

## Boating and Fishing

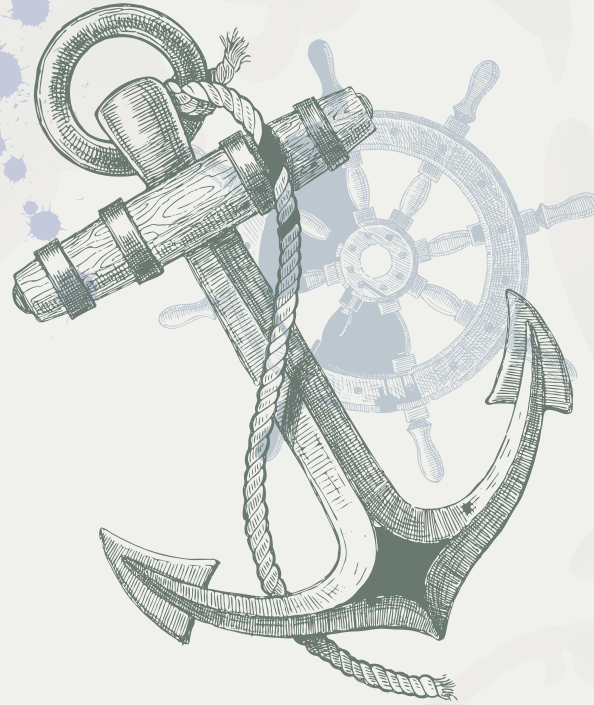
The tidal Potomac River is home to many types of fish, to include largemouth bass, catfish, bluefish, pike, and rockfish. Prior to fishing on the Potomac, you are required to possess either a Virginia or Maryland State fishing license. Many types of watercraft are available for issue at the Quantico Marina for a minimal fee. The selection includes kayaks, Alumna craft bass boats, Boston Whalers, and American sailboats. Boat rentals are available at the Marina from Memorial Day Weekend through Columbus Day Weekend



Quantico Marina  
Bldg. 25 Potomac Ave.  
Quantico, VA 22134  
703-784-2359  
[www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.quantico.usmc-mccs.org)

last updated 5/14

# QUANTICO Marina



## Boating Safety

A GUIDE TO SAFE BOATING ON  
THE POTOMAC RIVER!



## Welcome to the Quantico Marina

It is our goal to provide a safe boating experience to all authorized patrons of the Quantico Marina. Infractions of safety regulations and/or abuse of equipment such as not wearing a PFD (Personal Flotation Device), creating wake within the marina, consuming alcoholic beverages, or ignoring our waterway boundaries will result in forfeiture of boating privileges.

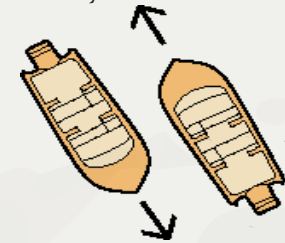
The U.S. Coast Guard reported that the top five contributing factors in boating accidents were operator inattention, careless/reckless operation, passenger/skier behavior, excessive speed, and alcohol use.

Please be sure to abide by all safety regulations to ensure a wonderful boating experience at the Quantico Marina.



## RULES OF NAVIGATION

MCCS and the Quantico Marina have established boundaries for our rental fleet for your safety. You are not permitted to take the vessel any further north than the VEPCO power lines and no further south than Coast Guard buoy marker #41. The vessel must also remain at least 100 yards off both the Virginia and Maryland coastlines.



### Meeting Head-On

When two motorboats approach each other head-on, each must turn to starboard (right) and pass port-to-port (left-to-left). When two motorboats approach each other, but it is clear that each vessel is so far from the other that no collision hazard exists, they may pass on either side.

### Crossing

When two motorboats approach each other in a crossing situation, the motorboat which has the other motorboat on the starboard side is the give-way vessel (must stay clear and slow down if necessary). The other vessel is the stand-on vessel (must hold course and speed).

### Right-of-Way

Under federal law, sailboats have the right-of-way over motorboats, and canoes/kayaks have the right-of-way over sailboats.

## Alcohol, Drugs, and Boating



NO alcohol or drugs will be allowed aboard any Marina rental boat and no person under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be allowed aboard any Marina rental boat.

### The Law

When it comes to alcohol, the law for operating a motorboat is nearly the same as for a motor vehicle. The presumptive level for being under the influence of alcohol is 0.08 BAC (blood alcohol content). No person is allowed to operate a watercraft under the influence of alcohol, narcotic drugs, or other self-administered intoxicants or drugs.

Virginia has a “Zero Tolerance” for anyone under 21 years of age. It is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 to operate a boat after consuming alcohol.

The penalty for conviction of Operating Under the Influence (OUI) is as much as one year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine, loss of the privilege of operating a watercraft for 12 months, and/or mandatory enrollment in the Alcohol Safety Action Program certified by the Commission on the Alcohol Safety Action Program. All convictions are reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

## Boating Education Information

In 2007, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law to establish a boating safety education compliance requirement. The requirement for boating safety education is phased-in over several years and applies to all PWC (Personal Watercraft) operators of motorboats of 10hp and greater according to the following schedule:

- Motorboat operators 40 years of age or younger shall meet the requirements by July 1, 2013.
- Motorboat operators 45 years of age or younger shall meet the requirements by July 1, 2014.
- Motorboat operators 50 years of age or younger shall meet the requirement by July 1, 2015.
- All motorboat operators, regardless of age, shall meet the requirements by July 1, 2016.

If you are interested in taking a VDGIF (Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries) certified Boat Safety Course, please visit their website at [www.dgif.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov) or call 804-367-1000 for class schedules and locations.

VDGIF also supports boating courses offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (the volunteer organization of the U.S. Coast Guard) and the U.S. Power Squadrons (a volunteer boating education association). To obtain more information about local classes with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the Power Squadrons, please call: 1-800-245-BOAT (2628).

## Additional Regulations

- No swimming, skiing, or tubing
- The Quantico Marina Motorboat Operator’s License is required for anyone operating an MCCA motorboat.
- Maximum capacity for all watercraft is not to exceed the Coast Guard approved weight allowance for each respective boat.
- A Coast Guard approved PFD shall be worn at all times by all persons in MCCA watercraft underway.
- The universal distress signal in an emergency for all boats on the river is waving an oar overhead. All persons in such situations should attempt to stay in their boat until help arrives. You can also reach the marina and the U.S. Coast Guard on VHF channel 16.
- The harbor of the Marina is a NO wake zone. Keep your vessel at minimum speed until you are clear of the marina.
- Marina staff, at their discretion, may at any time delay or cancel boat usage due to existing or projected inclement weather, i.e., gusty winds, thunderstorms, or steady winds in excess of 16 knots.
- Marina personnel have the right to refuse boat usage to anyone, in their opinion, is not competent to operate a powerboat, or who smells of alcohol or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- MCCA boat use is authorized only during our hours of operation. All boats must be returned to the marina at least a half hour prior to closing time.
- The individual who signs out the boat in any group will be held responsible for the safe operation of that boat and that all regulations are observed. Patrons should consider this prior to allowing other individuals to use the boat they have signed out.

## Before You Leave the Harbor

Make sure you do a vessel safety check as well as equipment check before you leave the dock.

- ✓ Life Jackets (PFDs – one for each person onboard)
- ✓ Type IV PFD – throwable cushion
- ✓ Paddle
- ✓ Fire Extinguisher
- ✓ VHF radio and/or cell phone – The marina monitors channel 16 on VHF; our phone # is 703-784-2359
- ✓ Fuel Tank(s) – At least one full six gallon tank per boat
- ✓ Propeller condition
- ✓ Overall vessel condition



The vessel and equipment must be returned in the condition it was rented in. By renting a boat from MCCA, you have assumed responsibility of the boat and equipment. You will be expected to reimburse MCCA for any equipment that is lost or damaged.