

Operating Under the Influence

Operating a watercraft while intoxicated is a federal offense and is subject to \$1,000 fine. State water crafting under the influence is "BUI". Laws are becoming more stringent. As on the roadways, on water enforcement officers may administer sobriety test and conduct a blood alcohol content "BAC" examination.

In South Carolina

- No person shall operate any vessel, watercraft, or similar device while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Boaters who have a BAC of 0.08 % or greater are considered intoxicated.
- Boaters who have a BAC between 0.05% and 0.08% used in combination with other sobriety tests or evidence may be considered intoxicated.
- By operating a watercraft in the waters of SC, you have consented to a chemical test to determine BAC level.
- SC law prescribes fines and jail times for those who violate BUI laws. Offenders may be suspended from operating any water device for up to 2 years and may be required to enroll and successfully complete a alcohol and drug safety action course, as well as an approved SC boating safety course.

OFFICER AUTHORITY, COMPLIANCE AND ASSISTANCE IN SC

Law enforcement officers of the SCDNR have the authority to stop and/or inspect vessels to enforce SC and federal boating laws. These officers also have the authority to terminate voyages, escort boaters ashore, or order boaters to the nearest moorage if an unsafe condition is found that can not be corrected on the spot. Operators must immediately yield and reduce speed when being overtaken, approached or directed by law enforcement officer operating a siren and/or displaying an illuminated blue light. When operating in an area of law enforcement activity, you must reduce speed and give a wide berth until beyond the area.

ACCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Anyone involved in a accident is required to stop and give assistance as long as it will not personally endanger the operator, passengers or vessel. Anyone involved in a accident that results in the death or disappearance of a person must make immediate verbal notification to SCDNR "800-922-5241. Be prepared to provide your name, address and vessel registration numbers to authorities and all other involved parties.

I _____ have read and understand the above rules and laws.

Signature _____

Date _____