



Marine Notice No. 30 of 2020

Notice to all Masters, Owners and Users of Pleasure and Recreational Craft.

Safety Advice in relation to Canoeing and Kayaking

In response to a recent Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) report into a fatal incident on Lough Gill on 29 January 2019 (Report No. 285 - No. 2 of 2020) the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport wishes to draw attention to the requirements set out in the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft and in particular Chapter 7 (Canoeing/Kayaking). The full report is available to view or download from www.mcib.ie.

As highlighted previously in [Marine Notice No. 31 of 2019](#), canoeists, kayakers and kayaking and canoeing organisations are again encouraged to familiarise themselves with the contents of the Code and to comply with its safety advice and recommendations. The MCIB recommends that particular attention be drawn to the following:

- Chapter 7, Section 7.1 (Training), page 84 of the Code:
Undertake a recognised training course in the correct use of the specific type of canoe you wish to use.
- Chapter 7, Section 7.2 (Prior to entering the water), pages 84 and 85 of the Code:
Ensure that you carry a mobile phone or Marine VHF radio in a suitable watertight cover for use to summon assistance in emergency situations.
- Check the hull is fitted with grab loops/towing lines.
- Ensure that you are a competent swimmer and capable of surviving in the areas you operate.

The MCIB also recommends that canoeists and kayakers should ensure that they wear clothing and footwear that will not affect their chance of survival in the water.

In addition to advice on appropriate training and safety considerations prior to taking to the water, Chapter 7 of the Code of Practice contains general information on personal safety equipment, on sea kayaking, river kayaking and canoeing. Part A of the Code outlines the legislative requirements that apply to all recreational craft or specific types or size of craft and Part B contains recommended guidelines and best practice for the safe operation of a range of recreational craft including canoes and kayaks

The Code is a free document and hard copies can be obtained on request, in both English and Irish, from the Maritime Safety Policy Division of the Department at email

MarineLeisureSafety@dtfas.gov.ie. The Code and individual Chapters of the Code are available to view or download from www.dttas.gov.ie. A list of updates to the 2017 Edition of the Code is also available to view or download from www.dttas.gov.ie.

For further information on the Code please see [Marine Notice No. 27 of 2020](#).

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27/07/2020

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