§ 3.12 May I use a vessel to tow a person for water skiing or other similar activities?

§ 3.13 What conditions apply to the use of Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)?

§ 3.14 Am I required to remove a sunken, grounded, or disabled vessel?

§ 3.15 What is the maximum noise level for the operation of a vessel?

§ 3.16 May I swim or wade in park waters?

§ 3.17 What regulations apply to swimming areas and beaches?

§ 3.18 May I snorkel or underwater dive in park waters?

§ 3.19 May I operate a submersible within park waters?

§ 3.20 Am I required to obtain a permit to operate a vessel in a park area?

§ 3.21 Do other boating laws and regulations apply to me when I operate my boat on park waters?

§ 3.22 May I use a vessel to tow a person for water skiing or other similar activities?

§ 3.23 What are the conditions for using Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)?

§ 3.24 Are there requirements for removing sunken, grounded, or disabled vessels?

§ 3.25 What is the maximum noise level allowed for vessel operation?

§ 3.26 May I swim or wade in park waters?

§ 3.27 Are there regulations for swimming areas and beaches?

§ 3.28 May I snorkel or dive underwater?

§ 3.29 Can I operate a submersible within park waters?

§ 3.30 Am I required to obtain a permit to operate a vessel in a park area?

§ 3.31 Do other boating laws and regulations apply to me when I operate my boat on park waters?

(a) In addition to the regulations contained in this part, the NPS adopts applicable laws and regulations of the United States Coast Guard. The USCG laws and regulations are found in Title 14 United States Code, Title 33 United States Code, Title 46 United States Code, and 33 CFR chapter I, 46 CFR chapter I and III and 49 CFR chapter IV. NPS applies the adopted laws and regulations to vessels and their operation on all waters (navigable and non-navigable) subject to NPS jurisdiction. Therefore, Federal regulations authorizing an action by the “captain of the port” or another officer or employee of the United States Coast Guard, authorize a like action by the superintendent.

(b) Except to the extent that directives of the United States Coast Guard have expressly or implicitly preempted inconsistent state laws and regulations or as otherwise provided by subsection (a), vessels and their operation on all waters subject to NPS jurisdiction are governed by non-conflicting boating safety laws and regulations of the State within whose interior boundaries a park area or portion thereof is located.

§ 3.32 Do I have to report an accident involving a vessel to the National Park Service?

(a) The operator of a vessel involved in an accident must report the accident to the superintendent as soon as practical, but in any event within 24 hours of the accident, if the accident involves:

(1) Total property damage of $2000 or more; or

(2) Injury, or death or disappearance of a person

(b) If the operator is physically incapable of making the report, the owner or an occupant of the vessel must report the accident to the superintendent.

(c) Filing a report with the superintendent may satisfy applicable United States Coast Guard, State, and local accident reporting requirements.
§ 3.8 What vessel operations are prohibited?

(a) The following operations are prohibited:

1. Operating a power-driven or sailing vessel within 100 feet of a diver’s flag except a vessel in support of dive operations, which may not be operated in excess of flat wake speed.

2. Failing to observe restriction(s) established by a regulatory marker.

3. Operating a vessel in excess of flat wake speed in designated areas.

4. Operating a vessel in excess of flat wake speed within 100 feet of:

   i. A downed water skier;
   ii. A person swimming, wading, fishing from shore or floating with the aid of a flotation device;
   iii. A designated launch site; or
   iv. A manually propelled, anchored or drifting vessel. If the park is located within a State specifying different conditions, then that State law is adopted in lieu of this paragraph.

5. Unless a designated area is marked otherwise, operating a power-driven or sailing vessel within 500 feet of a shoreline designated as a swimming beach. This prohibition does not apply in locations such as a river, channel, or narrow cove where passage is restricted to less than 500 feet. In such restrictive locations where swim beaches are designated, the operation of a vessel in excess of a flat wake speed is prohibited.

6. Operating a power-driven vessel while a person is riding on the decking over the bow, gunwales, top edge of the transom, motor cover, or in any other unsafe position when the vessel is being operated. This provision does not apply when that portion of the vessel is designed and constructed for the purpose of carrying passengers safely at all speeds or when the vessel is maneuvering for anchoring, docking or mooring.

7. Operating a power driven vessel engine(s) or generator with a person sitting, riding or hanging on to a swim platform or swim ladder.

8. Operating a vessel, or knowingly allowing another person to operate a vessel in a negligent manner, by failing to exercise that degree of care which a reasonable person, under like circumstances, would demonstrate in order to prevent the endangering of the life, limb, or property of a person(s).