

# Hazards on the Water

## STRAINERS:

Watch someone pour a pot of spaghetti through a kitchen strainer. It separates the spaghetti from the water. Trees, pipes, rocks and garbage in a river do the same thing. Water flows through them. You and your boat do not. Paddle away from strainers.



## LOW-HEAD DAMS:

Low-head dams are difficult to see from upstream and hard to escape. The strong current below a dam will pull you under until it flushes you out hours or days later. Low-head dams are dangerous when approached from upstream or downstream.



## WAVES:

Wind, rocks and big boats cause waves that can swamp a canoe or kayak. Stay low in your boat when paddling through big waves. If you are in a canoe, get on your knees. Do not stop paddling in the wave, because paddles provide extra stability.

