IMPAIRED BOATING IS IMPAIRED DRIVING

Alcohol diminishes judgement, reduces motor skills, slows reaction and reflex response times, reduces depth perception and focus, and accelerates hypothermia. These effects are intensified on the water.

Operating a boat impaired can have deadly results. About 39% of all recreational boating fatalities involve alcohol.

EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING OUR WATERS SAFE. NEVER OPERATE A BOAT WHILE IMPAIRED.
IF YOU SUSPECT AN IMPAIRED BOATER OR YOUR MARINE UNIT

GENERALLY, BOATERS WHO ARE IMPAIRED ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

• Go too fast for the waterway
• Operate vessels in a dangerous or careless manner (aggressive turning, high speeds)
• Forget to turn on running lights or other required night-time equipment
• Openly consume alcohol while underway

Talk to your local authorities about other behaviours to be on the look-out for. These may include operators drinking and/or doing drugs at their marina or dock and then taking the boat out or impairment at the fuel dock, pump out or on-the-water restaurants.

IF YOU SEE A BOATER YOU SUSPECT IS IMPAIRED . . .

Contact your local police marine unit or call 911. Try to have as much information as possible, including:

• Licence number, name and description of vessel
• Direction of travel
• Description of the person operating the vessel
• Number of occupants/description
• Location and any specific landmarks

DO NOT TRY TO FOLLOW OR INTERCEPT SOMEONE YOU SUSPECT IS IMPAIRED. REPORT IT THE POLICE AND LET THEM HANDLE IT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT MADD.CA