

MARYLAND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

Personal Watercraft Rental Test

NAME: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____ DATE: _____

Maryland law requires that ALL persons, regardless of age, operating a RENTED Personal Water Craft (PWC) must complete the following test. Please circle the letter of the correct answer. Only one (1) wrong answer allowed in order to pass.

1. When operating a personal watercraft (PWC) faster than 6 knots, what is the legal minimum distance that the operator must maintain from any shore, wharf, pier, bridge abutment, other PWC and/or boats, or people in the water?
 - A. 50 feet
 - B. 75 feet
 - C. 100 feet
 - D. 300 feet
2. How old must a person be to legally operate a PWC on Maryland waters?
 - A. 12
 - B. 14
 - C. 16
 - D. 21
3. Which of the following dangerous and illegal activities may result in an accident, a citation, or the termination of your rental agreement?
 - A. Jumping the wake of another vessel, within 100 feet of that vessel.
 - B. Operating in excess of 6 knots within 100 feet of another vessel, wharf, pier, bridge structure or abutment, other PWC or people in the water.
 - C. Weaving through congested boat traffic.
 - D. Intentionally throwing off your passenger into the water.
 - E. All of the above.
4. Who is required to wear a life jacket while riding on a PWC?
 - A. Everyone on board.
 - B. Only the operator.
 - C. Only those persons who cannot swim.
 - D. Only those persons under 21 years of age.
5. A PWC is capable of making quick and abrupt turns. Therefore, it is necessary to look around often and, it is especially important to look before turning in order to prevent an accident.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. When another boat is approaching you from your **RIGHT**, you should:
 - A. Give the other boat the right-of-way.
 - B. Maintain course and speed.
 - C. Speed up and try to pass the other boat.
 - D. None of the above.
7. It is **ILLEGAL** to operate any vessel, including a PWC, while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
 - A. True
 - B. False
8. The operator of a rented PWC may be responsible for any damage that he or she may cause to their vessel or other vessels while operating it, if the damage is a result of his or her reckless or negligent operation, or the result of any violation of Maryland boating law or regulation.
 - A. True
 - B. False
9. The engine cut-off lanyard must be attached to the operator at all times while underway.
 - A. True
 - B. False
10. A unique characteristic of PWC operation is that when you release the throttle, you will no longer be able to steer the craft.
 - A. True
 - B. False
11. While you are becoming accustomed to the handling of your PWC, you should understand that, when pressed, the red STOP button:
 - A. turns off the engine of your PWC but does not stop the craft immediately.
 - B. acts as a brake and stops your PWC immediately.
 - C. allows you to steer away from approaching objects before stopping.
 - D. stops the craft immediately but the engine will continue to run.
12. Most PWC accidents are the result of collisions. To avoid a collision, you should:
 - A. Keep at least 100 feet away from everything, especially other PWC in your riding area.
 - B. Constantly look in all directions to avoid tunnel vision.
 - C. Follow the instructions you are given on how to ride a PWC safely.
 - D. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
 - E. All of the above.

13. When operating a PWC in water that is 18 inches or less in depth, how fast should it be operated?

- A.** As quickly as possible.
- B.** Six knots
- C.** The same speed as others around you.
- D.** Idle or “No Throttle” speed.

Revised: 3/2015

Tilghman Island Marina