



## ***Water Recreation and Alligators***

### *Safety Tips and Info*

**PLEASE share this information with your family, friends, neighbors and visiting guests.**

**ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS!**

**Recreate responsibly!**

#### **NEVER feed or harass alligators!**

- ❖ Do NOT throw food or scraps in the water
  - ❖ Do NOT splash unnecessarily
  - ❖ AVOID paddling near the water's edge, especially in areas with dense or tall vegetation
  - ❖ Do NOT approach "baby" alligators
  - ❖ Do NOT dangle arms or legs in the water
  - ❖ AVOID taking pets on small, non-motorized, vessels
  - ❖ AVOID fishing from your vessel if alligators appear interested in what you're doing
  - ❖ AVOID water recreation from dusk to dawn, when alligators are most active
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- IF you happen to fall into the water, try to remain calm and avoid excessive splashing
  - IF an alligator approaches, calmly paddle away
  - IF you try to paddle away and an alligator continues to follow, make a loud, stern sound ("GO AWAY!", blow a whistle, thump your paddle on your "boat") Do NOT thump your paddle in the water
  - IF you see an alligator sunning on the bank, AVOID that area. The alligator may rush into the water to get away from you and, if you are too close, your "boat" could hinder his escape

The mere presence of an alligator is NOT a threat but...

IF you observe an alligator acting *aggressively*, report it to management immediately!