



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FLPD MARINE UNIT ADDRESSES COVID-19 BOATING SAFETY

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has received concerns regarding boaters who are not abiding by restrictions listed in the Broward County Administrator's Emergency Order 20-21. In response to those concerns, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Marine Unit will be increasing their enforcement efforts.

Some restrictions listed in this order are;

Launching | On-Water Activity

- Only one vessel per launch ramp at a time is permitted.
- No gathering of more than 10 people permitted at any time. This includes during launch into the water, on-water and when removing vessel from water.
- Boats must remain at least fifty (50) feet apart at all times.
- All forms of rafting up of boats is strictly prohibited.
- Beaching, landing or anchoring on sandbars, islands, or open shorelines is strictly prohibited.
- Various limitations on the maximum capacity of vessel (varies by size)
 - Vessels 25' or less: 4 adult passengers maximum (plus children). Maximum of 6 people on the boat.
 - Vessels 26' – 36': 6 adult passengers maximum (plus children). Maximum of 8 people on the boat.
 - Vessels 37' – 60': 8 adult passengers maximum (plus children). Maximum of 10 people on the boat.
 - Vessels over 60': 10 passengers maximum, inclusive of adults and children, but not including crew members.

Rental of Jet Skis, Boats, Canoes, Kayaks, and Paddle Boards

- Jet ski rental operations are limited to single riders. Only exception to multi-person capacity is with riders who reside in the same household.
- Canoes/kayaks/paddle boards shall be limited to single person use. Two-person use is only permitted if all persons reside in the same household.

Charter Vessels

- Captain, crewmembers and patrons must wear facial coverings on shore and on the vessel whenever social distancing requirements cannot be maintained.
- Drift fishing vessels must provide for and ensure social distancing, including delineating safe social distancing position by measures, including, but not limited to installing tape or markings for patrons on seats, vessel railings and the deck.
- Each person fishing shall have his or her own fishing pole(s), tackle, and other equipment. Equipment sharing or rental is prohibited.
- Fish cleaning and bait table stations must be limited to one person per station at a time, and must be cleaned and disinfected in between each charter.

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