

# Tips to keep you floating safely this boating season

Spring is here, and summer will be here before we know it and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state.

Here are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure.

• Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.

• Wear your life jackets. Eighty-five percent of the boating fatalities could be avoided by wearing a personal flotation device. Remember: It can't save your life if you don't wear it.

• Have children and non-swimmers wear a personal flotation device. Each device should be of suitable size for the intended wearer and fit securely. Ninety percent of those who die in boating accidents drown.

• Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first-aid kit, visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, and a cell phone.

• Don't overload your boat. Follow the recommendations on the capacity plate of your boat.

• Capsizing, sinking, and falling overboard account for 70 percent of boating fatalities.

• If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve body warmth.

• Hypothermia can be a killer; keep your body dry and warm as possible.

• It is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Use the designated driver concept; a sober skipper is a must.

• Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibration, noise and alcohol all affect your ability to react.

• Don't run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return and 1/3 for spare.

• Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge. Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.

• When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than

the depth of the water and never anchor by the stern.

• File a float plan. Let someone know where you're boating and when you'll be back.

• You're responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution around other boaters and docks.

• As of January 2009, all per-

sons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card.

The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For more information on Boating in Oregon, people are

encouraged to pick up the Oregon Boaters Handbook available at your county sheriff's office, or online at the Oregon State Marine Board website at [www.boatoregon.com](http://www.boatoregon.com)

— Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

## ODFW hosts website photo contest

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife wants to showcase your fishing, hunting, crabbing, clamming and wildlife viewing photos on its website, in promotional materials and on social media sites.

"It's a great chance for people to share their best shots," said Rick Hargrave, Information and Education Administrator. "Last year's photo contest winner in the fishing category was featured on the 2014 Sport Fishing Regulations, and we have highlighted the photos of dozens of contest entrants in other places."

### Guidelines:

• The contest closes June 24, 2015.

• There are five categories: fishing, hunting, crabbing, clamming and wildlife viewing.

• All photos must have been taken by you personally in Oregon.

• By submitting a photo, you agree that it can be used by ODFW on its website and in other promotional products.

• Wildlife viewing photos must be of native species in a natural environment.

• If there are people in the photo, get permission from them before you submit photo.

• Only high resolution photos, at least 1 megabyte, will be accepted.

• ODFW employees are not eligible to participate in the contest.

### How to submit photos:

Enter your photos via the ODFW website in the "About Us" section, in Photo/Video gallery at [www.odfw.wufoo.com/forms/odfw-photo-submission-form](http://www.odfw.wufoo.com/forms/odfw-photo-submission-form)

One winner will be chosen in each of five categories by a panel of ODFW judges: fishing, hunting, crabbing, clamming and wildlife viewing.

Each winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Cabela's.

See past winners online, at [www.dfw.state.or.us/images/photo\\_submissions/july\\_contest/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/images/photo_submissions/july_contest/)


The winning photo in the 2014 fishing category, Greg Yamada's self-portrait, was featured on the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

Terry Zolotoff submitted his photo in 2013 and ended up on the cover of the 2014-15 Oregon Game Bird Regulations.


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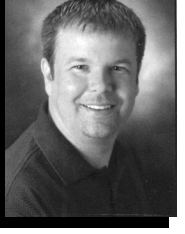


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If you would like to meet Ginger or any of her friends, please visit us at:

**FLORENCE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
2840 Rhododendron Drive • Florence • 541-997-4277  
[www.florencehumane.org](http://www.florencehumane.org)  
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