

the **HANDBOOK!**

OF **SOUTH DAKOTA BOATING LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**



2016 Edition



South Dakota

Department of Game, Fish & Parks

The purpose of the Department of Game, Fish & Parks is to perpetuate, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance South Dakota's wildlife resources, parks, and outdoor recreational opportunities for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors, and to give the highest priority to the welfare of this state's wildlife and parks, and their environment, in planning and decisions.



DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

manages South Dakota's wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats for their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare, and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors.



605-223-7660

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

is committed to providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, acting as a catalyst for a growing tourism economy, and preserving the resources with which we are entrusted. We will accomplish this through efficient, responsive, and environmentally sensitive management and constructive communication with those we serve.

605-773-3391

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
www.gfp.sd.gov



the **HANDBOOK!**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA BOATING LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Published by Boat Ed, a division of Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC, 14086 Proton Road, Dallas, TX 75244, 214-351-0461. Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright © 2005–2016 by Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any process without permission in writing from Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC. Effort has been made to make this publication as complete and accurate as possible. All references contained in this publication have been compiled from sources believed to be reliable, and to represent the best current opinion on the subject. Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC is not responsible or liable for any claims, liabilities, damages, or other adverse effects or consequences to any person or property caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly from the application or use of the information contained in this publication. P0516

 **kalkomey™**
www.kalkomey.com

This publication printed at a cost of \$0.44 per copy.

Copyright © 2016 Kalkomey Enterprises, LLC and its divisions and partners, www.kalkomey.com

Table of Contents

Boating Basics

Before Going Out

Vessel Capacity	4
Fueling a Vessel	4

On the Water

Encountering Other Vessels	6
Navigation Rules	7
Nighttime Navigation	8
U.S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON)	10

Specifically for PWCs

Steering and Stopping a PWC ..	12
Ignition Safety Switches	13
Courtesy When Encountering Other Vessels.	13

It's the Law!

Before Going Out

Registering Your Vessel	14
Other Facts About Titling and Registering	16
Where To Register.	16
Vessel Registration Fees	17
Hull Identification Number	17
Who May Operate a Vessel.	17

Required Equipment

Personal Flotation Devices	18
Navigation Lights	20
Fire Extinguishers	22
Ventilation Systems	22
Backfire Flame Arrestors	23
Mufflers	23
Sound-Producing Devices	23

On the Water

Unlawful Operation	24
Requirements Specific to PWCs.	24
Towing Skiers	26
Obstructing Navigation.	27
Alcohol and Drugs	27
Enforcement	28
Accidents and Casualties	28
Diver-Down Flags	29
Discharge of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances.	30
Discharge of Waste	30
Discharge of Trash.	31

Protecting the Environment	32
Public Water Zones	33
Required Equipment Checklist	inside back cover



The Turn In Poachers (TIPs) number is for reporting wildlife law violations only. Operators are not equipped to handle information requests or to transfer calls.

Stay updated on new boating laws ...

- For boating law information, call the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks: **605-223-7660**
- Or visit the Game, Fish & Parks website at:
www.gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/boating/
- For water zoning information visit:
<http://legis.sd.gov/Rules/DisplayRule.aspx?Rule=41:04:02>



Information in this handbook does not replace what is specifically legal for boating in South Dakota, which is found in South Dakota statutes, administrative rules, and federal laws.

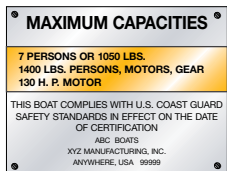


Before Going Out

Before going out on the water, take steps to make the outing safe and enjoyable.

Vessel Capacity

- Always check the capacity plate to make sure you don't swamp or capsize your vessel by overloading it. This plate is usually found near the operator's position or on the vessel's transom. It indicates the maximum weight capacity, maximum number of people the vessel can carry safely, and maximum horsepower.
 - The vessel operator is responsible for loading and powering the vessel safely and may not exceed any of the capacity limits. This requirement also applies to vessel owners who are allowing others to operate the vessel.
 - The limits on a vessel's capacity plate are strictly enforced.
- Personal watercraft (PWCs) and some other vessels are not required to have a capacity plate. Always follow the recommended capacity in the owner's manual and on the manufacturer's warning decal.
- On vessels less than 20 feet in length without a capacity plate, you can use the following rule of thumb to calculate the number of persons (weighing 150 lbs. each, on average) that the vessel can carry safely in good weather conditions.
Number of people = vessel length (ft.) x vessel width (ft.) ÷ 15
- When determining the number of people on board a vessel, persons on water skis, inner tubes, or similar devices are counted as passengers even when they are being towed and must be included in the maximum number of people allowed.



Fueling a Vessel

It is not recommended to fuel at night unless it is an emergency. If you must refuel after dark, use only electric lights. Try to refuel away from the water or on a commercial fueling ramp.

■ Before beginning to fuel:

- Dock the boat securely and ask all passengers to exit.
- Do not allow anyone to smoke or strike a match.
- Check all fuel lines, connections, and fuel vents.
- Turn off anything that might cause a spark—engines, fans, or electrical equipment.
- Shut off all fuel valves and extinguish all open flames, such as galley stoves and pilot lights.
- Close all windows, ports, doors, and other openings to prevent fumes from entering the boat.
- Remove portable fuel tanks and fill them on the dock.

■ While filling the fuel tank:

- Keep the nozzle of the fuel-pump hose in contact with the tank opening to prevent producing a static spark.
- Avoid spilling fuel into the boat's bilge or the water.
- Never fill a tank to the brim—leave room to expand.

The most important safe fueling practice...

If your vessel is equipped with a power ventilation system, turn it on for at least four minutes after fueling and before starting your engine to remove gas vapors in the bilge.

■ After fueling:

- Wipe up any spilled fuel.
- Open all windows, ports, doors, and other openings.

Additional Safety Procedures for PWCs

- Do not tip the PWC in order to fill it. If the tank is overfilled, the fuel may expand and spill into the water.
- After fueling, open the door of the engine compartment and sniff to check for any evidence of gas fumes. Do this before starting the engine. If you do smell gas fumes, determine the source and make repairs immediately.



On the Water

Safe navigation on South Dakota waterways is everyone's responsibility. All operators are equally responsible for taking action necessary to avoid collisions. The navigation rules for all boats underway on the waters of South Dakota are those listed in CFR. For a complete list of boat navigation rules in South Dakota, refer to the Federal Inland Navigation Rules: 33 CFR § 83.01-83.19.

Encountering Other Vessels

Even though no vessel has the "right-of-way" over another vessel, there are some rules that every operator should follow when encountering other vessels. It is the responsibility of both operators to take the action needed to avoid a collision. The next page shows what to do when encountering another vessel.

To prevent collisions, every operator should follow the three basic rules of navigation.

- Practice good seamanship.
- Keep a sharp lookout.
- Maintain a safe speed and distance.

Encountering Vessels With Limited Maneuverability

- When operating a power-driven vessel, you must give way to:
 - Any vessel not under command, such as an anchored or disabled vessel
 - Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver, such as a vessel towing another or laying cable, or one constrained by its draft, such as a large ship in a channel
 - A vessel engaged in commercial fishing
 - A sailboat under sail unless it is overtaking
- When operating a vessel under sail, you must give way to:
 - Any vessel not under command
 - Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver
 - A vessel engaged in commercial fishing

Navigation Rules

There are two terms that help explain these rules.

- **Stand-on vessel:** The vessel that should maintain its course and speed
- **Give-way vessel:** The vessel that must take early and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down, or changing course

Power vs. Power



Meeting Head-On

Power vs. Power: Neither vessel is the stand-on vessel. Both vessels should keep to the starboard (right).

Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.

Crossing Situations

Power vs. Power: The vessel on the operator's port (left) side is the give-way vessel. The vessel on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand-on vessel.

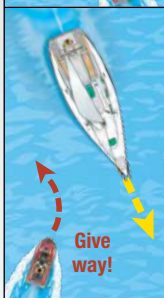
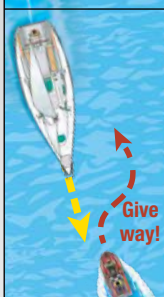
Power vs. Sail: The powerboat is the give-way vessel. The sailboat is the stand-on vessel.

Overtaking

Power vs. Power: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.

Power vs. Sail: The vessel that is overtaking another vessel is the give-way vessel. The vessel being overtaken is the stand-on vessel.

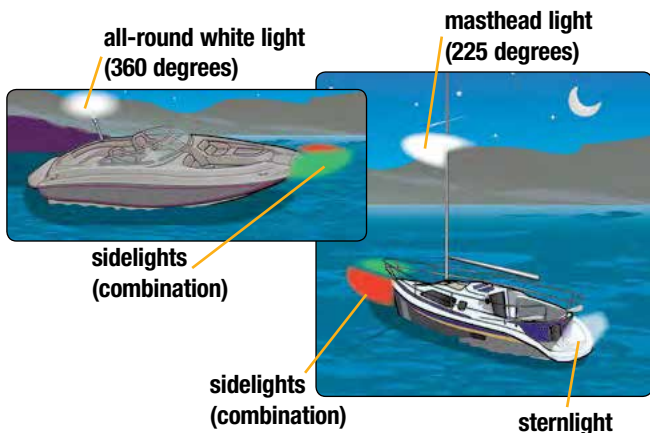
Power vs. Sail



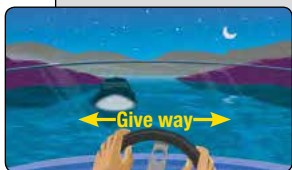
Nighttime Navigation

Be on the lookout for the lights of other vessels when boating at night. Several types of lights serve as navigational aids at night. There are four common navigation lights.

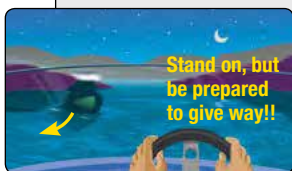
- **Sidelights:** These red and green lights are called sidelights (also called combination lights) because they are visible to another vessel approaching from the side or head-on. The red light indicates a vessel's port (left) side; the green indicates a vessel's starboard (right) side.
- **Sternlight:** This white light is seen from behind or nearly behind the vessel.
- **Masthead Light:** This white light shines forward and to both sides and is required on all power-driven vessels. A masthead light must be displayed by all vessels when under engine power. The absence of this light indicates a sailboat under sail.
- **All-Round White Light:** On power-driven vessels less than 39.4 feet in length, this light may be used to combine a masthead light and sternlight into a single white light that can be seen by other vessels from any direction. This light serves as an anchor light when sidelights are extinguished.



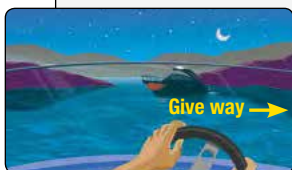
Encountering Vessels at Night



When you see only a white light, you are overtaking another vessel. It is the stand-on vessel whether it is underway or anchored. You may go around it on either side.



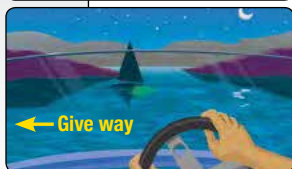
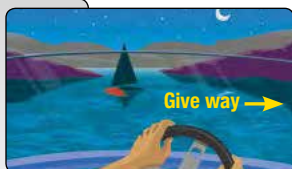
When you see a green and a white light, you are the stand-on vessel. However, remain alert in case the other vessel operator does not see you or does not know the navigation rules.



When you see a red and a white light, you must give way to the other vessel! Slow down and allow the vessel to pass, or you may turn to the right and pass behind the other vessel.

Encountering a Sailboat at Night

When you see **only a red light** or **only a green light**, you may be approaching a sailboat under sail and you must give way. The sailboat under sail is always the stand-on vessel!



U.S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON)

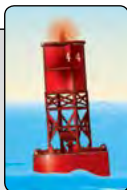
Buoys and markers are the “traffic signals” that guide vessel operators safely along some waterways. They also identify dangerous or controlled areas and give directions and information. As a recreational boat or PWC operator, you will need to know the lateral navigation markers and non-lateral markers of the U.S. Aids to Navigation System.

Lateral Markers

These navigation aids mark the edges of safe water areas; for example, directing travel within a channel. The markers use a combination of colors and numbers, which may appear on either buoys or permanently placed markers.

Red colors, red lights, and even numbers

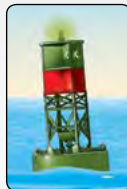
indicate the right side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.



Green colors, green lights,

and odd numbers indicate the left side of the channel as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream.

Red and green colors and/or lights indicate the preferred (primary) channel. If green is on top, the preferred channel is to the right as a boater enters from the open sea or heads upstream; if red is on top, the preferred channel is to the left.



Non-Lateral Markers

Non-lateral markers are navigational aids that give information other than the edges of safe water areas. The most common are regulatory markers which are white and use orange markings and black lettering. These markers are found on lakes and rivers.



Information

Squares indicate where to find food, supplies, repairs, etc. and give directions and other information.



Controlled

Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or “slow, no wake.”



Exclusion

Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



Danger

Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always proceed with caution.

Specifically for PWCs

Although a personal watercraft (PWC) is considered an inboard vessel and comes under the same rules and requirements of any other vessel, there are specific considerations for the PWC operator.

Steering and Stopping a PWC

steering control



steering nozzle

- PWCs are propelled by drawing water into a pump and then forcing it out under pressure through a steering nozzle at the back of the unit. This “jet” of pressurized water is directed by the steering control—when the steering control is turned, the steering nozzle turns in the same direction. For example, if the steering control is turned right, the nozzle turns right and the jet of water pushes the back of the vessel to the left, which causes the PWC to turn right.

Remember—no power means no steering control ...

Most PWCs and other jet-drive vessels must have power in order to maintain control. If you allow the engine on these PWCs to return to idle or shut off during operation, you lose all steering control. The PWC will continue in the direction it was headed before the engine was shut off, no matter which way the steering control is turned. New PWCs allow for off-throttle steering.

- **A PWC has no brakes.** Always allow plenty of room for stopping. Just because you release the throttle or shut off the engine does not mean you will stop immediately.

Ignition Safety Switches

- Most PWCs and powerboats come equipped by the manufacturer with an important device called an emergency ignition safety switch. This is a safety device that is designed to shut off the engine if the operator is thrown from the proper operating position.
- A lanyard is attached to the safety switch and the operator's wrist or PFD. The safety switch shuts off the engine if the operator falls off the PWC or out of the powerboat. If your vessel does not come equipped with an ignition safety switch, you should have one installed.
- In South Dakota, it is illegal to ride your PWC without attaching the lanyard properly between the switch and yourself.



Courtesy When Encountering Other Vessels

- Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another PWC or boat, creates risks and is restricted or even prohibited in some states. The vessel making the wake may block the PWC operator's view of oncoming traffic and also conceal the PWC operator from approaching vessels.
- Excessive noise from PWCs often makes them unwelcome with other vessel operators and people on shore. Be a courteous PWC operator.
 - Vary your operating area, and do not keep repeating the same maneuver.
 - Avoid congregating with other PWC operators near shore, which increases annoying noise levels.
 - Avoid making excessive noise near residential and camping areas, particularly early in the morning.
 - Avoid maneuvers that cause the engine exhaust to lift out of the water because that increases noise levels.
 - Do not modify your engine exhaust system if it increases the noise. Improperly modified exhausts will not make your PWC faster and may raise the noise to an illegal level.

Before Going Out

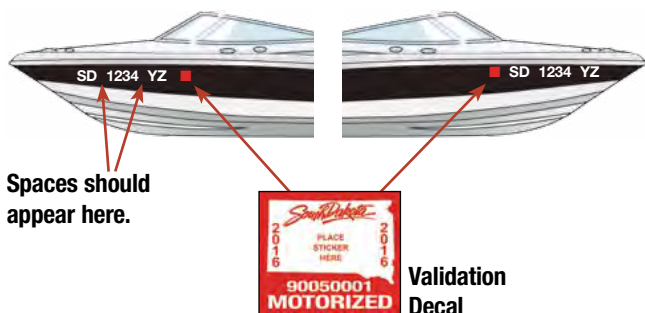
All operators are required to obey laws that regulate your vessel's registration, titling, and operation.

Registering Your Vessel

- You must have a South Dakota registration card and validation decals to legally operate a vessel on waters of this state. Exceptions to the registration requirement are:
 - Vessels 12 feet or less in length without a motor of any kind
 - Vessels properly registered in another state and located in South Dakota for less than 60 consecutive days within one calendar year*
 - Vessels documented with the U.S. Coast Guard and used on South Dakota waters for less than 60 consecutive days within one calendar year*
- The registration card must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is being operated.
- The “boat number” (number on the registration card) and validation decals must be displayed as follows.
 - Number must be painted, applied as a decal, or otherwise affixed to both sides of the bow such that the number is clearly visible and readable at a distance of 100 feet when the vessel is in the water.
 - Number must read from left to right on both sides of the bow.

[illegible]

* Note: Vessels that are berthed at a South Dakota marina must have a South Dakota registration if the contract for the berth is for 60 or more consecutive days within a calendar year.



- Number must be in at least three-inch-high **BLOCK** letters.
 - Number's color must contrast with its background.
 - Letters must be separated from the numbers by a space: **SD 123 AB** or **SD 1234 YZ**.
 - No other numbers may be displayed on either side of the bow.
 - Decals must be affixed on both sides of the bow, adjacent to and in line with the number.
- Requirements for display of the boat number and validation decals depend on the length of the vessel.
- Non-motorized vessels that are 12 feet or less in length are not required to display the boat number or the validation decals.
 - Non-motorized vessels that are more than 12 feet but are 18 feet or less in length are not required to display the boat number but must display the validation decals.
 - All motorized vessels (including electric motors) and all vessels that are more than 18 feet in length must display both the boat number and the validation decals.
- If your vessel requires registration, it is illegal to operate it or allow others to operate your vessel unless it is registered and numbered properly.

Other Facts About Titling and Registering

- Boats over 12 feet in length and all motorized boats purchased or acquired by a resident of South Dakota on or after July 1, 1993, must be titled. Canoes, inflatable boats, kayaks, sailboards, and seaplanes cannot be titled.
- Vessels are registered for a one-year period.

Where To Register

Registering a vessel, applying for a title, transferring vessel ownership, and replacing lost validation decals are done through the county treasurer offices in the applicant's county of residence. Contact your local county treasurer's office or call **605-773-3541**. Registration application forms also are available online at <http://dor.sd.gov/#Boats>

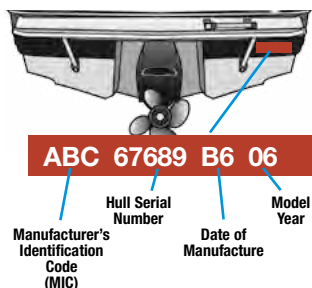
- Damage disclosure is required on all vessels that apply for a Certificate of Title if the vessel is six years old or less. Damage disclosure must be made if the vessel has incurred damage in excess of \$5,000 at any one time or if the vessel has damage in excess of \$5,000 that has not been repaired.
- If a registration or validation decal is lost or destroyed, the vessel owner must apply to the county treasurer in the applicant's county of residence for a duplicate.
- Larger recreational vessels owned by U.S. citizens may (at the option of the owner) be documented by the U.S. Coast Guard. Call the USCG at **1-800-799-8362** for more information. Documented vessels on South Dakota waters are required to be registered but not titled. They must display the validation decals but are not required to display the boat number.

Vessel Registration Fees

Type and Length of Vessel	One-Year Registration
Non-motorized vessels more than 12 feet long and vessels propelled only by electric motors	\$15
Motorboats less than 19 feet long (includes personal watercraft)	\$25
Motorboats 19 feet long or longer	\$45

Hull Identification Number

All vessels built after 1972, including homemade boats, must have a 12-digit Hull Identification Number. If a vessel has no HIN, or if the manufacturer's HIN has been removed, obliterated, or altered, the owner must apply to the local county treasurer's office for an HIN. It is illegal to destroy, remove, alter, cover, or deface an HIN.



Who May Operate a Vessel

- **Motorboats:** No person under 12 years of age may operate a motorboat propelled by a motor of more than 6 horsepower unless there is a person 18 years of age or older on board the motorboat.
- **Personal Watercraft:** No person under the age of 14 may operate a personal watercraft, regardless of horsepower, unless there is a person 18 years of age or older on board the PWC. An exception to this law may be made in the case of an emergency.
- It is illegal for the owner of a personal watercraft or a motorboat to allow his or her vessel to be operated by an underage person in violation of these laws.

Required Equipment

When preparing to go out on the water, the operator must check that the legally required equipment is on board the boat. In South Dakota, a “boat” is defined as “every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.”

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- All vessels must have at least one USCG–approved wearable PFD for each person on board or being towed. Inflatable PFDs are not approved for persons being towed.
- All vessels 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, also must carry on board one USCG–approved throwable device.
- All children under seven years of age must *wear* a PFD on any vessel operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed” unless they are below deck or in an enclosed cabin. Inflatable PFDs are not approved for children under 16 years of age.
- A personal watercraft may not be operated unless each person on board is *wearing* a USCG–approved PFD. Inflatable PFDs are not approved for use on PWCs.
- A Type V hybrid PFD is acceptable only if it is worn at all times except when the person is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.
- Besides being USCG–approved, all PFDs must be:
 - *In good and serviceable condition.*
 - *Readily accessible*, which means you are able to put the PFD on quickly in an emergency.
 - *Of the proper size for the intended wearer.* Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.



BE A LIFESAVER!

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

www.SafeBoatingCampaign.com



Wearable Offshore Life Jackets

These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



Wearable Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. Wearable near-shore vests may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



Wearable Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.



Throwable Devices

These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a throwable PFD is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.



Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, Type V hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. *To be acceptable, these PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.*

Navigation Lights

The required navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

Power-Driven Vessels When Underway

If less than 65.6 feet long, these vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 1. Remember, power-driven vessels include sailboats operating under engine power. The required lights are:

- Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least two miles away—or if less than 39.4 feet long, at least one mile away—on a dark, clear night.
- An all-round white light or both a masthead light and a sternlight. These lights must be visible from a distance of at least two miles away on a dark, clear night. The all-round white light (or the masthead light) must be at least 3.3 feet higher than the sidelights.

Unpowered Vessels When Underway

Unpowered vessels are sailboats or vessels that are paddled, poled, or rowed.

- **If between 23.0 feet long and 65.6 feet long**, vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 2. The required lights are:
 - Red and green sidelights visible from at least two miles away—or if less than 39.4 feet long, at least one mile away.
 - A sternlight visible from at least two miles away.
- **If less than 23.0 feet long** vessels should:
 - If practical, exhibit the same lights as required for unpowered vessels less than 65.6 feet in length.
 - If not practical, have on hand at least one lantern or flashlight shining a white light as in illustration 3.

All Vessels When Not Underway

All vessels are required to display a white light visible in all directions whenever they are moored or anchored outside a designated mooring area between sunset and sunrise.

1. Power-Driven Vessels Less Than 65.6 Feet



The masthead light and sternlight may be combined as an all-round white light on vessels less than 39.4 feet long.



2. Unpowered Vessels Less Than 65.6 Feet



An alternative to the sidelights and sternlight is a combination red, green, and white light, which must be exhibited near the top of the mast.

3. Unpowered Vessels Less Than 23.0 Feet



Vessel operators should never leave shore without a flashlight. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

Fire Extinguishers

- All vessels, including personal watercraft, of a type and construction that would allow explosive or flammable gases or vapors to be trapped are required to have at least one Type B fire extinguisher on board.
- Approved types of fire extinguishers are identified by the following marking on the label—"Marine Type USCG Approved"—followed by the type and size symbols and the approval number.
- Use this chart to determine the size and quantity required for your vessel.



Fire Extinguisher Requirements

Classification type & size	Foam minimum gallons	Carbon Dioxide minimum pounds	Dry Chemical minimum pounds
B-I	1¼	4	2
B-II	2½	15	10

Length of Vessel	Without Fixed System	With Fixed System*
Less than 26 ft.	one B-I	None
26 ft. to less than 40 ft.	two B-I or one B-II	one B-I
40 ft. to less than 65 ft.	three B-I or one B-II and one B-I	two B-I or one B-II

* refers to a permanently installed fire extinguisher system

Ventilation Systems

Properly installed ventilation systems greatly reduce the chance of a life-threatening explosion.

- All gasoline-powered vessels, constructed in a way that would entrap fumes, must have at least two ventilation ducts fitted with cowls to remove the fumes.
- If your vessel is equipped with a power ventilation system, turn it on for at least four minutes after fueling and before starting your engine.



Backfire Flame Arrestors

Because vessel engines may backfire, all powerboats (except outboards) that are fueled with gasoline must have a U.S. Coast Guard–approved (comply with SAE J-1928 or UL 1111 standards) backfire flame arrestor on each carburetor.

Mufflers

Vessel operators may not hear sound signals or voices if the engine is not adequately muffled.

- The exhaust of every internal combustion engine on any vessel must be muffled effectively. That is, the engine's exhaust must be muffled or suppressed at all times so as not to create excessive noise.
- The use of cutouts is prohibited, except on racing boats competing in approved marine events.

Sound-Producing Devices

The requirements for sound-producing devices are:

- **Vessels less than 16 feet in length, which includes PWCs**, are not required by state law to carry a sound-producing device, but it is highly recommended that these vessels carry at least a whistle. (Note: If operating on federally controlled waters, a whistle or horn audible for at least one-half mile is required for these vessels.)
- **Vessels that are 16 feet but less than 26 feet** in length are required to carry on board a whistle or some other means to make an efficient sound signal audible for at least one-half mile.
- **Vessels that are 26 feet but less than 40 feet** in length are required to carry on board a power-operated whistle audible for at least one mile.
- **Vessels that are 40 feet or more** in length are required to carry on board a bell *and* a power-operated whistle audible for at least one mile.



On the Water

In addition to the laws mentioned previously, here are some other South Dakota regulations that apply when vessel operators are on the water.

Unlawful Operation

South Dakota law states that these dangerous operating practices are illegal.

- **Reckless Operation** of a vessel is operating in a negligent manner that causes danger to the life, limb, or property of any person.
- **Careless Operation** of a vessel is operating in a way that creates undue hazard to others. Examples of careless operation include:
 - Operating in such a way that creates an undue hazard to other boats, swimmers, and persons on shore by its wash or wake.
 - Operating at speeds that are unreasonable for the time, place, and surrounding conditions.
 - Operating at unreasonable speeds or water-skiing in harbors, near bathing beaches, docks, landings, piers, anchorages, anchored boats, or fishing boats. Speed is reasonable when it does not create an undue hazard or cause damage to others.

Requirements Specific to PWCs

PWC operators must obey the laws that apply to other vessels as well as obey additional requirements that apply specifically to the operation of personal watercraft.

- Every person on board a PWC must *wear* a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device (PFD). Inflatable PFDs are not approved for use on PWCs.

- If the PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch, the lanyard must be attached to the person, clothing, or PFD of the operator.
- PWCs may not be operated between sunset and sunrise unless they are equipped with the required navigation lights (see earlier section, “Navigation Lights”).
- No one under the age of 14 may operate a personal watercraft unless there is a person 18 years of age or older on board the PWC. An exception to this law may be made in the case of an emergency.
- It is illegal to operate a PWC at greater than “slow, no wake speed” within 150 feet of:
 - A dock
 - A swimmer
 - A swimming raft
 - A non-motorized boat

“Slow, No Wake Speed” means the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steering but in no case greater than five miles per hour.

- PWCs must be operated in a responsible manner at all times. Maneuvers that endanger people or property are prohibited, including:
 - Weaving a PWC through congested waterway traffic
 - Jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed
 - Waiting until the last possible moment to swerve and avoid collision
- It is illegal to chase, harass, or disturb wildlife with a PWC.
- It is illegal to operate a PWC through emergent floating vegetation at greater than “slow, no wake speed.”

Towing Skiers

Vessel operators towing a person(s) on water skis, a surfboard, or other devices must obey these laws.

- A person may not be towed on water skis, a surfboard, or other devices between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
- When a vessel is towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, or other devices, there must be a means to observe the person being towed. The vessel must have either:
 - A competent person on board, in addition to the operator, to act as an observer *or* ...
 - A wide-angle (at least 160 degrees) rearview mirror positioned so that the operator can view the towed person.
- Those towing skiers on water skis, a surfboard, or other devices and those being towed must act in a safe and prudent manner. It is illegal to operate the vessel or manipulate the towing rope, water skis, or other devices such that the towed device or person collides with any other person or object.
- Water-skiing is prohibited in harbors or near swimming areas, docks, landings, piers, anchorages, anchored vessels, and fishing boats.



Obstructing Navigation

It is illegal to:

- Operate any vessel in such a way that it will interfere unnecessarily with the safe navigation of other vessels.
- Anchor a vessel in the traveled portion of a river or channel in a way that will prevent or interfere with any other vessel passing through the same area.
- Moor or attach a vessel to a buoy (other than a mooring buoy), beacon, light, or any other navigational aid placed on public waters by proper authorities.
- Move, displace, tamper with, damage, or destroy any navigational aid.
- Obstruct a pier, wharf, boat ramp, or access to any facility.
- Place buoys on public waters with the exception of fishing marker buoys (which may be utilized by lawful anglers provided they are removed by sunset each day) and buoys marking submerged or partially submerged hazards to navigation.

Alcohol and Drugs

- South Dakota law prohibits anyone from boating under the influence (BUI)—that is, operating any vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- South Dakota law states that a person is considered to be boating under the influence (BUI) if:
 - The alcohol concentration in his/her blood or breath is 0.08% or more *or...*
 - The person is under the influence of alcohol, any other drug, or combination of drugs and/or alcohol to a degree that makes him/her incapable of safely operating the vessel.



Just remember this simple rule:

Don't Drink and Boat!

Enforcement

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks officers and all other law enforcement officers enforce the boating laws of South Dakota. U.S. Coast Guard officers also patrol and have enforcement authority on federally controlled waters.



- Officers have the authority to stop and board your vessel in order to check that you are complying with state and federal laws.
- It is illegal to refuse to follow the directive of a law enforcement officer. An operator who has received a visual or audible signal from a law enforcement officer must bring his/her vessel to an immediate stop.

Accidents and Casualties

- An operator involved in a boating accident must:
 - Stop his/her vessel *immediately* at the scene of the accident **and...**
 - Assist anyone injured or in danger from the accident, unless doing so would seriously endanger his/her own vessel or passengers **and...**
 - Give, in writing, his/her name, address, and vessel identification to anyone injured and to the owner of any damaged property.
- A vessel operator involved in a boating accident must report the accident if it results in:
 - Death or disappearance of any person **or...**
 - Injury to any person **or...**
 - Damage in excess of \$1,000 to any one person's property or total damage in excess of \$2,000 (for example, property damage may include damage from striking submerged objects such as stumps, rocks, etc.).

- Accidents must be reported immediately, by the quickest means of communication, to the nearest South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks officer or other law enforcement officer.
- In the event the operator is incapable of reporting the accident, another occupant of the vessel involved in the accident must provide notification of the accident.

Diver-Down Flags

- Persons scuba diving, skin diving, snorkeling, or underwater spearfishing must display a diver-down flag to mark their diving area.
- The flag must be clearly visible and securely attached or anchored to a float, a rubber tube, or a boat.
- A diver must stay within 75 feet of a diver-down flag.
- No person may place a diver-down flag in such a manner that the flag restricts watercraft navigation.
- Vessels not engaged in diving operations must stay at least 75 feet away from any displayed diver-down flag.



Divers Flag

A rectangular red flag, at least 12 x 15 inches in size, with a white diagonal stripe

Discharge of Oil and Other Hazardous Substances

- It is illegal to discharge oil or hazardous substances.
- You are not allowed to dump oil into the bilge of the vessel without means for proper disposal.
- You must dispose of oil waste at an approved reception facility. On recreational vessels, a bucket or bailer is adequate for temporary storage prior to disposing of the oil waste at an approved facility.
- If boating on federally controlled waters and your vessel is 26 feet or longer, you must display a 5 x 8-inch placard made of durable material, fixed in a conspicuous place in the machinery spaces or at the bilge pump control station, stating the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's law.

If your vessel discharges oil or hazardous substances in the water, immediately call the National Response Center at **1-800-424-8802**.



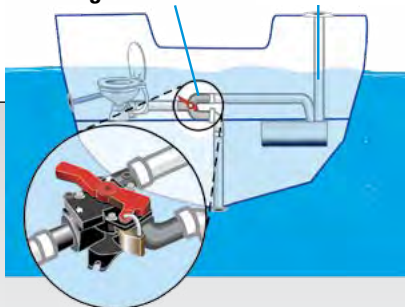
Discharge of Waste

- South Dakota law states that every vessel with kitchen or toilet facilities must be equipped and operated to handle or treat liquid and solid waste in a manner that will prevent pollution of the water.
- Federal law states that every vessel with an installed toilet must have an operable USCG-certified marine sanitation device (MSD) on board.

Typical Marine Sanitation Device

"Y" valve must be secured so waste cannot be discharged into water.

Drainage to pump-out station



Types of MSDs

There are three types of MSDs.

- Types I and II MSDs treat waste with special chemicals to kill bacteria before the waste is discharged. Types I and II MSDs with "Y" valves that would direct the waste overboard must be secured so that the valve cannot be opened. This can be done by placing a lock or non-reusable seal on the "Y" valve or by taking the handle off the "Y" valve in a closed position.
- Type III MSDs provide no treatment and are either holding tanks or portable toilets. Collected waste should be taken ashore and disposed of in a pump-out station or onshore toilet.

Discharge of Trash

It is illegal to dump refuse, garbage, or plastics into federally controlled and state waters.

- You must store trash in a container while on board and place it in a proper receptacle after returning to shore.
- If boating on federally controlled waters and your vessel is 26 feet or longer, you must display a Garbage Disposal Placard that is at least 4 x 9 inches and notifies passengers and crew about discharge restrictions.

Protecting the Environment

Introducing non-native species into state waters is illegal and can upset our fragile ecosystems. Aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels, milfoil, and purple loosestrife, often spread between waterways by hitching a ride on vessels and trailers. When transplanted into new waters, invasive species proliferate, displacing native species and damaging the water resource.

- You may not launch a boat or trailer into state waters with an AIS attached or on board.
- When your boat is out of the water, you must open or remove all drain plugs or similar devices unless:
 - The boat stays in the boat ramp parking area **or...**
 - The boat is being launched or loaded **or...**
 - You are going to an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station and can get there without leaving the boat ramp parking area.
- Any boat or trailer may be inspected for AIS by an SDGFP representative. You must follow any instructions you receive after an inspection.
- To help protect South Dakota waters:
 - Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving the area.
 - Drain all water from your boat, motor, live wells, ballasts, and bilge on land before leaving the area.
 - Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release or dump live bait into a body of water.
 - Rinse or dry your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when you left a body of water. Use high pressure and/or hot water, or air-dry your vessel for at least five days.
 - Report any AIS you see to the nearest SDGFP office.

Zebra Mussels



Courtesy of
SD GF&P

Quagga Mussels



Courtesy of
SD GF&P

Silver Carp



Courtesy of
SD GF&P

**For more
information on
AIS in South
Dakota, visit:**



Before you leave a launch area or an immediately adjacent fish cleaning station, you must:

- Open or remove the plugs and drain all lake water from your boat **and...**
- Make sure all bait containers are free of lake water.

Public Water Zones

Aurora County: The waters of Wilmarth Lake in Aurora County are a “no wake zone.”

Beadle County: The waters fronting on that portion of North Lake Byron Lakeside Use Area beginning at the east property line and extending approximately 400 feet westerly from this point are a “no boating zone”; Staum Dam is a “no wake zone.”

Bon Homme County: The waters within the marina of the Springfield unit of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area are a “no wake zone”; and All of Lake Henry is a “no wake zone.”

Brookings County:

■ Lake Poinsett:

- The waters fronting on that portion of the shoreline beginning approximately 1,800 feet west of the east property line marker located between sections 3 and 4 of the department public access area in the north half of section 4, township 112, range 52 west of the fifth principal meridian and extending approximately 700 feet westerly from this point are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters fronting on the waterfront area north of the main building of the Lake Poinsett Methodist Camp for a distance of 500 feet along the shoreline centering just north of the main building are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters fronting on that portion of Lake Poinsett State Recreation Area beginning at a point 500 feet west of the boat ramp and extending 2,150 feet west are a “no wake zone”;

■ The waters of East Oakwood Lake in sections 8, 9, 16, 17, the south half of section 4, and the south half of section 5, township 111 north, range 51 west of the fifth principal meridian are a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;

■ The waters of Johnson Lake fronting on that portion of Oakwood Lakes State Park beginning at the center point of the change house sidewalk and extending 180 feet east and west of that point along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”; and

■ The waters of Upper Tetonkaha Lake in Oakwood State Park north of a line from 100 feet south of the public boat ramp to the south point of Scout Island are a “no wake zone.”

Brown County:

- The waters fronting on the public boat ramp located near the emergency spillway on Richmond Lake are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters fronting on that portion of the waterfront of the Richmond Lake State Recreation Area beginning at a point on the shoreline directly northeast of the northeast corner of the bathhouse and extending northwesterly for 200 feet and southeasterly for 600 feet are a “public swimming zone”;

- The waters fronting on the public boat ramp near the Elm Lake resort on Elm Lake beginning at the Brown County Road 3A grade and running north approximately 300 feet are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Willow Dam Wildlife Management Area (Game Production Area) are a “no motor vehicle zone”;
- The waters in the area marked with buoys in the northeast portion of Wylie Lake in the city of Aberdeen are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of Putney Slough Game Production Area located within Sections 7, 8, 17, and 18, township 124 north, range 61 west are a “no boating zone” from October 15 to December 31, inclusive;
- The waters of Richmond Lake are a “no wake zone” during any time at which the water level in Richmond Lake reaches the height of 18 inches or more over the level of the top of the spillway.

Brule County:

- The waters of American Creek Bay on Fort Randall Reservoir from a point on the west edge of State Highway 50 where the present riprap begins near the north edge of the State Highway 50 bridge, then in a northwesterly direction for a distance of approximately 250 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
- All waters of American Creek Bay on Fort Randall Reservoir starting at the entrance of the bay, except the “public swimming zone” described in subdivision (1) of this section, are a “no wake zone.”

Buffalo County: The waters of Lake Sharpe in Buffalo County on the upstream side of the Big Bend Dam spillway beginning at a point on the northeast side of the spillway and running westerly approximately 600 feet along the top of the bank, then southwesterly approximately 1,000 feet across the water in front of the spillway, then southeasterly to State Highway 47W are a “no boating zone.”

Butte County:

- All waters within a 300-foot radius of the boat ramps located in Rocky Point Recreation Area on Belle Fourche Reservoir are a “no wake zone”;
- The Belle Fourche River is a “no boating zone” from the U.S. Highway 212 Bridge to a point 300 feet downstream of the Bureau of Reclamation diversion structure;
- The waters fronting the west side of Rocky Point Recreation Area between campsite number 41 and campsite number 42, and are marked with buoys, are a “public swimming zone.”

Charles Mix County:

- In the North Point Area of Lake Francis Case, the waters in St. Francis Bay and Prairie Dog Bay starting at the center of the respective boat ramps and extending outward in a 150 yard radius are a “no wake zone”;

- The waters fronting on the campground beach of Pease Creek Recreation Area located along the eastern shoreline at the mouth of Pease Creek Bay in section 14, township 6 north, range 67 west of the fifth principal meridian are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Francis Case fronting on that portion of the shoreline of Snake Creek Recreation Area from a point 80 feet due south of the center of the Double Vault/Change Stall building, and extending 200 feet in a southeast direction, and extending 300 feet in a northwest direction are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of Lake Francis Case lying within the Platte Creek Recreation Area in section 15 and within the east 400 feet of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 16, township 98 north, range 69 west of the fifth principal meridian are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Francis Case lying within the Snake Creek Recreation Area in section 15, township 99 north, range 70 west of the fifth principal meridian are a “no wake zone”;
- In the North Point Recreation Area of Lake Francis Case, the waters fronting the St. Francis Beach parking lot approximately 450 feet in length and marked with buoys are a “public swimming zone”;
- In the North Point Recreation Area of Lake Francis Case, the waters fronting the North Point campground beach parking lot approximately 400 feet in length and marked with buoys are a “public swimming zone”;
- In the North Wheeler Recreation Area of Lake Francis Case, all waters north and west of the boatramp breakwater are a “no wake zone”; and
- In the North Point Recreation Area of Lake Francis Case, all waters north and east of the existing breakwater structure of the North Point ramp basin are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Francis Case fronting on that portion of the shoreline of Platte Creek Recreation Area, from a point on the west facing culvert near the road across from the Cabin #2 pull off, extending 140 feet in a north-northwesterly direction to the water’s edge, then extending 250 feet along the shoreline in a south-southwesterly direction are a “public swim zone.”

Clark County: Waters within Reid Lake are designated as a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive.

Codington County:

- Lake Kampeska:
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Stokes Thomas City Park beginning at the north property line and extending approximately 300 feet southerly are a “no wake zone” and the waters fronting on that portion of Stokes Thomas City Park beginning approximately 300 feet south of the north property line and extending approximately 825 feet southerly from this point are a “public swimming zone”;

- The waters fronting on that portion of Jackson Park beginning at the north property line and extending approximately 400 feet southerly from this point are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Sandy Shore Recreation Area beginning approximately 500 feet west of the east property line and extending approximately 600 feet westerly from this point are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Memorial Park beginning 385 feet west of the permanent boat ramp and extending westerly approximately 330 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters within a 50-foot radius of the boat ramps and docks located at Thomas-Stokes City Park, Jackson City Park, Memorial County Park, Sandy Shore Park, and the Sailboat Access are a “no swimming zone”;
 - The waters in the channel known as Hidden Valley are a “no wake zone”;
- That portion of Long Lake in sections 11, 12, 13, and 14 of township 117 north, range 55 west, is a “no boating zone” year round;
 - All of McKilligan Lake is a “no boating zone” during open season on migratory waterfowl;
 - All of Horseshoe Lake is a “no motors zone” during open season on migratory waterfowl;
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Punished Woman Lake beginning at the South Shore city boat dock and continuing approximately 300 feet west are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Lake Pelican Recreation Area beginning at a point on the shoreline directly at the center of the bathhouse and extending 125 feet easterly and 125 feet westerly from that point are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters of Blythe Slough in portions of sections 27 and 28 of township 117 north, range 55 west, are a “no boating zone” from March 1 to August 31, inclusive.

Corson County: In Corson County those waters fronting on that portion of the Indian Memorial Recreation Area or Marina Bay of Oahe Reservoir, beginning at the first pier on the south end of the Grand River bridge and due west to the water’s edge are a “no wake zone.” Within the boundary of the bay all swimming, bathing, fishing, and water skiing are prohibited.

Custer County:

- Sylvan Lake:
 - All of Sylvan Lake is an “electric motors only zone”;
 - The waters in the area marked with buoys in the northwest portion of Sylvan Lake are a “public swimming zone”;

■ Legion Lake:

- All of Legion Lake is an “electric motors only zone”;
- The waters in the area marked with buoys in the northeast portion of Legion Lake are a “public swimming zone”;

■ Center Lake:

- All of Center Lake is a “no wake zone”;
- The waters in the area marked with buoys in the northwest portion of Center Lake are a “public swimming zone”;

■ The waters in the area marked with buoys in the east portion of Stockade Lake are a “public swimming zone.”

Davison County:

- The waters of Lake Mitchell fronting on the public beach located on lots 24 through 32 of the southeast quarter of section 4, township 103 north, range 60 west of the fifth principal meridian, are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of Lake Mitchell fronting on the campground beach in the southeast quarter of section 9 are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of Kippes Bay on Lake Mitchell in the northwest quarter of section 9 and the southwest quarter of section 4 are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters in the west end of Lake Mitchell located south and west of a line extending from the lake point located in the southwest quarter of section 32 to a point on the shoreline 100 feet north of the entrance to the man-made channel connecting Lake Mitchell and Firesteel Creek, are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters from the west end of Lake Mitchell, to include Firesteel Creek and the man-made channel connecting Lake Mitchell and Firesteel Creek, to the north-south road separating section 31, township 104 north, range 60 west and section 36, township 104 north, range 61 west are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Mitchell are a “no wake zone” during any time at which the water level in Lake Mitchell reaches the height of 12 inches or more over the level of the top of the spillway. Once in effect, the “no wake zone” shall remain in effect until such time as the water level of the lake drops to the level of six inches over the level of the top of the spillway.

Day County:

■ Pickerel Lake:

- The waters fronting on that portion of West Pickerel Recreation Area beginning at a point along the shoreline 40 feet east of the concrete boat landing and extending 200 feet easterly along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters fronting on that portion of West Pickerel Recreation Area beginning at a point along the shoreline at the center of the boat ramp and extending 40 feet in each direction along the shoreline are a “no wake zone”;

- The waters fronting on that portion of East Pickerel Recreation Area beginning at a point along the shoreline directly in front of the center of the bathhouse and extending 250 feet easterly and 200 feet westerly along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters fronting on that portion of Blue Dog Lakeside Use Area beginning at the east property boundary and extending 300 feet westerly along the shoreline are a “no wake zone”;
- Hillebrand’s Lake is a “no boating zone”;
- Spring Lake is a “no boating zone”;
- Swan Pond is a “no boating zone”;
- That portion of Waubay Lake known as Windgate Arm lying east of the dike located in the south half of section 36, township 123 north, range 55 west of the fifth principal meridian is a “no boating zone”;
- The waters within the boundary of Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, including the waters within the Waubay State Game Refuge, except for designated trails, are a “no motor vehicle zone”;
- The waters fronting on Enemy Swim Lakeside Use Area beginning at the north property line and extending 350 feet southeasterly along the shoreline area are a “no wake zone”; and
- The waters fronting on that portion of Indian Bay of Enemy Swim Lake within the property boundaries of NESODAK Bible Camp are a “public swimming zone.”

Deuel County:

- The waters of Lake Cochrane fronting on that portion of the shoreline beginning at the east property line of the Cochrane State Recreation Area located in outlot A of government lot five, in section 4, township 114 north, range 47 west of the fifth principal meridian and extending approximately 400 feet westerly from this line are zoned as follows:
 - The westerly 300 feet is a “public swimming zone”; and
 - The easterly 100 feet is a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Cochrane fronting on that portion of the shoreline beginning at the east line of lot 1, Clear Water Beach, and extending westerly from this area to the west edge of the east half of lot 1 of “The Elms,” all in government lot 6, section 4, township 114 north, range 47 west are a “no wake zone”; and
- All of Lake Oliver is a “no wake zone.”

Dewey County: In Dewey County the waters fronting on the south shore of Little Moreau No. 2 Dam starting approximately 70 feet west of the boat ramp and continuing westerly 120 feet are a “public swimming zone.”

Edmunds County:

- The waters of Mina Lake fronting on that portion of the waterfront area of the Mina Lake State Recreation Area from a point along

the shoreline due south of the southwest corner of the bathhouse and extending 200 feet in either direction along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”;

- The waters of Mina Lake fronting on the waterfront area extending southwest of the south end of the dam located on the southeast side of the lake for 100 yards are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of Mina Lake fronting on the east bridge across S.D. Highway 134 are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Mina Lake are a “no wake zone” during any time at which the water level in Mina Lake reaches the height of 18 inches or more over the level of the top of the spillway.

Fall River County:

- Cold Brook Reservoir is a “no motors zone,” except electric motors are permitted;
- Angostura Reservoir:
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline beginning at the boat ramp at the south boat basin and extending 500 feet northwesterly and 500 feet southeasterly from that point are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline beginning at the boat ramp at the north boat basin and extending 500 feet northerly and 500 feet southerly from that point are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline from a point on the shoreline 1,000 feet northwesterly of the beach change house No. 1 to a point 400 feet southeasterly of the beach change house No. 1 are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters within an area starting at a point on the west end of the rock point at the Angostura Marina and extending approximately 1,100 feet southwesterly to a point on the opposing shoreline 600 feet east of the picnic shelter on Shelter Point are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters within 100 feet fronting on that portion of the dam which includes the five control gates and the canal siphon are a “no boating zone”;
 - The waters of the Angostura Marina from the north end of the floating breakwater to a point northeasterly on the opposing shoreline approximately 650 feet distant are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters within the boat basin located in the south unit of Angostura are a “no wake zone”; and
 - The waters within the Sheps Canyon Bay starting at a point 750 feet northeasterly of the boat ramp are a “no wake zone”; and
- The waters of Cottonwood Reservoir are an “electric motors zone.”

Gregory County: The waters of Burke Lake fronting on that portion of Burke Lake Recreation Area beginning at a point on the shoreline approximately 275 feet west of the boat ramp and continuing westerly for 150 feet are a “public swimming zone”; The waters of Ft. Randall

Reservoir lying west of the mouth of Ash Canyon Bay in the Buryanek Recreation Area are a “no wake zone”; The waters of Ft. Randall Reservoir fronting approximately 300 feet of South Shore Lakeside Use Area and extending approximately 150 feet out from the waters edge are a “no wake zone.”

Hamlin County: The waters of Lake Poinsett fronting on that portion of department land known as Sorenson Public Access Area beginning at a point approximately 100 feet north of the south property line in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 36, township 113 north, range 53 west of the fifth principal meridian and extending approximately 500 feet northerly of this point are a “no wake zone”; The waters of Lake Norden fronting on that portion of the land known as the Lake Norden Recreation Area beginning at a point 70 feet southwest of the spillway and extending approximately 275 feet southwesterly from that point are a “no wake zone.”

Hand County: The waters fronting on that portion of Lake Louise starting from a point on shore approximately 200 feet northeasterly of the bathhouse and extending approximately 350 feet southerly along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”; Wall Lake is a “no motors zone” during the waterfowl seasons.

Hanson County: Lake Hanson is a “no wake zone” when the lake elevation is 12 inches or greater over the spillway elevation.

Hughes County:

- On the Missouri River, the waters fronting on that portion of the Griffin Park waterfront area beginning on the north side of the Capitol Lake drainage ditch where it empties into the river and running approximately 350 yards in a northwesterly direction upstream from the point of beginning are a “public swimming zone”;
- On the Missouri River, the waters fronting on that portion of the Griffin Park waterfront area beginning approximately 20 yards west of the entrance to the Pierre city marina and running approximately 300 yards in a northwesterly direction upstream from the point of beginning are a “no wake zone”;
- Except for the public swimming zone established in subdivision (4) of this section, all of the waters in Hipple Lake west of a line starting from a point on the north shore approximately 300 feet west of the concrete boat ramp and running approximately in a straight line across the water to the south shore of the lake are an “electric motors zone”;
- The waters of Hipple Lake beginning at a point approximately 300 feet west of the concrete boat ramp and continuing west approximately 600 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters inside the marina at West Bend Recreation Area are a “no wake zone”;

- The waters inside the Pierre city marina are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters inside the floating breakwater protected area at Spring Creek Recreation Area are a “no wake zone,” and the waters within 20 feet of the breakwater are a “no swimming zone.”

Hutchinson County: Silver Lake is a “no boating zone” during a Conservation Order (spring taking of light geese) as well as during the regular open season on migratory waterfowl; Tripp Lake is a “no wake zone”; Dimock Lake is a “no wake zone”; Menno Lake is a “no wake zone.”

Jerauld County: That portion of Crow Lake in Jerauld County lying west of the north/south section lines between sections 22 and 23 and sections 26 and 27, township 106 north, range 66 west is a “no motorized boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive.

Kingsbury County: Spirit Lake is a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive; Whitewood Lake Waterfowl Refuge is a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive; The waters fronting the shoreline of Lake Thompson State Recreation Area starting at a point 100 feet east of the inlet from where Lake Henry enters the lake to a point 400 feet east are a “no boating zone.”

Lake County:

- The waters within a 100-foot radius of the public boat ramp at the East Brant Lake Access Area are a “no swimming zone” and a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lake Herman in Lake Herman State Park beginning at a point on the shoreline 110 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the bathhouse, then extending in a southerly direction along the shoreline for approximately 300 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
- The meandered portion of Milwaukee Lake located in section 33, township 107 north, range 51 west and section 4, township 106 north, range 51 west is a “no motors zone” for boats from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;
- Long Lake is a “no wake zone” except during the months of July and August;
- Lake Madison:
 - The waters within a 100-foot radius from the center of the east entrance to Harbor Bay are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Hilde Marina including the entrance canal are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Sunset Harbor including the entrance canal are a “no wake zone.”

Lincoln County:

- Lake Alvin:
 - The lake is a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting on that portion of the shoreline of Lake Alvin Lakeside Use Area from a point due south of the west corner of the beach parking lot and extending approximately 500 feet westerly and approximately 300 feet easterly are a “public swimming zone”;
- Lake Lakota:
 - The waters fronting on that portion of the shoreline beginning at a point on the west side of the hard surface boat ramp and continuing westerly 400 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The lake is a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Rollings Game Production Area are an “electric motors zone.”

Lyman County: The waters of Lake Sharpe on the upstream side of the dam beginning at a point on the south side of Big Bend Dam on State Highway 47W and running in a northwesterly direction upstream approximately 900 feet, then northerly across in front of the powerhouse structure approximately 950 feet, then northeasterly approximately 600 feet back to State Highway 47W, are a “no boating zone”; The waters of Lake Francis Case within Cedar Shores marina are a “no wake zone.”

Marshall County: The waters of Roy Lake fronting on the north shore of the west unit of Roy Lake State Park starting at the light pole on the west side of the boat ramp and continuing westerly about 700 feet are a “public swimming zone”; and the waters fronting on the west shore of the east unit of Roy Lake State Park starting at a point approximately 330 feet south of the boat ramp, then continuing southerly approximately 225 feet are a “public swimming zone.”

McCook County:

- East Vermillion Lake:
 - The waters west of the two large signs placed by the department on each side of the lake on the shoreline easterly of the swimming beach are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters within a 100-yard radius of boat launching ramps are “no wake zones”;
 - The waters fronting on the waterfront starting at a point on the shoreline south of the southeast corner of the bathhouse and extending along the shoreline easterly for 135 feet and westerly for 165 feet are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters located in the southwest quarter of section 11, the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 23, and all of section 14, township 102 north, range 53 west of the fifth principal meridian, lying north and west of the signs placed by

the department are a “no wake zone”;

- That portion of Island Lake lying north of McCook County Road 6 is a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;
- The waters of Battle Creek west of McCook County Road 3A are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Lehrman Game Production Area in section 32, township 103 north, range 56 west are a “no boating zone” during a Conservation Order and during any open season for migratory waterfowl, inclusive.

McPherson County: The waters of Lake Eureka starting at the swimming pier on the south shore of Lake Eureka and continuing 300 feet east are a “public swimming zone.”

Meade County: Bear Butte Lake in Meade County is a “no motors over 25 h.p. zone.”

Minnehaha County:

- Wall Lake, the waters within an area starting from the property line between lots 19 and 20 on a line approximately 100 feet north, then northwesterly approximately 300 feet from shoreline to the point of the island are a “no wake zone.” Swimming in this area is prohibited; and the waters fronting on an area starting at a point along the shoreline 100 feet easterly of the living quarters of the roller rink to a point approximately 800 feet northeasterly of the starting point on a line with the Girl Scout Camp Stone Cottage, then southeasterly for approximately 300 feet to a point at the ordinary high-water mark directly in front of the outlet are a “public swimming zone”;
- Clear Lake is a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;
- Loss Lake is a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of the Big Sioux River within the city of Sioux Falls from Falls Park Drive to Sixth Street are a “no swimming zone”;
- The waters of that portion of Island Lake lying north of Minnehaha County Road 110 are a “no boating zone” from October 20 to December 31, inclusive;
- The waters of Family Park are a “no motors zone” and a “no swimming zone”;
- The waters within the manmade and natural connection between the north and south basins of Twin Lakes in Section 17, Range 52W, Township 103N are a “no wake zone.”

Moody County: The waters of Lake Campbell fronting on an area beginning at a point approximately 300 feet west of the northwest corner of outlot B of government lot two of section five, township 108 north, range 50 west of the fifth principal meridian, then northerly approximately 170 feet, then westerly approximately 420 feet, then

southerly to the shoreline, then easterly along the shoreline to the point of beginning are a “no boating zone”; The waters of that portion of Lake Campbell lying south of Moody County Road 1 are a “no wake zone”; The waters of Battle Creek from its confluence with Lake Campbell south to the steel bridge one mile south of Moody County Road 2 are a “no wake zone.”

Pennington County:

- All waters of Deerfield Reservoir are a “no wake zone”;
- Pactola Reservoir:
 - The waters inside the bay at Custer Gulch, commonly known as the South Marina, south of a line beginning 1,000 feet north of the marina store on the east shore of the bay and running approximately in a straight line west across the water to the west shore of the bay are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Ranger Bay, commonly known as the South Boat Launch, southeast of a line beginning approximately 800 feet east of the boat launch and running in an arc northwesterly across the water to a point on the west shoreline of the bay where the section line between sections 3 and 10 of township 1 north, range 5 east, intersects the shoreline are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters fronting the shoreline on the west side of the Pactola Point Day Use Area beginning at a point approximately due west of the north end of the Day Use Area parking lot, extending out into the water approximately 150 feet, then southerly for approximately 300 feet, then easterly to a point on the shoreline approximately due west of the south end of the Day Use Area parking lot are a “public swimming zone”;
 - The waters of Brennan Gulch, commonly known as the Veterans Point Day Fishing Access Area, north of a line beginning at the island off the point and extending approximately in a straight line easterly to the opposing shoreline on the face of the dam are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Web Hill Draw, commonly known as the North Boat Launch, north of a line beginning at a point 500 feet south of the boat launch on the west shoreline of the bay and extending approximately in a straight line across the water to the east shoreline of the bay are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Bear Gulch lying south of an east-west line across the embayment approximately 1,000 feet north of the south end of the bay are a “no wake zone”;
 - The waters of Pactola Lake west of a line beginning approximately 1,500 feet east of the rock point at the mouth of Jenny Gulch on the north shoreline at Helen Draw and extending approximately in a straight line in a southeasterly direction to the opposing shoreline, including the waters of Inlet Bay, Empress

Gulch, and Jenny Gulch, are a “no wake zone”;

- The waters of Boarding House Gulch north of a line beginning approximately 600 feet south of the section line dividing section 34, township 2 north, range 5 east and section 3, township 1 north, range 5 east of the west shoreline of the bay and extending approximately in a straight line easterly across the water to the east shoreline of the bay are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of the bay northeast of the U.S. Forest Service Campground Loop “B”, commonly known as Musekamp Draw, lying southwest of a line beginning at the northwest point at the mouth of the bay and extending southeasterly in approximately a straight line across the water to the southeast point at the mouth of the bay are a “no wake zone”;

■ Sheridan Lake:

- The waters of Horse Creek Bay, commonly known as the North Marina, west of a line beginning approximately 600 feet east of the boat ramp on the north shoreline and extending approximately in a straight line southwesterly to the opposing shoreline are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters fronting on the shoreline of Horse Creek Bay, extending out into the water approximately 150 feet, from a point on the shoreline 150 feet northeast of the north swim beach comfort station to a point 150 feet southwest of the north swim beach comfort station are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of the Spring Creek inlet south of a line beginning at a point approximately 300 feet northeast of the swimming beach parking lot on the southeast shoreline of the bay and extending in approximately a straight line across the water to the opposing shoreline are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters fronting on the shoreline of the Spring Creek Inlet Bay, extending out into the water approximately 150 feet, from a point on the shoreline approximately 300 feet northeast of the south swim beach comfort station to a point 300 feet southwest of the south swim beach comfort station are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters of the bay on the southwest side of the Sheridan Lake Campground complex southwest of a line beginning at a point on the west point of the bay and extending approximately in a straight line southeasterly to the opposing shoreline on the east side of Calumet Point are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters of Calumet Bay, commonly known as the South Boat Launch area, south of the section line dividing sections 12 and 13, township 1 south, range 5 east, are a “no wake zone.”

Perkins County:

■ **Shadehill Reservoir:**

- The waters fronting on the north side of the reservoir beginning 150 feet from shore directly in front of the picnic shelter and extending 250 feet to the east along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”;
- The waters beginning approximately 300 feet south of the Ketterlings Point boat ramp and extending from the west shoreline to the east shoreline encompassing the bay where the Ketterlings Point boat ramp is located are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters fronting the Ketterlings Point beginning 150 feet from shore in the center of the lodge on the east side of the point and extending around the south end of the point ending approximately in the center of the lodge on the west-facing side of the point are a “no wake zone.”

Potter County: The waters fronting on that portion of the West Whitlock Recreation Area starting at a point 220 feet east of the northwest corner of the bathhouse and extending 550 feet south along the shoreline are a “public swimming zone”; The waters fronting the south East Whitlock boat ramp from a point 150 feet southeast of the ramp to a point 500 feet northwest of the ramp are a “no wake zone”; The waters fronting the north East Whitlock boat ramp from a point 200 feet west of the ramp to a point 200 feet east of the ramp are a “no wake zone.”

Roberts County: The waters of Big Stone Lake fronting on that portion of Hartford Beach State Park beginning on the west property line and extending approximately 300 feet easterly from this point are a “public swimming zone”; The waters of Big Stone Lake fronting on that portion of Hartford Beach State Park beginning at the west property line and extending 1,000 feet easterly from this point are a “no wake zone”; The waters of the portions of the Cottonwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge located in sections 20, 28, 29, 32, and 33, township 128 north, range 49 west are a “no boating zone” during the open season on migratory waterfowl; The waters of the portions of Mud Lake located in sections 11, 12, and 14, township 127 north, range 48 west are an “electric motors zone” during the open season on migratory waterfowl.

Stanley County:

■ **Lake Sharpe:**

- The waters inside the Oahe Marina are a “no wake zone”;
- The waters inside the Marion Gardens Canal are a “no wake zone”;
- On the waters south of the Lake Oahe Powerhouse, the waters fronting that portion of the Missouri River from the T dike extending south to a signed point approximately 2,100 feet downstream along the shoreline inside the buoys are a “no boating zone”;

- On the waters south of the Lake Oahe Powerhouse, the waters fronting that portion of the Missouri River from a signed point approximately 1,500 feet north of the wing dam referred to as diver's point and extending 300 feet north from the signed point are a "public swimming zone";

- The waters starting at the confluence of Lake Sharpe and the Bad River and extending upstream along the Bad River to the pedestrian footbridge are a "no wake zone."

Turner County: The waters of Swan Lake westerly and southerly of the Christian Camp are a "no motors zone"; The waters at the eastern end of Swan Lake within an area starting at a point along the shoreline approximately 60 feet south of the concrete retaining wall that is located on the north side of the beach on a line to a point 100 feet westerly, then on a line to a point 100 feet southerly, then on a line in an easterly direction back to a point on shore are a "no boating zone."

Union County: The waters of McCook Lake within a 100 feet radius of the public boat ramp on the southeast shore are a "no wake zone"; The waters southwest of the buoys placed at the entrance of the southwest arm of the lake are a "no wake zone"; The waters marked by buoys within the bays and island channels on the uninhabited shoreline are a "no wake zone"; The waters within 100 feet of the shoreline around the outer edge of the lake from the "no wake zone" on the southwest arm of the lake to the extreme southeast corner of the lake are a "no wake zone."

Walworth County:

- The waters fronting on that portion of Lake Hiddenwood State Park beginning at a point along the shoreline due north of the northwest corner of the bathhouse and extending 150 feet westerly are a "public swimming zone"; and
- Lake Oahe: The waters of Indian Creek Bay, commonly known as the East Boat Launch area, northeast of the Indian Creek Campground's A-Loop complex extending out in a 500 foot radius from the boat ramp are a "no wake zone"; The waters of Revheim Bay, commonly known as the West Boat Launch area, west of Indian Creek Campground's B-Loop complex are a "no wake zone"; The waters fronting on that portion of Revheim Day Use Area beginning at the west edge of the parking lot extending approximately 500 feet westerly from this point are a "public swimming zone."

Yankton County:

- Lewis and Clark Lake:
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at the fishing pier of the Midway Unit of Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area and proceeding in a southwesterly direction 650 feet are a "public swimming zone";

- The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at a point in the center of the Gavin's Beach restroom, Gavin's Point Unit of Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area, extending 200 feet in a westerly direction and extending 250 feet in an easterly direction are a "public swimming zone";
 - No motorboats, except authorized emergency vessels, may be operated above no-wake speed within the Lewis and Clark Marina located in Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area including an area outside the entrance of the marina designated by buoys marking the area a "no wake zone";
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at the vault toilet near the intersection of the bicycle path that divides West Midway and Gavin's sections, extending 400 feet in a westerly direction and 125 feet in a southerly direction are a "no wake zone";
 - The waters fronting on that portion of Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area beginning at the west end of the marina causeway extending 550 feet in a westerly direction are a "no motors zone";
 - All waters north of the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area Midway boat launch breakwater inlet are a "no wake zone";
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at the vault toilet located next to the bike trail in the East Midway section near the East Midway Boat Ramp parking area of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, extending 330 feet in an easterly direction and extending 125 feet in a southerly direction, commonly known as East Midway Boating Beach, are a "no wake zone";
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at the vault toilet next to the bike trail dividing the East Midway Section and the Yankton Section of Lewis and Clark Recreation Area, extending 250 feet in a westerly direction and extending 125 feet in a southerly direction, commonly known as the West Yankton Boating Beach, are a "no wake zone";
 - The waters fronting on the shoreline starting at the rock jetty on the west border of the Midway Swim Beach extending 370 feet in a westerly direction to another rock jetty and extending 125 feet in a southerly direction, commonly known as Midway Boating Beach, are a "no wake zone";
- Marindahl Lake is a "no wake zone";
- Lake Yankton is an "electric motors zone."

South Dakota Required Equipment Checklist



	PWC	Boat Less Than 16 Ft.	Boat 16 Ft. To Less Than 26 Ft.
Registration Card On Board	✓	✓ 1	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓ 1	✓
Wearable PFDs	✓ 2	✓ 3	✓ 3
Throwable PFD			✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher(s)	✓	✓ 4	✓ 4
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	✓ 5	✓ 5
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler	✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell			✓
Navigation Lights	✓	✓	✓

1. Not required for boats 12 feet or less in length without a motor of any kind.
2. Every person on board a PWC must *wear* a PFD (life jacket) at all times.
3. Children under seven years old must *wear* a PFD (life jacket) while on any vessel operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed” unless below deck or in an enclosed cabin.
4. Required for all vessels of a type and construction that would allow explosive or flammable gases or vapors to be trapped; highly recommended for others.
5. Required on gasoline-fueled inboard and stern drives only.

South Dakota

Department of Game, Fish & Parks



Division of Wildlife Offices

Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. local time, Mon. - Fri.

General Information

wildinfo@state.sd.us

605-223-7660



Aberdeen

5850 E. Highway 12
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-626-2391

Rapid City

4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-394-2391

Chamberlain

1550 E. King Ave.
Chamberlain, SD 57325
605-734-4530

Sioux Falls

4500 S. Oxbow
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-362-2700

Ft. Pierre

20641 SD Highway 1806
Ft. Pierre, SD 57532
605-223-7700

Watertown

400 W. Kemp
Watertown, SD 57201
605-882-5200



Huron

895 3rd Street SW
Huron, SD 57350
605-353-7145

Webster

603 E. 8th Avenue
Webster, SD 57274
605-345-3381

Mobridge

909 Lake Front Drive
Mobridge, SD 57601
605-845-7814

Connect with us on social media using #SDintheField and share your boating experiences this summer.

