



# Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



# Safe Waterskiing Endorsement Presentation

October 1, 2015  
DEEP- Boating Division



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

# Welcome to the DEEP Safe Waterskiing Endorsement Course!

In order to obtain your Safe Waterskiing Endorsement, you will need to:

1. Obtain your Conservation Identification number
2. Take the Safe Waterskiing Online Course
3. View the Safe Towing video
4. Take the examination
5. Retrieve your Safe Waterskiing Endorsement from the Sportsmen's Licensing System.



# NEW Safe Waterskiing Endorsement requirements for operators effective October 1, 2015

## The Law

- In order to operate a vessel or personal watercraft (ex. jetski) that is towing a skier or tube, the operator must:
  - 1) Be age 16 or older **and**
  - 2) Have a valid boating certificate from either Connecticut, a state that has a reciprocal agreement with Connecticut, or a U.S. Coast Guard operator's license **and**
  - 3) Possess a Connecticut Safe Waterskiing Endorsement
- *Persons who obtained their certificate prior to October 1, 2015 are exempt from needing the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement.*



# Waterskiing in Connecticut- the laws

- In addition to the operator, you will need an **observer on board, who is at least age 12**. The observer is responsible for:
  - Watching the person waterskiing or being towed on a tube
  - Communicating with the waterskier or tuber
  - Informing the operator of the vessel on the status of the person being towed and any safety concerns.
- **Remember!**-anyone being towed must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket.
- Inflatable life jackets are not allowed.



# Waterskiing in Connecticut- the laws (cont.)

- Towing vessel requirements
  - Personal watercraft must have at least 3 seats with handholds for the observer to hold on to.
  - The vessel you will use for towing should have ample seating capacity for all persons participating, including the person being towed.
- Towing Equipment
  - The person being towed or skiing should wear a life jacket that is designed for the sport.
  - Your tow line may not be any longer than 100' in length.
- Reckless Waterskiing
  - It is the responsibility of the operator and waterskiier to not operate in a manner that threatens to harm or strike another vessel or person.



# Waterskiing in Connecticut- the laws (cont.)

- Waterskiing may only take place between sunrise and sunset behind a personal watercraft and from sunrise until ½ hour after sunset behind a vessel.
- Unless dropping off or taking off with a waterskier, you must maintain no wake speed when within 100' of a dock, moored vessel or shoreline while operating a vessel and when within 200' from the same on a personal watercraft.



# Equipment and setting up the ski vessel

- Only devices designed for towed water sports should be used.
- It is not recommended to tow multiple devices behind a vessel.
- Always use a tow line that is in good condition and free from defects. The line should have a proper weight capacity for the device being towed.
- When attaching the tow line, use a proper connection point designed to take the force of the tow.
- Inflatable devices should be inflated according to the manufacturers recommendation.





# Safe Waterskiing Practices- before take off

- The waterskier, observer and operator should review hand signals for clarity.
- The operator should always shut off the engine when someone is in the water anywhere near the vessel, including waterskiers entering the water or boarding from the water.
- The observer should always be watching the person being towed while underway and advising the vessel operator of any dangerous developments, including a fallen waterskier.
- The operator, with the assistance of the observer, should ensure no one is tangled in the tow line prior to take off.



# Safe Waterskiing Practices- while towing

- The operator should ensure the takeoff path is clear.
- The operator should not accelerate, while towing, until the person being towed has indicated that they are ready for take off.
- The operator should always operate in areas that keep the waterskier or tuber clear of any obstacles or other vessels.
- Operators should not exceed 20 mph when towing an inflatable device.



# Safe Waterskiing Practices- while towing (cont.)

- Operators should refrain from whipping a tuber or waterskier toward any obstacles or vessels.
- Operators should always keep the person being towed at least 2 tow line lengths away from any obstacle, shoreline or other vessels.
- Persons being towed should never jump, steer, or stand in a way that may cause injury.



# Safe Waterskiing Practices- while towing (cont.)

- Persons waterskiing should always follow the manufacturers recommendations on towed devices.
- When returning to pick up a fallen waterskier, operators should always approach in a way that keeps the waterskier on the same side as the operator.
- When dropping off a waterskier, operators should be sure the area is clear of swimmers and obstacles in the water.



# Safe Waterskiing practices-don't drink and boat!

## Don't drink and boat!!

## Don't drink and waterski!!

- Alcohol + waterskiing = Accidents
  - Family members and friends may get hurt or killed.
  - Other boaters are put in danger.

*Boating is Serious Fun !*



# You're Almost Done!

The next step is to watch the  
Safe Towing video.



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