



TMCA BOATING GUIDELINES

1. Safety and Boat Handling

- Maintain the appropriate safety equipment required for coastal boating for your vessel.
- Get your annual Vessel Safety Check through the United States Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary (schedule online or via a local squadron or flotilla)
- Know and exercise the proper rules of the road.
- Practice marlinspike, line handling & tying often to stay proficient
- File a Float Plan when cruising and remember to close the plan upon safe arrival

2. Preparation and Maintenance

- Maintain current local charting and be aware of hazard waypoints
- Review weather and tide forecasts prior to leaving the dock
- Maintain your boat per appropriate servicing schedules
- Always check fluids, oil, batteries, safety equipment, VHF radio prior to each voyage – check mooring lines for chafing, wear and tear.

3. Etiquette

- Be cautious, considerate, and communicate when overtaking other boaters
- Be mindful of your vessel's wake and give a "slow bell" when required to ensure you don't cause harm and/or injury to persons or property
- Offer assistance to other boaters (docking, disabled on the water) when safe to do so

4. Environment

- Follow the rules regarding discharge of sewage, oil, fuel and trash in you marina, Clear Lake, Galveston Bay or wherever you travel

5. Sharing and Volunteering

- Share boating experiences with others, including identifying new water hazards
- Offer to buddy boat with new members if you are experienced
- Participate in local volunteer boating events to enrich someone else's life
- Volunteer to do something in the club, whether big or small
- HAVE FUN!!!!