



# Albatross Boater Safety Training Course

## Welcome Aboard!

This course is designed to give you the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills you need to enjoy boating safely and responsibly. Whether you're brand new to the water or refreshing your skills, these lessons will guide you step by step through everything from preparation to emergency procedures.

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Recognize the importance of safety and responsibility on the water.
- Properly prepare your vessel before departure.
- Operate safely while underway.
- Understand and follow navigation rules.
- Respond effectively to common boating emergencies.
- Protect the environment while boating.




## Course Structure

The course is divided into **seven modules**. Each module includes:

- **Learning Material** – Easy-to-follow explanations and examples.
  - **Checklists** – Practical steps you can use on the water.
  - **Quick Quiz** – A short test to help reinforce your learning.
- 



# Boater Safety Training Course

Featuring your guide: Alby 



## Course Modules

### Module 1: Introduction & Alby's Welcome

- Meet your guide Alby
- The importance of boating safety
- What to expect from this course

### Module 2: Boating Basics

- Types of boats and their uses
- Parts of a boat explained

- Understanding propulsion (oars, sails, engines)

### **Module 3: Life Jackets & Safety Gear**

- Types of personal flotation devices (PFDs)
- Proper fit and usage
- Other essential safety equipment

### **Module 4: Rules of the Water**

- Navigation rules (right-of-way, crossing, overtaking)
- Buoys and markers
- No-wake zones and speed limits

### **Module 5: Navigation & Charts**

- Reading nautical charts
- Using a compass and GPS
- Planning safe routes

### **Module 6: Weather & Water Conditions**

- Reading forecasts and radar
- Recognizing dangerous water and weather patterns
- Making go/no-go decisions

### **Module 7: Docking & Anchoring**

- Approaching a dock safely
- Tying knots and securing lines
- Choosing an anchoring spot and setting anchor

### **Module 8: Emergency Preparedness & Rescue Skills**

- Person overboard drills
- Engine failure procedures
- Fire safety and VHF radio calls
- First aid basics

### **Module 9: Environmental Stewardship & Respect for Nature**

- “Leave no trace” boating
- Protecting shorelines and habitats
- Preventing fuel and oil spills

## Module 10: Review & Certification Prep

- Big-picture review of all modules
- Sample test questions
- Certification readiness checklist
- Final encouragement from Alby

### Meet Your Safety Guide: Alby

Throughout this course, you'll see helpful tips from your tiny guide, **Alby the Waterbird**. Alby's here to remind you of important safety points and keep things light while you learn.

Whenever you see **Alby** , pay close attention — it's an important tip for safe boating!

---

Example in the text:

**Alby**  says:

“Remember, the captain is always responsible for the safety of everyone onboard. Stay sharp and keep your crew safe!”

## **Module 1: Introduction – Why Boating Safety Matters**

Boating is one of the most enjoyable ways to connect with nature, relax, and spend time with friends and family. But with that freedom comes responsibility. Every year, preventable accidents happen on the water because people overlook basic safety practices.

This course is here to help you:

- Stay safe and protect your passengers.
- Understand the “rules of the road” for waterways.
- Prevent accidents before they happen.
- Feel more confident and prepared each time you leave the dock.


Think of boating safety as more than rules — it's a mindset of respect:

- Respect for the water.
- Respect for your boat.
- Respect for your passengers and fellow boaters.

When you approach boating with awareness and preparation, you ensure that your time on the water is not only fun but safe.

---

## Meet Your Safety Guide: Alby

You'll notice Alby popping up throughout this course with quick reminders and friendly advice. Whenever you see **Alby** , pay attention — it's a key safety tip!

**Alby**  says:

“Boating safety isn't just about rules — it's about respect. Respect the water, your crew, and yourself.”

### **Key Reminders Before We Begin**

- Safety comes first — always.
  - The captain (that's you!) is responsible for everyone onboard.
  - Preparation reduces stress and increases enjoyment.
  - Learning these modules now will give you the confidence to act calmly in any situation.
- 



### **Quick Quiz (Introduction)**

1. Why is boating safety important?
  - A) It helps avoid accidents and injuries
  - B) It prevents fines and legal trouble
  - C) It protects passengers and fellow boaters
  - D) All of the above
2. Who is responsible for the safety of passengers onboard a boat?
  - A) The oldest passenger
  - B) The boat captain/operator
  - C) Local law enforcement
  - D) Nobody, everyone is responsible only for themselves
3. Boating safety is best thought of as:
  - A) A set of boring rules to memorize
  - B) A mindset of respect and responsibility
  - C) Only necessary for beginners
  - D) Optional if you're experienced



## Module 2: Pre-Departure Preparation

Before you even turn the key, a safe trip begins with **planning and preparation**. Most boating emergencies can be prevented by slowing down and making sure your vessel, crew, and gear are ready for the water.

---



### Pre-Departure Checklist

1. **Life Jackets (PFDs)** – One for every person on board, properly sized and in good condition.
  2. **Sound-Producing Devices** – Whistle, horn, or bell for signaling.
  3. **Navigation Lights** – Check that all lights are working if you'll be out near sunset or at night.
  4. **Fire Extinguisher** – Fully charged and accessible.
  5. **Fuel & Engine Check** – Ensure you have enough fuel and that your engine is running smoothly.
  6. **Weather Conditions** – Check local forecasts before departure.
  7. **Float Plan** – Let someone on shore know your route and expected return time.
  8. **Safety Gear** – First aid kit, throwable flotation device, anchor, and extra lines.
- 

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“Never skip the checklist! A five-minute review at the dock can prevent five hours of trouble on the water.”

---



### Crew & Passenger Briefing

As captain, your responsibility includes making sure your passengers know the basics:

- Where life jackets are stored and how to wear them.
  - What to do in case of emergency.
  - Staying seated when the boat is moving.
  - Keeping hands and feet inside the boat.
- 

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“Your crew may be friends or family, but today, you’re their captain. A quick safety talk shows you care.”

---

## **Key Takeaways**

- Safety begins before leaving the dock.
  - A pre-departure checklist reduces risks.
  - Communication with your passengers is part of your duty as captain.
- 

## **Quick Quiz (Module 2)**

1. What should you always check before departure?
  - A) Weather
  - B) Fuel
  - C) Life jackets
  - D) All of the above
2. A float plan means:
  - A) Telling your passengers when to sit down
  - B) Notifying someone on shore of your trip details
  - C) Making sure your boat can float
  - D) Practicing swimming before departure
3. Who is ultimately responsible for passenger safety?
  - A) The oldest passenger
  - B) Everyone individually
  - C) The boat operator/captain
  - D) Local law enforcement

## **Module 3: On-the-Water Safety**

Once you've left the dock, staying safe means paying attention to your surroundings, operating responsibly, and respecting other boaters. The water is shared space — treat it like a road where courtesy and awareness are just as important as skill.

---

## **Rules of the Water (“Nautical Road Rules”)**

1. **Maintain a Safe Speed** – Always travel at a speed where you can react to hazards.
2. **Right of Way** –

- Powerboats give way to sailboats (under sail).
  - The boat on the right (starboard) has the right of way in crossing situations.
  - The boat being overtaken always has the right of way.
3. **Keep a Lookout** – Assign someone to watch for other boats, swimmers, or obstacles.
  4. **Navigation Markers** – Red markers = keep them on your right when returning to shore (“Red, Right, Returning”).
  5. **No-Wake Zones** – Slow to idle speed in marked areas to protect shorelines, docks, and swimmers.
- 

**Alby** 🦋 **says:**

“Think of the water like a neighborhood street. Slow down, be courteous, and everyone gets home safe.”

---

## **Safe Operation Practices**

- **Stay Sober** – Alcohol is a leading factor in boating accidents. The same rules apply on water as on land: don’t drink and drive.
  - **Balance the Load** – Distribute weight evenly in your boat to prevent capsizing.
  - **Watch the Weather** – Conditions can change quickly; head back to shore at the first sign of storms.
  - **Respect Swimmers & Paddlers** – Give plenty of space to kayaks, canoes, and swimmers.
- 

**Alby** 🦋 **says:**

“Storm clouds build faster on the water than on land. If the sky looks angry, it’s time to turn back.”

---

## **Courtesy Counts**

Good boating etiquette prevents conflict and keeps everyone safe:

- Keep music at a respectful volume.
  - Reduce wake near anchored boats or fishing spots.
  - Wave or signal when passing — a little communication goes a long way.
-

## ✓ Key Takeaways

- Follow right-of-way rules and maintain safe speed.
  - Respect no-wake zones and navigation markers.
  - Weather, balance, and sobriety are critical for safety.
  - Courtesy makes the water safer and more enjoyable for all.
- 



## Quick Quiz (Module 3)

1. Which boat generally has the right of way?
  - A) Powerboat
  - B) Sailboat under sail
  - C) Jet ski
  - D) Fishing boat
2. When returning to shore, where should you keep the red navigation markers?
  - A) On your left side
  - B) On your right side
  - C) It doesn't matter
  - D) Only in deep water
3. Alcohol use while operating a boat is:
  - A) Allowed in moderation
  - B) A leading cause of boating accidents
  - C) Safer than drinking and driving a car
  - D) Legal in all situations



## Module 4: Emergency Preparedness

No matter how careful you are, emergencies can still happen on the water. The key is knowing what to do — and staying calm. Prepared boaters save lives, protect property, and keep situations from escalating.

---



## Common Emergencies & Responses

### 1. Man Overboard



- **Shout “Man Overboard!”** so all passengers are aware.
- Immediately **throw a flotation device** to the person.
- **Circle back carefully**, keeping them in sight at all times.
- Turn off the engine once close, then assist them aboard.

**Alby 🦋 says:**

“Point at the person in the water! It helps everyone keep eyes on them until rescue.”

---

## 2. Capsizing / Swamping

- Stay with the boat unless it is unsafe to do so.
  - Climb on top of the hull if possible to stay visible and out of the water.
  - Signal for help using whistle, mirror, or waving arms.
- 

## 3. Fire on Board

- Stop the engine immediately.
- Aim extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- If fire spreads, put on life jackets and prepare to abandon ship.

**Alby 🦋 says:**

“Remember the PASS rule with fire extinguishers: Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.”

---

## 4. Medical Emergency

- Stop the boat and anchor if necessary.
  - Use your first aid kit.
  - Call for help on VHF Channel 16 or phone if in range.
- 

## 5. Engine Failure

- Drop anchor to avoid drifting into hazards.
  - Signal for help if needed (radio, visual distress signals).
  - Stay calm — assistance will come.
-



## Communication in Emergencies

- **VHF Marine Radio (Channel 16)** is the universal distress frequency.
  - Say: “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY” followed by your location, nature of emergency, and number of people on board.
- **Cell Phones** may work in some areas, but don’t rely solely on them.
- **Visual Distress Signals** (flares, lights, orange flag) should always be on board for emergencies.

**Alby**  says:

“Your radio is your lifeline — don’t be shy about using it when things go wrong.”

---



## Key Takeaways

- Stay calm, act quickly, and follow procedure.
  - Life jackets and flotation devices are the first line of defense.
  - VHF Channel 16 is your emergency hotline.
  - Your actions can mean the difference between disaster and rescue.
- 



## Quick Quiz (Module 4)

1. What is the first thing you should do when someone falls overboard?
  - A) Stop the boat immediately
  - B) Shout “Man Overboard!” and throw a flotation device
  - C) Jump in after them
  - D) Call the Coast Guard first
2. In case of a fire, where should you aim the extinguisher?
  - A) At the top of the flames
  - B) At the base of the fire
  - C) Into the wind
  - D) Anywhere near the fire
3. What is the distress channel on a VHF Marine Radio?
  - A) Channel 10
  - B) Channel 22
  - C) Channel 9

- D) Channel 16



## Module 5: Environmental Responsibility

Boating isn't just about safety — it's also about caring for the waterways we love. Every choice we make on the water impacts marine life, ecosystems, and the people who share them. Responsible boaters protect these resources so they'll be there for future generations.

---



### Protecting the Water

#### 1. Fuel & Oil Spills

- Refuel slowly to avoid spills.
- Never “top off” tanks.
- Keep absorbent pads on board for small drips.

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“One drop of oil can spread across the water like a sheet. A little care goes a long way.”

#### 2. Sewage & Waste

- Use pump-out stations for marine toilets.
- Never dump waste or trash overboard.
- Recycle bottles, cans, and plastics when back on shore.

#### 3. Chemical Cleaners

- Choose biodegradable, non-toxic products for cleaning your boat.
  - Avoid harsh detergents that harm marine plants and fish.
- 



### Protecting Wildlife

- **Respect “No-Wake” Zones** near nesting birds, manatees, or shallow reefs.
- **Don't Chase Wildlife** — give dolphins, seals, and birds plenty of space.
- **Fishing Responsibly** — follow catch limits, release undersized fish, and use barbless hooks when possible.

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“Wildlife isn't there for our entertainment. Watch with respect, and you'll see more magic than you expect.”

---

## Respecting Shorelines

- Avoid running boats too close to shorelines where plants stabilize sand and protect against erosion.
  - Anchor in sandy bottoms instead of seagrass beds or coral reefs.
  - Keep noise down near homes and natural preserves.
- 

## Key Takeaways

- Refuel carefully, dispose of waste properly, and use eco-friendly cleaners.
  - Protect wildlife and avoid disturbing sensitive habitats.
  - Anchor and operate responsibly to protect shorelines and reefs.
  - Boating and caring for nature go hand-in-hand.
- 

## Quick Quiz (Module 5)

1. What is the best way to handle sewage on a boat?
  - A) Dump it far offshore
  - B) Use pump-out stations
  - C) Pour bleach in the tank and release
  - D) Store in buckets
2. Where should you anchor to avoid damaging habitats?
  - A) Coral reefs
  - B) Seagrass beds
  - C) Sandy bottoms
  - D) Near nesting birds
3. What kind of cleaning products are best for the environment?
  - A) Strong detergents
  - B) Biodegradable cleaners
  - C) Bleach-based solutions
  - D) Any product as long as it's rinsed well



# Module 6: Navigation & Trip Planning

A safe boating trip starts before you even leave the dock. Knowing where you're going, how to get there, and what conditions you'll face ensures smooth sailing. Good navigation skills protect you, your passengers, and others sharing the water.

---



## Basics of Navigation

### 1. Charts & Maps

- Always carry updated nautical charts (paper or electronic).
- Charts show water depths, hazards, channels, and navigation aids.

### 2. Compass & GPS

- A compass never fails, even if electronics do.
- GPS is great, but always have a backup method.

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“Electronics are awesome — until the battery dies. Keep a paper chart and compass handy.”

### 3. Navigation Aids

- **Red, Right, Returning** → When coming from the sea into harbor, keep red buoys on your starboard (right) side.
  - Green buoys mark the other side of the channel.
  - Lights, markers, and beacons guide safe passage — know their meanings!
- 



## Trip Planning Essentials

- **Weather Forecast** → Check before you go, and keep an eye on changing skies.
- **Float Plan** → Tell someone on shore where you're going and when you'll return.
- **Fuel Rule** → 1/3 to go out, 1/3 to return, 1/3 in reserve.
- **Supplies** → Bring water, food, first aid kit, extra clothing, and safety gear.

**Alby** 🦋 says:

“Think like a scout: over-prepared is always better than under-prepared.”

---



## Reading the Water

- **Tides & Currents** → Know the schedule, as they affect travel speed and anchoring.

- **Wind & Waves** → Strong winds create choppy waters; plan routes accordingly.
  - **Shallow Areas** → Avoid running aground by watching depth sounders and charts.
- 

### **Key Takeaways**

- Use charts, compasses, and GPS for safe navigation.
  - Always file a float plan and check the weather.
  - Apply the **Fuel Rule** to avoid running out of gas.
  - Read water conditions to steer clear of hazards.
- 



### **Quick Quiz (Module 6)**

1. What does “Red, Right, Returning” mean?
  - A) Keep red buoys on your left when heading out to sea
  - B) Keep red buoys on your right when returning to harbor
  - C) Red buoys always mark shallow areas
  - D) Red buoys mean stop immediately
2. How should you divide your fuel supply?
  - A) Use it all going out, hope for the best coming back
  - B) Half to go, half to return
  - C) 1/3 to go out, 1/3 to return, 1/3 in reserve
  - D) Depends on how fast the boat is
3. Why should you file a float plan?
  - A) So the Coast Guard can track your GPS
  - B) So someone on shore knows your plan in case of emergency
  - C) To avoid getting lost at sea
  - D) It's only required for commercial vessels



# Module 7: Rules of the Road & Right of Way

Just like cars have traffic laws, boats follow “**Rules of the Road**” to avoid collisions. These rules tell us **who goes first, who must give way, and how to signal intentions**. Every safe boater knows and follows them.

---



## Key Concepts

1. **Stand-On Vessel** → The boat that has the right of way and should hold its course.
2. **Give-Way Vessel** → The boat that must move aside or slow down to avoid collision.
3. **Responsibility Rule** → Even if you have the right of way, you must act to prevent an accident.

Alby 🦊 says:

“Being right doesn’t matter if you end up in a crash. Safety always comes first.”

---



## Common Situations

1. **Meeting Head-On**
    - Both boats turn to the right (starboard) to pass safely.
  2. **Crossing Paths**
    - The boat on the right (starboard) is the stand-on vessel.
    - The boat on the left (port) must give way.
  3. **Overtaking**
    - The boat doing the passing is always the give-way vessel.
    - Overtake on either side, but keep clear and signal intentions.
- 



## Power vs. Sail

- **Sailing vessels (under sail only)** usually have right of way over power-driven boats.
  - Exceptions: A sailboat must give way if it’s overtaking another vessel.
-

## Navigation Lights & Sound Signals

- **Lights** → At night or in poor visibility, boats show red (port/left), green (starboard/right), and white (stern/mast) lights.
- **Sound Signals** (day or night):
  - 1 short blast = I'm turning right (starboard)
  - 2 short blasts = I'm turning left (port)
  - 3 short blasts = I'm backing up
  - 5 short blasts = Danger / I don't understand your actions

**Alby**  **says:**

“Lights and horns are the language of the water — learn them, and you’ll always know who’s talking.”

---

## Key Takeaways

- Learn who is stand-on vs. give-way in each situation.
  - Always communicate with lights or sound when needed.
  - Sailing vessels usually have priority over powerboats.
  - Safety overrides “being right.”
- 

## Quick Quiz (Module 7)

1. When two boats meet head-on, what should both do?
  - A) Turn left (port)
  - B) Turn right (starboard)
  - C) Speed up and cross quickly
  - D) Stop immediately
2. In a crossing situation, which boat is the stand-on vessel?
  - A) The one on the left (port)
  - B) The one on the right (starboard)
  - C) The bigger boat
  - D) The faster boat
3. How many short blasts signal a boat is backing up?



- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 5

## **Module 8: Emergency Preparedness & Rescue Skills**

Even the most careful boaters face unexpected situations. Preparation, quick thinking, and teamwork make all the difference. This module covers how to **prevent emergencies, respond safely, and call for help.**

---

### **Emergency Basics**

- **First Aid Kit** → Stock with bandages, antiseptic, seasickness meds, and personal medications.
- **Fire Extinguishers** → Required on most boats — check they're charged and accessible.
- **Lif jackets** → Always wear them; they save lives in sudden emergencies.

**Alby**  **says:**

“A lifejacket works best when it's on your body, not under the seat.”

---

### **Common Emergencies & What To Do**

#### **1. Person Overboard**

- Shout “Man Overboard!” to alert everyone.
- Throw a flotation device immediately.
- Keep the person in sight.
- Carefully circle back, approaching from downwind or current.

#### **2. Capsizing / Swamping**

- Stay with the boat — it's easier to spot than a person.
- Climb on top if possible and signal for help.

#### **3. Fire on Board**

- Stop the engine, cut fuel supply.
- Use extinguisher (aim at the base of the flames).

- If out of control, move passengers into the water away from the fire (with flotation).

#### 4. Engine Failure

- Drop anchor if near shore to avoid drifting.
  - Signal for assistance using VHF radio or distress signals.
- 



### Calling for Help

- **VHF Radio Channel 16** → Hailing & distress channel monitored by the Coast Guard.
  - “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday” = Life-threatening emergency.
  - “Pan-Pan” = Urgent situation but not immediately life-threatening.
  - “Sécurité” = Navigational safety message.
- **Distress Signals** (day or night):
  - Flares, orange flag, mirror flashes, waving arms, continuous horn blasts.

Alby ✂ says:

“Learn the difference between ‘Mayday’ and ‘Pan-Pan’ — words matter when calling for help.”

---



### Rescue Skills to Practice

- **Throwing a Lifeline or Ring** accurately.
  - **Towing another boat** safely without causing damage.
  - **Basic CPR & First Aid** for emergencies until help arrives.
- 



### Key Takeaways

- Emergencies happen — preparation and training save lives.
  - Know how to handle fire, capsizing, engine failure, and man overboard.
  - Use VHF Channel 16 and proper distress calls for help.
  - Practicing rescue skills builds real confidence on the water.
- 



### Quick Quiz (Module 8)

1. What’s the first thing to do when someone falls overboard?
  - A) Start the engine and turn sharply

- B) Throw a flotation device and alert the crew
  - C) Dive in after them immediately
  - D) Turn off all electronics
2. What phrase signals a life-threatening emergency over VHF radio?
- A) SOS
  - B) Pan-Pan
  - C) Mayday
  - D) Help Help
3. If your boat capsizes, what should you do?
- A) Swim toward shore immediately
  - B) Stay with the boat and signal for help
  - C) Dive under and try to fix the problem
  - D) Panic and yell loudly

## **Module 9: Environmental Stewardship & Respect for Nature**

Every boater is also a caretaker of the waterways. The choices we make today affect not only the health of rivers, lakes, and oceans, but also the experiences of everyone who comes after us. Responsible boaters leave no trace and practice respect for the natural world.

---

### **Protecting the Water**

- **Prevent Pollution** → Never dump trash, fuel, or sewage overboard.
- **Refuel Carefully** → Avoid spills, keep absorbent pads on hand.
- **Use Eco-Friendly Cleaners** → Choose biodegradable, phosphate-free soaps.

Alby  says:

“Water reflects what we give it — keep it clean, and it will give back for generations.”

---

### **Respecting Wildlife**

- **Keep Your Distance** → Don't chase dolphins, seals, or birds.
- **Mind Wake Zones** → Slow down near nesting areas and manatee zones.

- **Fish Responsibly** → Follow catch limits, practice catch-and-release when possible, and dispose of lines properly.
- 

## **Caring for Shorelines**

- Anchor in sandy bottoms instead of reefs or seagrass beds.
- Reduce wake near fragile shorelines to prevent erosion.
- Stay on marked waterways — don't cut through marshes or wetlands.

**Alby**  **says:**

“Every ripple has an effect. Make yours gentle.”

---

## **Boater's Eco-Checklist**

Before leaving the dock:

- Bring reusable water bottles and containers.
  - Pack out everything you pack in.
  - Plan routes that avoid sensitive ecosystems.
  - Share what you know — teach others about protecting nature.
- 

## **Key Takeaways**

- Stewardship is part of seamanship — care for water, wildlife, and shorelines.
  - Choose eco-friendly practices in fueling, cleaning, and waste management.
  - Respect animals and habitats by giving them space and reducing disturbance.
  - A good boater leaves no wake of harm, only memories of respect.
- 

## **Quick Quiz (Module 9)**

1. Where should you anchor to avoid harming marine habitats?
  - A) Coral reefs
  - B) Seagrass beds
  - C) Sandy bottoms
  - D) Marshlands

2. What's the best way to clean your boat responsibly?
- A) Use bleach for a deep clean
  - B) Rinse with harsh detergents
  - C) Biodegradable, phosphate-free soap
  - D) Don't clean it at all
3. Why is it important to reduce wake near shorelines?
- A) To impress other boaters
  - B) To prevent erosion and protect fragile habitats
  - C) To save fuel
  - D) Because it's only required in marinas



## Module 10: Review & Certification Prep

Congratulations! You've completed the Boater Safety Training Course. By now, you've learned not only how to handle a vessel, but also how to **think, act, and live like a safe and respectful boater**. This final module helps you review, prepare for certification, and step confidently into the water.

---



### Big Picture Review

#### Module 1: Introduction & Alby's Welcome

- What boating is really about: safety, freedom, responsibility.

#### Module 2: Boating Basics

- Parts of the boat, navigation rules, right-of-way.

#### Module 3: Life Jackets & Safety Gear

- Lifejackets save lives — always wear one.

#### Module 4: Rules of the Water

- Navigation buoys, markers, no-wake zones, and right-of-way.

#### Module 5: Navigation & Charts

- Reading nautical charts, plotting safe routes, avoiding hazards.

#### Module 6: Weather & Water Conditions

- How to read forecasts, clouds, and signs of changing water.

#### Module 7: Docking & Anchoring

- Approaching docks slowly, securing lines, safe anchoring practices.

## **Module 8: Emergency Preparedness & Rescue Skills**

- Person overboard, capsizing, engine failure, fire safety, VHF radio calls.

## **Module 9: Environmental Stewardship**

- Protecting wildlife, shorelines, and keeping waters clean.

**Alby 🦆 says:**

“The best captains aren’t just skilled — they’re responsible, calm, and kind to the water.”

---



## **Test Prep: Sample Questions**

### **1. What is the most important piece of safety equipment on a boat?**

- A) Fire extinguisher
- B) First aid kit
- C) Lifejacket
- D) Anchor

### **2. If two boats approach head-on, what should each do?**

- A) Both turn starboard (right)
- B) Both turn port (left)
- C) One speeds up, the other slows down
- D) They sound horns until one gives way

### **3. Which VHF distress call is used for urgent, but not life-threatening emergencies?**

- A) Mayday
- B) SOS
- C) Pan-Pan
- D) Sécurité

### **4. When fueling your boat, you should...**

- A) Keep the engine running for ventilation
- B) Use eco-friendly soap first
- C) Avoid spills and keep absorbent pads on hand
- D) Top off the tank to the very brim

### **5. Why should you avoid creating a large wake near shorelines?**

- A) It disturbs other boaters
  - B) It erodes the shore and harms habitats
  - C) It wastes fuel
  - D) It makes it harder to dock
- 

### **Certification Readiness Checklist**

- ☒ I can identify the parts of a boat.
  - ☒ I know the basic navigation rules.
  - ☒ I understand safety gear and how to use it.
  - ☒ I can read charts and plan a safe route.
  - ☒ I respect weather signs and limits of my boat.
  - ☒ I can dock and anchor with control.
  - ☒ I know what to do in emergencies.
  - ☒ I commit to protecting the environment.
- 

### **Course Wrap-Up**

Boating is more than recreation — it's a lifelong skill that blends freedom, safety, and respect. By completing this course, you've taken a big step toward becoming a **confident, certified boater** who can enjoy the water while keeping yourself, your passengers, and the environment safe.

**Alby**  **says:**

“The water is calling — go with confidence, go with respect, and go with joy.”

*Great job!*