LEAVE NO TRACE ON MAINE’S ISLANDS

- Camp in designated areas only
- Do not expand or create new campsites
- Concentrate your activity on durable surfaces

- Campfires are not recommended—use cookstoves for meals and headlamps for light
- If fire rings are unavailable, build a small fire below high tide line in a fire pan or on sand or gravel
- Use only driftwood, burn all wood to a fine ash & extinguish completely

- Carry out all trash—your own & what you find
- If no privy is available, carry out all solid human waste and toilet paper

- Respect wildlife, view from a distance
- Do not feed animals
- Secure your food
- Leave pets at home or on your boat
- Leave what you find for others to enjoy

- Preserve the peace & quiet of the setting
- Be respectful of those who live & work in the area
- Keep your visual impact low by consolidating gear

AIDS TO NAVIGATION
Red, Right, Returning:
As you return toward shore from open waters or proceed upstream, green buoys and markers should be on your left, and red on your right.

(Note: Channel markers indicate passage lanes for larger boats, kayakers should avoid these channels)

Orange and white aids indicate warnings and regulations, such as no wake zones and danger areas.

Mooring buoys are the only type of buoy to which mooring is permitted, and permission is required to use them. They are typically white with blue horizontal band.

Adapted from U.S. Coast Guard

RESOURCES

Boating Safety & Navigation Courses
Boat US Foundation: 800–336-BOAT
www.boatus.com/foundation
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary: www.uscgaux.org
U.S. Power Squadrons: www.usps.org
Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides & Instructors: www.maskgi.org

Agencies & Organizations
U.S. Coast Guard: www.uscgboating.org
Maine Island Trail Association: www.mita.org
Marine Mammals of Maine: 800–532–9551
www.mmome.org
Red Tide Hotline: 800–232–4733
NOAA (nautical charts):
www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
ME Harbors (tides & weather): www.me.usharbors.com

Local Information
Badgers Island Marina: 207–439–3810
Kittery Land Trust: 207–439–8989
www.kitterylandtrust.org
Kittery Point Yacht Yard: 207–439–9582
Pepperrell Cove: 207–439–0452
Pierce Island: 603–643–0137
Traip Academy: 207–439–0452

Emergency Numbers
Kittery Harbormaster: 207–451–0829
Portsmouth Harbormaster: 603–436–8500
Coast Guard (Portsmouth): 603–436–4414
Maine Marine Patrol: 800–228–0857
Kittery Police: 207–439–1638
Portsmouth Police: 603–427–1500

America’s first water trail, created, protected, and enjoyed by people who love the coast of Maine.
www.mita.org | 207–761–8225
Boating Safety

- Wear a personal flotation device (PFD)
- Carry visual distress signals & sound devices (e.g. flares & fog horns)
- Carry navigational aids including nautical charts, compass & GPS
- Carry a VHF marine radio & cell phone
- File a float plan before you go out
- Know the tide cycle, tidal range & marine forecast
- Know & observe rules of the road
- Never boat under the influence
- Remain visible to other boaters at all times

Coastal Stewardship

Wake: Obey “no wake” zones and speed limits to protect surrounding shoreline habitat and private property.

Marine Debris: Store all items securely in your vessel and dispose of food and other trash properly on the mainland.

Wildlife: View wildlife from a distance. Give a wide berth to hauled out seals, nesting birds and rafting eiders.

Working Waterfront: Respect and give way to commercial fishing vessels and working boats.

Launch Etiquette

Paddlers
- Consolidate gear, outfit your boat & suit up well away from the ramp
- Launch & haul out quickly when ramp is free
- Use hand carry launch sites when possible
- Avoid boating channels

Powerboats & Sailboats
- Outfit & prepare your boat away from the ramp or in specific boat ready areas
- Launch & haul out quickly when ramp is free
- Use designated tie-down areas to prepare your boat for trailering after hauling

Safety & Hazards

Boating Channels
Portsmouth Harbor is busy with container ships, fishing vessels and recreational boats including kayaks and jet skis. The narrow channels are often congested.
- Yield to bigger boats
- Cross channels directly
- Paddlers: keep to shorelines and out of channels whenever possible.

Currents & Swells
The mouth of the Piscataqua River can produce dangerous boating conditions.
- Beware of strong currents and standing waves created by opposing wind and tides.

Naval Shipyard
Working shipyard- be aware of activity & vessel traffic

Bridges
Low clearance around New Castle