

See and Be Seen.

What can you do to see other boaters and to be seen by other boaters?



- Wear bright colors.
- Travel as a group.

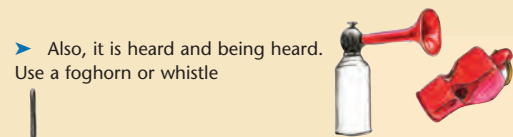


- Waves and swell can easily hide you so that others can't see you



- A rising or setting sun can obscure others from seeing you.

- In darkness, fog, or poor visibility, have a white "all-around" light that is visible from all directions (360°). A flashlight or headlamp can work in a pinch.



- Also, it is heard and being heard. Use a foghorn or whistle



- Consider carrying a hand-held VHF radio to communicate with other boats and authorities. Normally, channel 16 is used as the hailing channel.



DANGEROUS SITUATION OR I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR MESSAGE.

- If you hear five short blast on another boats horn, it is an indication of possible danger. Take immediate action.

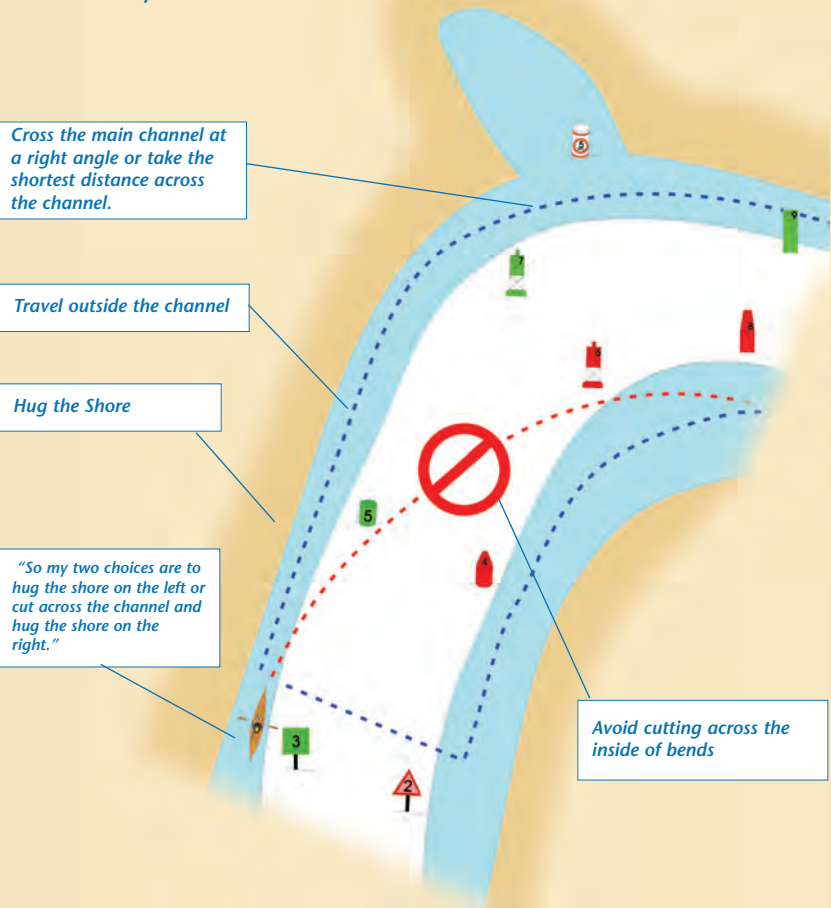
- Also, some areas may require you to carry both day and night distress signals. Check with your local boating authorities requiring requirements.



- **Universal Distress Signal.** Slowly and repeatedly raise and lower your out stretched arms.

Select a Route that Avoids Other Boats.

Choose a route that avoids other boats and select a course of travel where they are not likely to travel.



Defensive Boating

RULES OF THE ROAD FOR PADDLERS

With no traffic lanes or stop signs, no center lanes or off ramps, navigation to the beginning paddler may seem to be chaotic and without rules. However, there are Navigation Rules, or if one prefers, Rules of the Road which helps to prevent chaos. Primarily, these rules exist to prevent collisions on the water.

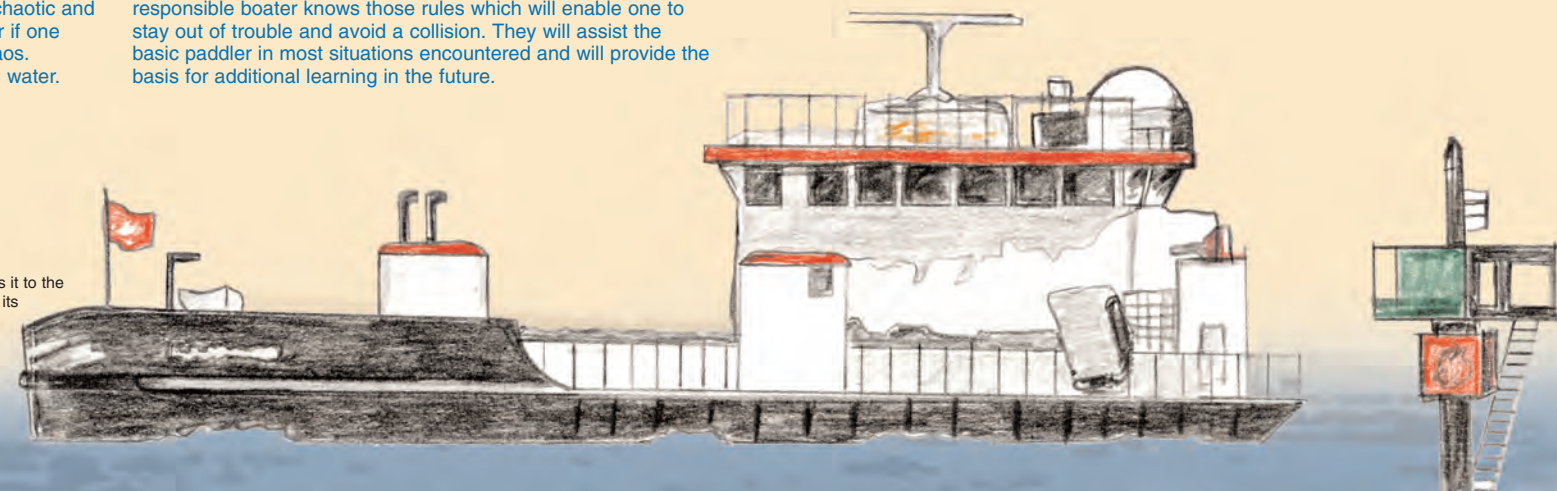
Although a paddler does not need to know all the rules, a responsible boater knows those rules which will enable one to stay out of trouble and avoid a collision. They will assist the basic paddler in most situations encountered and will provide the basis for additional learning in the future.

Responsibilities Between Vessels

Often a boat becomes the "stand-on" boat because its draft restricts it to the channel or because it is performing a specialized task that restricts its maneuverability.

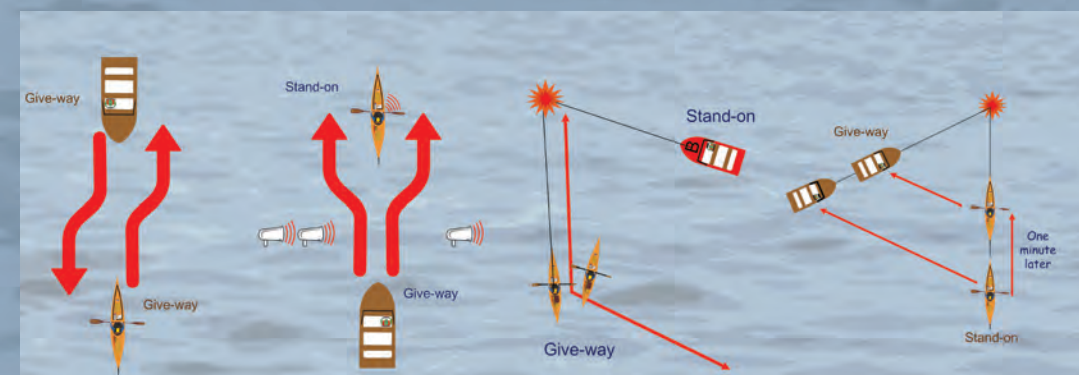
- The boat is disabled, anchored or immobile
- The boat is less maneuverable due to its size or because it is restricted to a channel (cargo ship in channel)
- The boat is performing a task or work that restricts its maneuverability (a dredge, commercial fishing boat that is fishing, etc.)
- A sailboat under sail.

Paddlers, please note that you are the give-way boat to any boat that can only safely navigate in the channel like the one pictured here.



Paddler's Responsibility

It is each skipper's responsibility to do what is necessary to avoid collisions. Each boater needs to maintain a proper look-out and proceed at a safe speed. Paddlers should change their course and/or speed long before the other boat is aware of the need for the change.



Meeting Head-on

When two boats meet head-on, both boats are the give-way boat. Both boats should turn toward their right (starboard) and pass the other boat on their left side (port).

Overtaking

When one boat overtakes (give-way) another boat (stand-on), the stand-on vessel should maintain its course and speed and the overtaking boat should pass to the right (starboard) or left (port). Also, its wake should not cause a mishap.

Crossing

If a paddler encounters a power boater in a potential crossing situation, it is the paddler's responsibility to take evasive action and change its course of travel to avoid a collision. Show your intent to the power boater by turning your kayak so that it is pointing astern or behind the power boat. This clearly indicates your intent to take evasive action and is better than simply stopping which can be confusing to the power boater.

Constant Bearing, Decrease Range

When another moving boat remains in the same relative position to you (constant bearing), a collision is eminent.

The boats meeting in the graphics are drawn closer than they would actually meet in reality. Maneuver early and make it clear to the other boat.



Give-Way and Stand-on Boat

Give-way and Stand-on Boat. When two boaters meet, one boat (sometimes both) is the give-way boat and the other boat is the stand-on boat.

- **Give-way Boat.** It is the give-way boater's responsibility to change speed or direction to avoid a collision.
- **Stand-on Boat.** Initially, it is the stand-on boat's responsibility to maintain its speed and direction to avoid a collision. **If the give-way boat doesn't take evasive action, the stand-on boat may need to change its speed and direction to avoid a collision.**

Safety Education

In an effort to promote a safe and enjoyable boating experience, the ACA offers extensive safety, educational and instructional programs to its members and to the general public. In addition, the ACA is committed to protecting the resource for paddlers and through its programs, it seeks to provide water trails and other scenic places for people to paddle their kayaks and canoes. This wallchart is part of the ACA's effort to promote safe boating.

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The navigation rules of the road presented in this wallchart summarize the rules that paddlers are responsible to know and follow. For a complete listing of the navigation rules, refer to the document "Navigation Rules or the Road" published by the U.S. Coast Guard (COMDTIN 16672.2 Series) and available through the U.S. Government printing office or on the web at: <http://www.uscg.mil/vtm/navrules.pdf>