



New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is a collaborative program of the State University of New York, Cornell University, and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

With 3,400 miles of coastlines, New York is the only U.S. state bordering both the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



NYSG provides research, education, and extension services enhancing coastal community economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of NY's marine and Great Lakes resources.

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NYSG Focus Area for this project:

Resilient NY Communities and Economies
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New York Sea Grant Expands Safe Boating Outreach

Developing and distributing new safety materials to thousands of boaters helps reduce preventable boating accidents on New York's waterways.

Boating-related accidents and fatalities pose serious safety concerns across New York's waters. Over the past two decades, more than 400 fatalities have been reported statewide, many linked to boaters not carrying required safety equipment. With more than 20,000 registered recreational boaters in New York, effective education and outreach are essential to reduce risks on the water and improve compliance with safety regulations and recommendations.

To address this need, New York Sea Grant created new "Boating Emergency Equipment" rack cards and outreach materials that summarize the safety equipment every recreational vessel must carry for boating on New York waters. Nearly 5,000 materials were distributed through workshops, marina visits, and outreach events for boaters, marina operators, and boat dealers. Many dealers display the rack cards at their service desks, making them available to the boaters frequenting their facilities. New York Sea Grant has also provided the materials at community events, visitor centers, and public boat launches along New York waters, with digital versions hosted on the New York Sea Grant Safe Boating website at nyseagrant.org/safeboating/.

These new materials from New York Sea Grant expand access to clear, consistent safety information for thousands of motorized and non-motorized boat operators across the state. The updated resources serve as an at-a-glance reference, strengthening awareness of state safety requirements and contributing to safer recreational use of New York's waters.

New York Sea Grant develops new outreach materials to enhance boater safety awareness and to promote responsible recreation on New York's waters.

Project Partner:

- New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

BOATING EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT
MANDATORY GEAR BY WATERCRAFT TYPE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABOUT SAILBOATS: Sailboats under 36' long must follow requirements for motorized watercraft of matching length.

WATERCRAFT TYPES

NON-MOTORIZED PADDLEBOAT / NON-MOTORIZED SAILBOAT

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) (Personal Watercraft)

MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT UNDER 20' / MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT BETWEEN 20'-36'

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT

These items are not required but are recommended that you carry on board your vessel:

- First Aid Kit
- Brig Journal/Boat Log
- Tool kit with spare parts
- Flotation
- Marine radio
- Charged cell phone

IMPORTANT FACTS

- All boaters under the age of 18 must wear a PFD while on board a boat. Boats less than 65'; this requirement begins on the 1st Saturday in May and ends on the 1st Saturday in September.
- Seasonally all boaters 21' and over must wear a PFD between the months of 1st and May 1st.
- Any boater 13 years of age or younger towed behind a vessel must wear a PFD.
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