

L. A. SOUND BIGHT

A **bight** is a length of rope that does not cross itself. Knots tied without use of the working end are called knots *on the bight*.

Tid Bits

Ventilation Systems

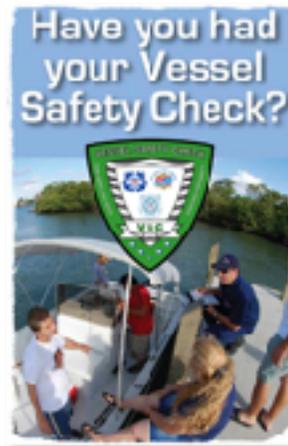
- All gasoline-powered vessels must have at least two ventilation ducts to remove the fumes.
- Turn on blower for at least *four* minutes after fueling or before starting engine.

Backfire Flame Arrestors

- All powerboats (except outboards) fueled with gasoline must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved backfire flame arrestor on each carburetor.
- Periodically clean the flame arrestor(s) and check for any damage.

Mufflers

- Engines must have a factory-installed muffler or exhaust system for noise reduction.
- Michigan law states that a vessel's muffler or exhaust system must prevent noise in excess of:
 - 90 decibels at idle from three feet away *and...*
 - 75 decibels when measured from shore.



It's The Law!

Registering Your Vessel

You must have a Michigan Certificate of Number (registration) and validation decals to operate your vessel legally on public waters in Michigan. The only exceptions are:

- Privately owned rowboats 16 feet or less in length
- Privately owned non-motorized canoes or kayaks
- Vessels registered in another state using Michigan waters for 60 days or less

The certificate of Number (registration card) must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is being operated.

Navigation Lights

If underway between sunset and sunrise, or during periods of reduced visibility (fog, rain, haze, etc.), vessels must be equipped with and exhibit navigation lights.

All vessels are required to use an all-round white light between sunset and sunrise whenever they are anchored in the waters of or connected to the Great Lakes. However, it is advisable to display a white light always when anchored or adrift at night.

More Tid Bits

Sound-Producing Devices

- On State Waters, a vessel 16 to 26 feet long **and** under engine power must have a whistle capable of producing a blast of two seconds or more and audible for at least one-half mile.
- A vessel 26 feet or longer **and** under engine power must have a whistle capable of producing a blast of two seconds or more and audible for at least one mile.

Unlawful and Dangerous Operation

Michigan law designates these dangerous operating practices as illegal:

- Reckless Operation of a vessel, water skis, surfboard, etc. which disregards the safety or rights of others:
 - Weaving your vessel through congested traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision.
 - Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to that vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is restricted.
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife.
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel.
- Operating a vessel at greater than “slow, no wake speed” when a person is in the bow without proper seating.

Required Equipment Checklist		Boat Less Than 16 FL.	Boat 16 FL to Less Than 26 FL.
			
Certificate of Number On Board		✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed		✓	✓
Wearable PFDs: Type I, II, or III		✓3	✓3
Throwable PFD: Type IV			✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher		✓	✓
Engine Cut-Off Switch		PWCs only	
Backfire Flame Arrestor		✓4	✓4
Ventilation System		✓	✓
Muffler		✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell		✓5	✓5
Daytime Visual Distress Signals			✓5
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals		✓5	✓5
Navigation Lights		✓6	✓6

3. Those under the age of 6 years must *wear* a Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel while underway.

4. Required on inboard and stern drives only.

5. In periods of reduced visibility or whenever a vessel operator needs to signal their intentions or position, a sound-producing device is essential. *Required* only on the Great Lakes and waters connected to the Great Lakes.

6. Unpowered vessels (sailboats under sail, rowboats, etc.) are required only to have a flashlight or a lantern on hand.

The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities 2017

