

## OPERATION OF VESSELS

### Definition of Underway

“Underway” means a vessel that is not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground.

### Speed Limits

Although local conditions may warrant the imposition of definite limitations on the speed of vessels, the only general speed limitation is that which is implied in safe vessel operation under the existing circumstances. Speed which is excessive under the circumstances, and which endangers persons or property, is one form of reckless operation, which is prohibited by the State boating law.

### Boating and Fishing Access Areas

Vessels entering, leaving or passing within 50 yards of a state-owned or controlled boating and fishing access area must do so at “no-wake” speed.

### Reckless Operation

No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel, or manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

### Alcohol and Drugs

No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel, or manipulate any water skis, surfboard, or similar device while under the influence of an impairing substance, nor operate any motor vessel after consuming alcohol sufficient to cause a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater.

### Law Enforcement Vessels

Vessels operated on the waters of this State shall slow to a no-wake speed when passing within 100 feet of a law enforcement vessel that is displaying a flashing blue light unless the vessel is in a narrow channel. Vessels operated on the waters of this State in a narrow channel shall slow to a no-wake speed when passing within 50 feet of a law enforcement vessel that is displaying a flashing blue light.

### Boat Races and Regattas

Regattas, tournaments and other marine exhibitions may be held on navigable waters of the State when approved in advance by the United States Coast Guard. Application must be made to the Coast Guard District Commander at least 30 days prior to the proposed event.