

RULES OF THE ROAD

SPEED:	A person operating or propelling a vessel upon the waters of this state shall operate the same in a careful and prudent manner and at such a rate of speed so as not to unreasonably endanger the life or property of any person. A person shall not operate any vessel at a rate of speed greater than will permit him, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the vessel to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. A person shall no operate a vessel in a manner so as to interfere unreasonably with the lawful use by others of any waters.
CARELESS/RECKLESS OPERATION:	A person who operates any vessel, upon any of the waters of this state, carelessly and heedlessly in disregard of the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property, is guilty of reckless operation of a vessel. A person who navigates, steers or controls himself while being towed on water skis, water sleds, surfboards, or similar contrivances, upon any of the waters of this state, carelessly and heedlessly in disregard of the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and circumspection and in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property, is guilty of reckless operation of water skis, water sleds, surfboards or similar contrivances.
CHILDREN:	Children between 12 and 16 years of age may operate a motorboat only when accompanied by someone 16 years of age or older or when in possession of a boating safety certificate issued subsequent to satisfactorily completing a DNR approved course in boating safety. When so operating, the boating safety certificate shall be in possession of the minor operator and shall be presented upon demand of any peace officer.
CHANNELS/BATHING AREAS:	Persons operating vessels on the waters of this state in areas not marked by well defined channels, canals, rivers or stream courses shall operate in a counterclockwise fashion insofar as it is reasonably possible. Such persons shall maintain a distance of 100 feet from any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing area, or vessel moored or at anchor.