

MCRD BOATHOUSE MOTORBOAT STUDY GUIDE

1. BEFORE GETTING UNDERWAY

Before getting underway be sure to know your boat, your engine, and its operation. Items to check prior to leaving the dock include:

a) Check the weather

If weather conditions are unfavorable, postpone your trip. If a “Small Craft Advisory” warning has been issued, MCRD boat rentals will be limited to the estuary –the MCRD Basin up to the Harbor Drive bridges.

b) Bring aboard all necessary gear

Ensure your MCRD Boat Rental Agreement w/ Boathouse phone number is with you on the boat along with a means of communication to contact the Boathouse. The following gear will be issued to you; ensure that the gear is stowed securely: motorboat safety box, wooden paddle, and at least one Type IV flotation device (seat cushion). All passengers are required to have a PFD (life jacket) onboard. Non-swimmers and children under the age of 13 (CA Law) must wear their PFD at all times; even while transiting the dock.

c) Check your fuel tank

Check to see that your fuel tank is full. If running the engine for long periods of time; be sure to check your fuel supply throughout the day to ensure you have enough fuel to return to the MCRD Boathouse dock.

d) Boarding the motorboat

MCRD motorboat capacity is limited to FOUR people –adults or children regardless of weight. When boarding the boat from the dock, step towards the center of the boat, keeping your weight low and using your hands on the gunwales (sides of the boat) for balance. Position gear and people on the boat evenly to distribute the weight to ensure boat stability while underway.

2. OPERATING THE MOTOR

Do not cast off the lines until the motor is running. Do not leave the dock immediately after starting the motor because the outboard motor needs to be warmed-up. Allow the motor to idle at the dock while you retrieve and stow gear.

a) Lower the engine

Pull back on the engine, raising the engine slightly to adjust the trim lock which will allow you to lower the engine into the water completely. *some motorboats have a switch and do not require manually lowering the engine.

a) Fuel

Connect the fuel line in the boat to the fuel tank. Pump the fuel to the motor by squeezing the rubber bulb on the fuel line.

b) Starting the engine

Connect the emergency shut-off switch (“dead man” switch). This important safety feature’s purpose is to kill the motor if you are suddenly jerked away from the helm, or thrown overboard. The engine will not start or run until the proper connection is made.

15 HP MOTORBOATS

1. Rotate the throttle to the START position.
2. Check to ensure the motor is in NEUTRAL.
3. Pull out the choke (if the motor is cold).
4. Give a firm pull on the starter rope to start. When the motor turns over, immediately push in the choke (if engaged) to avoid flooding the motor.

25 HP MOTORBOATS

1. Ensure the throttle is positioned in START/NEUTRAL.
2. Insert boat key; start the engine.

AVOID FLOODING THE MOTOR WITH GASOLINE

Flooding is the most common cause of motor malfunction; evidenced by a strong odor of gasoline, and a small slick forming on the water beneath the motor.

TO AVOID FLOODING:

- Do not over-pump the fill bulb.
- Do not over-choke. Push the choke in quickly after the motor fires. After you leave the Boathouse docks, the choke will not be needed again, unless the weather is very cold, and the motor is off for a couple of hours or more.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FLOOD THE MOTOR:

- Disconnect the gas line and wait ten minutes before attempting to re-start.
- Immediately after the motor starts, connect the gas line again.

c) Fuel lines

Ensure fuel lines do not become pinched, kinked, sat upon, etc.

d) Boat’s Propeller

Take care to keep fishing line from getting wrapped in your boat’s propeller. Also, try to avoid kelp, floating trash, and debris in general. All of these things can damage the submerged parts of your motor and render you stranded. Take special care of shallow water to avoid striking the bottom with your motor. Stay a safe distance from shore. Look at San Diego Bay Harbor Chart 18773 to familiarize yourself with charted water depths & hazards.

e) **Shifting Gears**

Your motor is equipped with three gears: Forward, Neutral, and Reverse. When shifting gears from forward to reverse, do so at a very low idle. Shifting gears while the motor is turning at a high RPM will cause severe gear damage.

3. WHILE UNDERWAY

The following safety precautions should be taken while underway:

- a) Balance the boat by keeping your load even. Keep passengers seated near the center so that they counterbalance each other. Unlike a car, a boat turns at the stern (rear), not by the bow (front). When operating the 15HP motorboat, you make a turn by pushing the outboard in the opposite direction of the direction of turn you want to make.
- b) It is wise to keep movement within your boat down to a minimum. If you must change seats, move slowly, keep low, and grip the sides with both hands. NEVER STAND UP in a boat while it is underway. In an emergency, standing in a boat to signal for assistance is acceptable and may be done to get the attention of nearby boaters.
- c) Do not jump over, or “surf” the wake of other boats. Navigate large wakes with caution. Reduce boat speed and position the bow of the boat at an angle (about 45°) off the wake so that the boat passes over the swell smoothly. It is dangerous to allow a large wake to hit the boat broadside, as severe heeling or even capsizing may occur.
- d) Do not engage in reckless behavior, such as turning circles (donuts) in the water, performing sharp turns at high speed, chasing waterfowls, racing other boats, etc.
- e) Boat motors are not to be run at top speed, or very low (trolling) speed for sustained periods.
- f) Be alert and avoid drift wood and seaweed. If you get seaweed fouled in the prop, shift slowly into reverse and then back into forward. The weeds should free up easily.
- g) You are responsible for damage caused by your boat’s wake! Slow down, and reduce your wake to a ripple when passing:

SMALLER WATERCRAFT & BOAT MARINAS & PIERS

Sailboats, Canoes, SUPs, Kayaks, Paddle Boats, MCRD Boathouse docks, Naval Training Center Marina, Commercial Marinas in the Harbor Island West Causeway –anywhere a 5mph/NO WAKE ZONE buoy is present!

4. MCRD BOATHOUSE REGULATIONS

Suspension or termination of motorboat rental privileges at MCRD Boathouse can occur if the following MCRD Boathouse Rental Safety Rules are not followed.

- a) At least one Type IV flotation device (seat cushion) must be aboard MCRD motorboat rentals. This Type IV can be thrown to a person in the water in the event of a man overboard.
- b) All persons aboard MCRD motorboat rentals **MUST** have a PFD (personal flotation device) onboard. All non-swimming persons aboard must wear their PFD at all times when underway; while transiting MCRD Boathouse & Marina docks. California law requires all children under 13 years of age to wear a PFD while underway.
- c) Motorboats are not to be landed at any beach, except in an emergency. You are authorized to land at public docks where permitted by proprietors, such as: Harbor Island West fuel dock and snack shop, San Diego Bay Bait Barge, and at various waterfront restaurants offering temporary dock space.
- d) MCRD motorboats may be used within the MCRD basin or estuary and in San Diego Bay, **NOT to exceed beyond Ballast Point**, and the **Coronado Bay Bridge**. These boundary limits have been established for your protection; to stray beyond them means placing yourself and your passengers in almost certain danger. Reference San Diego Bay Harbor Chart 18773 for boundary clarification.

BALLAST POINT (Submarine Base)

Near the mouth of San Diego Harbor, there is a small point of land just beyond the bait barge. MCRD motorboats must stay inside (the Bay side) of Ballast Point.

CORONADO BRIDGE

The bridge that connects San Diego with Coronado and North Island Naval Air Base.

- e) **ALCOHOL AND GLASS CONTAINERS ARE PROHIBITED** aboard MCRD motorboats. Violators of this policy will have their Motorboat Qualification Card revoked.
- f) You may not pick up additional passengers after leaving the MCRD Boathouse docks.
- g) Swimming, diving, SCUBA diving, and water skiing are all prohibited from MCRD Motorboats.
- h) Upon returning your motorboat rental to the dock, you are responsible for boat clean up: lifting the motor clear out of the water, returning all gear to its proper place, and trash disposal.
- i) A California State Fishing License will be required for each person fishing from a MCRD Motorboat.

- j) Your boat is due back by the time listed on your MCRD Boathouse Rental Agreement. This is an important rule to remember. Late boat returns cause problems and cost money in staff overtime and motorboat search/recovery expenses.

5. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Knowing what to do in various emergency situations is extremely important to ensure the safety of yourself, crew, and boat when an unexpected emergency arises. Calmly assess the situation and take appropriate action.

a) Man Overboard

In the event of a man overboard, immediately throw the stern away from the swimmer, shift the motor into neutral, and then throw a Type IV flotation device or PFD (life jacket) alongside to the man overboard. Carefully shift back into gear only when safe, circle around upwind (into the waves), and shut off the motor. When you have drifted alongside the person in the water, extend a paddle or length of line and lead him around to the stern. Help the swimmer into the boat over the transom, on either side of the motor.

b) Capsize

In the event of capsizing, it is almost always best to **STAY WITH THE BOAT**. In the heavily-traveled areas where you will be operating your MCRD Motorboat, assistance from other boaters should arrive quickly.

c) Stranded Due to Engine Failure

Contact MCRD Boathouse for assistance. Position boat in a safe location using paddle. Request assistance from passing boats by raising both arms up and down. If your boat has not returned to the MCRD Boathouse docks by the time listed on the Rental Agreement, a search will be initiated. If you are stranded in your boat, be on the lookout for the search boat, and assist us by attracting attention in the manner recommended above.

SIGNALS

Navigation Signals

The law prescribes signals to indicate the intended course of a vessel.

ONE SHORT BLAST One short blast (one second) will show an intention to direct course of vessel to own starboard (right), or when a vessel has right-of-way, to maintain course and speed.

TWO SHORT BLASTS Two short blasts will indicate to direct course of vessel to own port (left).

THREE SHORT BLASTS Three short blasts will indicate the vessel's engines are moving astern

SEVERAL SHORT BLASTS

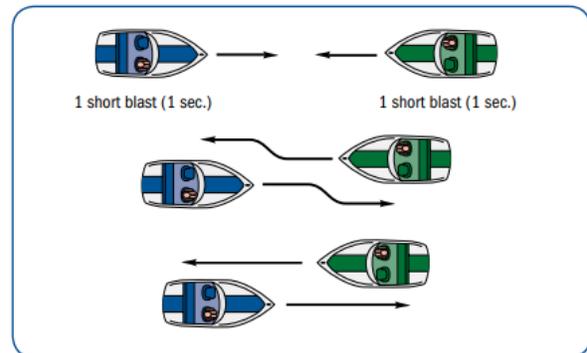
Several short blasts (not less than four) is a danger signal used when the other vessel's indicated course is dangerous.

RULES OF THE ROAD

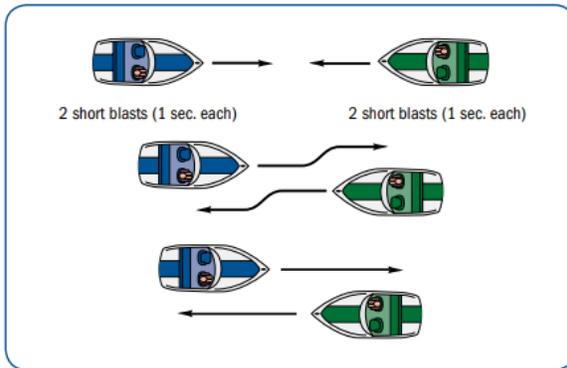
Meeting Situations

When meeting head-on, or nearly so, either vessel shall signal its intention with one short blast, which the other vessel shall answer promptly. Each vessel shall then turn to its starboard (right) and pass with the other vessel on its port (left) side.

Passing Port to Port



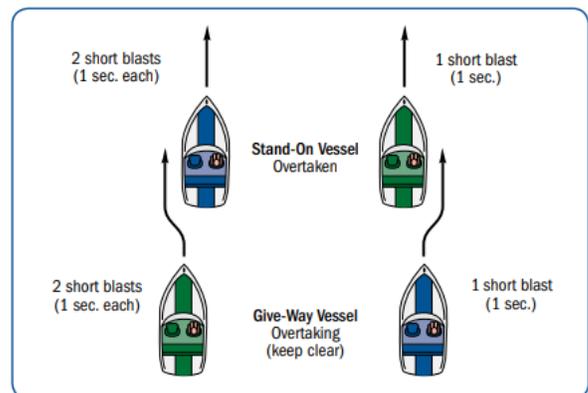
Passing Starboard to Starboard



When courses are so far to starboard of each other as not to be considered as meeting head-on, but risk of collision still exists, either vessel shall immediately give two short blasts, which the other vessel shall answer promptly by two short blasts and each shall pass with the other vessel on its starboard.

When two motorboats are running in the same direction and the vessel astern desires to pass, it shall give one short blast to indicate a desire to pass on the overtaking vessel's starboard. The vessel ahead shall answer with one blast if the course is safe. If unsafe, it shall answer with several short rapid blasts. If the vessel astern desires to pass to port of the overtaken vessel, it shall give two short blasts. The vessel ahead shall answer with two short blasts if the course is safe. If unsafe, it shall answer with several short rapid blasts.

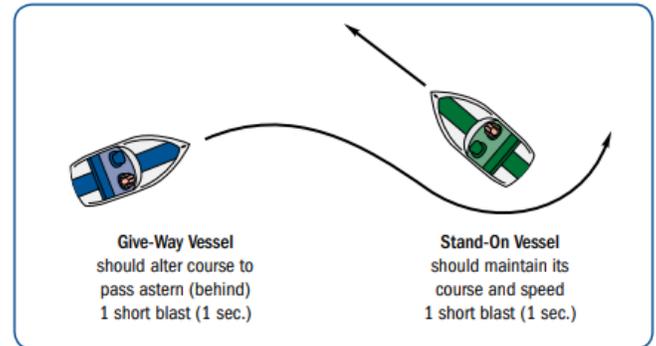
Overtaking Situation



A vessel approaching another vessel from the stern and overtaking it shall keep out of the way of the overtaken vessel. The vessel being overtaken shall hold its course and speed.

Crossing Situation

When two motorboats are approaching each other at right angles or obliquely with risk of collision, the motorboat having the other boat on its port (left) side shall hold its course and speed, and the other shall keep out of the way by directing its course to starboard (right) or if necessary, by slowing, stopping or reversing. Motorboats are forbidden the use of cross signals, that is, answering one blast with two blasts or two blasts with one blast.



Other Situations

At any time when there is danger of collision and conditions prevent immediate compliance by either vessel with the other vessel's signals, the danger signal shall be sounded and both vessels shall be stopped or backed, if necessary, until signals for passing with safety are sounded and understood.

RECKLESS OR NEGLIGENT OPERATION

No person shall operate any in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.

RULES REGARDING SPEED

Speed is limited to **5 miles per hour** by law, for certain conditions and areas. The maximum speed for boats within 100 feet of a bather, and within 200 feet of a bathing beach, swimming float, diving platform or life line, passenger landing being used, or landing where boats are tied up.

Every vessel shall, under conditions of reduced visibility, go to a moderate speed with careful regard for existing circumstances and conditions.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION

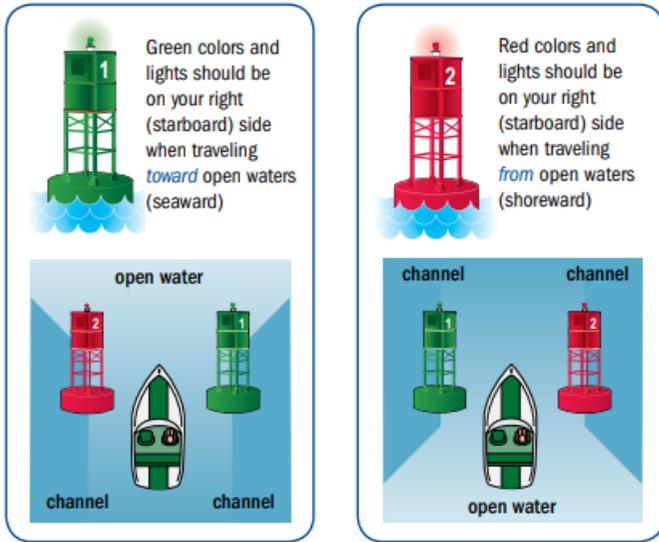
The two main types of Aids to Navigation are buoys and beacons. Both buoys and beacons can provide a variety of navigation information via shape, color, light, and/or audible signal.

Buoys are Aids that float on top of the water, but are moored to the bottom of the body of water. Some have a light affixed to the top; some do not. A buoy with a cylindrical shape and a conical top is referred to as a "nun." A buoy with a cylindrical shape and a flat top is called a "can."

Beacons are Aids that are permanently fixed, most commonly to the bottom of a body of water. A beacon that has a light attached is simply referred to as a "light"; a beacon without a light attached is called a "day beacon."

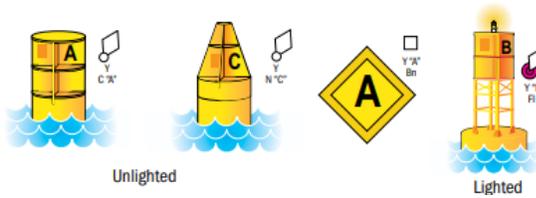
Dayboards are informational signboards.

Channel Markers Outbound/Inbound



Special Aids

These Aids indicate special areas or features such as anchoring, traffic separation, fishnet area, cables or pipelines, military exercise areas, and jetties.



Mooring Buoys

Mooring Buoys are not a navigation Aid, however they are the only type of buoys to which mooring is permitted. Most mooring buoys are privately owned or are rental buoys. Permission is usually needed to use them.



Dive Flags

Dive flags are typically red with a diagonal white stripe and are flown to show boaters and everybody on top of the water, that there are divers below. The diver down flag is flown for safety.



Green & Red Aids Outbound/Inbound

Green Aids: Odd Numbers		Red Aids: Even Numbers	
Square dayboards, buoys, and cans		Red, Right, Returning: when proceeding upstream, keep the red Aids to starboard	
G "7"	Daybeacon	Daybeacon	R "8"
"5" FI G 6s	Light	Light	"6" FI R 6s
G C "3"	Can	Nun	R N "4"
G "1" FI G 4s	Lighted Buoy	Lighted Buoy	R "2" FI R 4s

Proceeding Upstream

Open Water (seaward)

Information and Regulatory Marks

These orange-and-white Aids are used to alert vessel operators to various warnings and regulations.

Symbol	Meaning	Examples
	Danger A diamond shape alerts boaters to hazards	
	Restricted Operations Marks with a circle indicate areas with regulated operations	
	Exclusion A diamond shape with a cross means boats are prohibited from the area	
	Information Marks with a square provide helpful information such as directions, distances, and locations	