CHAPTER 4: OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES

- Personal Watercraft
- Paddlesports
- Water-skiing and Similar Activities
- Swimming and Diving
- Sailing
- Hunters and Anglers
PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

- Less than 16’ with an inboard engine powered by a water jet pump.
- Operated by sitting, kneeling, or standing.
- Are fast, maneuverable and can operate in somewhat shallow conditions.
PENNSYLVANIA REGULATIONS REQUIRE PWC OPERATORS TO

- Wear life jacket at all times
- Carry a fire extinguisher
- Have a sound producing device

ATTACH CUT-OFF SWITCH SAFETY LANYARD TO CLOTHING, BODY OR LIFE JACKET!
IT IS ILLEGAL TO....

- Operate PWC without a Boating Safety Education Certificate.
- Rent to anyone 15 years or younger – No one less than 16 years of age may operate a RENTED PWC.
IT IS ILLEGAL TO....

- Operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise.
- Tow a water skier with a capacity of two people or fewer.
- Tow more than one skier.
IT IS ILLEGAL TO....

✓ For anyone 11 years or age or younger to operate a PWC.

✓ For anyone 12 through 15 years of age to operate a PWC with any passengers on board 15 years or younger.
PWC CHARACTERISTICS

✓ Jet pump propulsion
✓ Steerable nozzle
✓ Cut-off switch and safety lanyard
✓ No steerage with no power
PWC OPERATION

- Be responsible and considerate
- Noise is a common complaint
- Avoid staying in the same area
  - Be familiar with your craft
- Know how to right and board capsized craft
PWC OPERATION

✓ Wear safety gear
  ✓ Gloves
  ✓ Eye Protection
  ✓ Footwear
  ✓ Thermal Protection
Primary hazards are capsizing, swamping or just falling out of the boat. Keep in mind that paddling is a “get wet” sport.
PADDLING TIPS

- Wear your life jacket
- Expect to get wet
- Be prepared to swim
- Scout ahead whenever possible
- Capsize – stay with your boat unless a life threatening situation
- Be prepared for weather
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Never boat over a low-head dam
- Portage when uncertain
- Never boat alone
- Store painter lines and secure
- Kneel to increase stability
- Lean into obstructions to reduce capsize
- Leave a float plan
WATER-SKIING AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

Includes conventional water-skiing, as well as anyone towed behind a boat on aquaplanes, kneeboards, inner tubes, air mattresses, parasails, kite skis, wake boards or any similar device.
WATER-SKIING AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

Required to wear life jacket designed for the sport.

Inflatable life jackets are NOT acceptable for anyone towed behind a boat.
WATER-SKIING AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

WATER-SKIING HAND SIGNALS

- SPEED OK
- CUT MOTOR
- TURN
- RETURN TO LAUNCH
- SPEED UP
- STOP
- SLOW DOWN
- SKIER OK
- SKIER IN WATER

[Image: Diagram of water-skiing hand signals with illustrations.]
WATER-SKIING AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

Must have a COMPETENT OBSERVER on the boat.
WATER SAFETY TIPS

✓ Prevent prop accidents, turn off engine before picking up any skier

✓ Skiing prohibited between sunset and sunrise

✓ Skiers are counted as passengers with a boat’s carrying capacity
WATER SAFETY TIPS

✓ Unlawful to operate boat beyond safe carrying capacity

✓ Skiers can start from dock if traffic permits – CANNOT return to shore or dock under power

✓ Ramps and jump installation require PFBC permit
WATER SAFETY TIPS

- Mooring or drifting within 100 feet of a ski ramp or jump while it is in use is prohibited.

- Kite skiing and parasailing are permitted only on waters where unrestricted skiing is permitted.
WATER SAFETY TIPS

✓ It is legal to tow more than one skier except when locally prohibited. Ski tow ropes may not exceed the following lengths (as measured from the boat’s transom):
  ✓ Conventional water-ski - 80 feet
  ✓ Parasails - 300 feet
  ✓ Nonreleasable kite ski - 50 feet
  ✓ Releasable kite ski - 500 feet
WATER SAFETY TIPS

✓ Unlawful to operate a motorboat at any speed with a person or persons sitting, riding or hanging on a swim platform (teak surfing) or swim ladder attached to the motorboat, except when launching, retrieving, docking or anchoring the motorboat.
WATER SAFETY TIPS

✓ Unlawful to operate a motorboat at any speed when towing a person on water skis or other devices using a tow rope of 20 feet or less (as measured from the boat’s transom). The minimum tow rope length does not apply to wake surfing.
WATER SAFETY TIPS

Boats engaged in the activity of wake surfing are limited to slow, no-wake speed when within **200 feet** of the shoreline, docks, launch ramps, swimmers or downed skiers, persons wading in the water, anchored, moored or drifting boats and other marked areas.
WATER SAFETY TIPS

Motorboats propelled by an outboard motor, inboard/outboard motor or water jet are prohibited from towing a person in or on the wake of the boat.
SWIMMING AND DIVING

- Always keep a lookout for swimmers and divers.

- Swimming is prohibited at Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission lakes and access areas.

- **DIVER DOWN FLAG** is displayed from a float during diving operations. Flag is red with a white diagonal stripe running from the top of the staff to the opposite lower corner.
SWIMMING AND DIVING

- **CODE FLAG ALPHA** is a blue and white pennant, and boats must display this flag during dive operations if they are restricted in their ability to maneuver.

- Boats not engaged in diving operations shall remain at least **100 feet** from areas displaying the diver down flag or boats displaying the code flag alpha.
SAILING

✓ Have different requirements than other boats

✓ Must be familiar with operation and navigation requirements

✓ Require navigation lights after dusk and periods of restricted visibility
SAILING SAFETY

✓ Sailboaters should stay off the water during storms and periods of extremely high winds.

✓ They should also be aware of overhead power lines.

✓ Life jackets should be worn at all times.
SAILBOARD (WINDSURFER)

✓ A single or double-hulled boat with jointed mast (surfboard with a sail).

✓ Sailboard operators in Pennsylvania MUST WEAR a life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable.
HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

✓ Boat is a platform for the activity. They are STILL boaters! Must follow all boating regulations

✓ Remember:
  ✓ Load your boat properly
  ✓ Remain seated
  ✓ Wear a life jacket
  ✓ Keep an eye on the weather
HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

• **Never anchor from the stern** (back), and stay with your boat if it should capsize.

• Fall dangers
  • Cold water temps
  • Fewer people on the water
  • Wearing bulky clothing
NOTICE
COLD WATER KILLS!
WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

Boaters are required by law to wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30.

Life jackets save lives year-round. In addition to this regulation, the Commission strongly encourages all boaters to wear their life jackets at all times during the other months of the year.
CHAPTER 4: OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES - CONCLUSION