessed fines of up to $1,000. Two convictions within 7 years could add a jail term of up to 1 year.

Alcohol Consumption Chart

This chart will help you understand how drinking alcohol can affect you, depending on how much you weigh. It is important to note that any level of alcohol in people under the age of 21 is against the law.

- **BAC .01% to .04% - May be DUI**. Loss of judgement, decreased coordination, thinking dulled, changes in mood and behavior.
- **BAC .05% to .07% - Likely DUI**. Operating ability impaired. Walking, speech, and hand movements clumsy. Chance of accident greatly increased.
- **BAC .08% and over – Definitely DUI**. Inhibitions and judgment seriously affected. Responses slowed and dull. High risk of accident. At .08%, you are legally under the influence of alcohol.



This chart is only intended to be a guide. Actual values may vary by body build, sex, and current health status.

Facts about Consuming Alcohol While Boating

- Drunken passengers can easily fall overboard, swim near the propeller, lean over the side, or stand up in small vessels, causing vessels to capsize.
- Sun, wind, boat and wave action intensify the effects of alcohol.
- Alcohol greatly increases the effects of cold water shock.