

Boating Regulations

by Julia Matys, FOCA Volunteer from Report to the FOCA Membership, Summer 2000 Under the Small Vessel Regulations, the Contraventions Act permits the issuance of tickets on the water in the same way offences are issued under the Criminal Code. Fines for some boating offences include:

- Operating a vessel in a careless manner, without consideration for other people, boat traffic, potential hazards or the number of people around the boat. Fine is \$250 plus surcharges.
- Speeding in excess of 10 km/h within 30 metres or 100 feet from shore. Fine is \$125. Maximum fine is \$500 or six months imprisonment.
- Insufficient number of life jackets (Canadian Coast Guard approved.) Fine is \$245.
- Minimum safety equipment not on board. Fines could exceed \$500 depending on what isn't present. Check the Safe Boating Guide for a list of mandatory equipment.
- Insufficient number of oars or paddles. Fine is \$150.
- No paddle/anchor \$125
- No buoyant heaving line \$125. If you are reporting an offender, ensure you provide the following: date/time, location, type of boat, colour and description, license number, video/photo if possible, and witnesses if possible. Even better, identify the offender. Exceptions to the 10 km/h within 30 m of shore boating speed limit (Boating Restriction Regulations, Canada Shipping Act) include:
 - if the operation of the vessel is for the purpose of towing a person on water skis, a surf board or any other such equipment and 1. The vessel follows a trajectory that is perpendicular to shore, and 2. where the vessel is being operated in waters within 30 m of shore, the operation takes place within an area designated by buoys as an area in which such an operation is permitted
 - in respect of the operation of power-driven vessels in 1. rivers that are less than 100 m in width, or in canals or buoyed channels, or 2. in any waters in which a different boating restriction applies. Under the Small Vessel Regulations rules governing waterskiing, new regulations have been expanded. The previously existing requirement to have spotter on board remains. There must be a seat available for each person being towed in case recovery is necessary. Only personal watercraft designed to carry three people can be used for towing waterskiers. Towing activities are not allowed in the period from one hour after sunset to sunrise. Contact the Canadian Coast Guard at 1-800-267-6687 or www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca for more information.