

# Boat Safety & Etiquette

## Safety:

- ***Maintain a safe distance if you are operating a motorized boat.*** The law requires that you be 150 feet from non-motorized boats, the shore, docks, swim rafts, swimmers, and moored or anchored boats.
- ***Smaller and non-motorized boats have the right of way.***
- ***Wear a life jacket.*** This is particularly important if you can't swim or are boating in dangerous conditions such as bad weather or when there is a lot of boating activity. If you are knocked unconscious you will sink and even experienced swimmers become disoriented, panic and drown in an accident.
- ***Have a designated driver when drinking on your boat.*** A BWI isn't worth the trouble, risk or cost.
- ***Turn off your boat when loading or unloading skiers, tubers, wake boarders, surfers and swimmers.***
- ***Slow to a "no wake" speed in all marked channels.***
- ***Follow all of the State of Minnesota Water Safety Rules & Regulations.*** Up-to-date booklets are available from the DNR (and are normally available at Hansen Store) or click on the link below.  
***<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/index.html>***

## Etiquette:

- ***Be courteous to other boaters.*** The familiar “wave” is a nice way to acknowledge friendship and promote harmony on the lake.
- ***Avoid anglers whenever possible.*** They love the serenity of the sport and the less disturbance to the waters the better the fishing.
- ***Avoid unnecessary noise.*** Revving up your engine in the early morning and after dark and loud music disturbs everyone on the bay (and loud party boats attract attention from law enforcement.)