

Fraser River safe boating guide

Here at Canada's busiest port, there are marine traffic rules to follow and hazards to watch out for. Know the rules of the road for Canada's waterways to keep yourself and others safe.



- Legend**
-  **Deep-sea transit route**
Stay to the right of the channel, do not cross channel in front of deep-sea vessels
 -  **Deep-sea terminal**
Keep clear
 -  **Aircraft operations zone**
Keep clear
 -  **Bridge**
Proceed with caution, give way to commercial vessel traffic
 -  **Shallow area**
Consult nautical charts to avoid grounding
 -  **Local channels**
 -  **Boat launch**
 -  **Marine fuel station**

Commercial vessel traffic

Do not impede safe passage of commercial traffic. Deep-sea vessels on the river are constrained by their draft and can't move easily. Be prepared to move out of the way.

Safe boating practices



Plan

Check current conditions

The river is always moving and changing. Check weather, tide, currents, and water levels before you head out.

Consult official publications

To prevent incidents, look at nautical charts for depth soundings and our Port Information Guide for bridge transit procedures.



Look

Watch out for debris and hazards

Sandbars, wood debris, log booms, barge tie-ups, and fishing nets can be difficult to see.

Never cross between a tugboat and its tow

Tow cables are often submerged and not visible.



Listen

Monitor appropriate radio channels

Monitor VHF 74 (Fraser River) and VHF 06 (North Arm).

Attend to signals from other vessels

Five or more short and rapid blasts of a ship's whistle means "danger—stay clear".



Act

Be prepared to move out of the way

Large deep-sea vessels and working tugs can't move quickly, especially in narrow channels. Stay to the right of the channel and do not impede their passage.

Boat respectfully

Keep wake and wash to a minimum to avoid damage to sensitive habitat, property, or other vessels.

Report incidents

Contact our Port Operations Centre at 604.665.9086. In an emergency, call 911.

Safe boating on the Fraser River

Keep your vessel in safe working order—life jackets, radios, and navigation lights are required. It is prohibited to operate a boat while impaired. Harbour patrol officers, together with agency partners, conduct routine vessel inspections. Vessels not in compliance with local rules may be ticketed or removed at the owners' expense. Learn more about safe boating requirements at www.tc.gc.ca/boatingsafety.

Learn more about safe boating practices in the Port of Vancouver Port Information Guide at portvancouver.com/portinformationguide.

Key contacts

24/7 Port Operations Centre
Phone: 604.665.9086

Victoria traffic
Phone: 250.363.6611
Cell: *16 / VHF: 74

Marine emergencies
Phone: 911
Cell: *16 / VHF: 16

Seaplane operations—Middle Arm

Keep clear of aircraft landing and take-off area.



Log booms

Watch for log booms along the riverbank—they are not marked, are low in the water, and are difficult to see in low light.

Caution: Shallow areas

Avoid these areas, especially at low tide. Consult nautical charts and tide conditions to avoid grounding.

Where do I: ?

Anchor

Anchoring is not permitted within the Fraser River.

Discharge

Use pump stations or disposal services for grey and black water. No discharging within three (3) nautical miles of shore.

Fuel

Fuel at recognized fuelling stations only, following posted safety procedures.

Tow operations

Use caution when passing, especially in narrow channels. Keep wake to a minimum. Never cross between a tugboat and its tow.