

The Boating Lowdown on **Stand Up Paddle Boards**

As a recreational boater who shares the water with many other watercraft, there are things to know about safety, right-of-way, legal operation and personal responsibility when operating a Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP).



- 1** If you are not proficient at operating your SUP, stay close to shore. SUPs are unstable, not very visible, and provide little protection from boat wakes, wind, and other environmental challenges.
- 2** SUP's are considered a boat unless you are in a designated swim area or surf zone. **You are legally required to carry a life jacket**, but it's better to wear it. An inflatable life jacket or "belt pack" is an acceptable option on flat water, but a jacket with inherent flotation is better for beginners. A tether **MAY NOT** be used in lieu of a PFD.
- 3** Make sure you carry an Aquatic Invasive Species prevention permit if SUP is 10' or longer, as well as a whistle or other sound-producing device.

Always remember that each operator is responsible for avoiding collisions and maintaining a proper look out. Avoid boating in the path of larger vessels with limited visibility or limited maneuverability.

Be especially careful when paddling on:

- *Large open waters where wind can quickly create large, rapid waves or swells. Always be aware of the wind.*
- *Moving water where currents, rocks, debris and other obstructions create challenges for SUP operators. Wear a life jacket. A tether may be dangerous here.*

Remember that public waterways are like roads, with lots of different traffic. Entering the traffic stream with larger faster vessels is like taking a hike on a major highway and requires extreme caution.

Please enjoy this healthy, exciting activity, but do so safely and with respect for the other waterway users who are enjoying them with you.

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