

North Carolina Boating Checklist

Subject	Personal Watercrafts (PWCs)	Boats Less Than 16 Feet	Boats 16 Feet to Less Than 26 Feet
Float Plan	✓	✓	✓
Boater Education Certificate On Board	✓ ₁	✓ ₂	✓ ₃
Certificate of Number On Board	✓	✓	✓
Validation Decals Displayed	✓	✓	✓
PFD*s: Type I, II, or III for each person on board	✓ ₃	✓ ₄	✓ ₄
PFD*: Type IV	N/A	N/A	✓
Type B-I Fire Extinguisher	✓	✓	✓
Ignition Safety Switch	✓ ₅	✓ ₂	✓ ₂
Backfire Flame Arrestor	✓	✓ ₆	✓ ₆
Ventilation System	✓	✓	✓
Muffler	✓	✓	✓
Horn, Whistle, or Bell	✓	✓	✓
Daytime Visual Distress Signals	N/A	N/A	✓ ₇
Nighttime Visual Distress Signals	✓ ₈	✓ ₇	✓ ₇
Navigation Lights	✓ ₈	✓	✓

Canoes & Kayaks

In North Carolina, having a life vest for everyone onboard a canoe or kayak is smart, potentially lifesaving — and the law.

General Statute 15 NCAC 10F .0201 now requires that vessels be equipped with personal flotation devices.

1. Required for PWC operators 14 years of age up to 16 years of age. No person under 14 years of age may operate a PWC. Persons 14 to 16 years of age may also operate without a boating education certificate if physically accompanied on the PWC by an adult at least 18 years of age.

2. Not required but highly recommended.

3. Those on personal watercraft (PWCs) must **wear** an approved personal flotation device (life jacket) at all times.

4. Children under 13 years of age must **wear** an approved life jacket while underway.

5. Safety kill switch lanyard must be attached to operate.

6. Required on inboards and stern drives only.

7. Required only when boating on federally controlled waters.

8. Certain times are not applicable to PWCs because PWCs are not allowed to operate between sunset and sunrise.

*Personal Flotation Device