

Boater Education

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

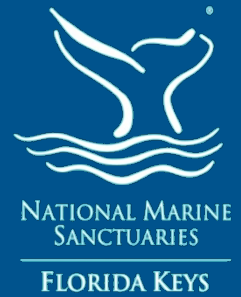


Todd Hitchins
Team O.C.E.A.N Coordinator

August 20, 2013

Florida State Law 327.395

Boating Safety Identification Cards



In order to operate a motorboat of ten (10) horsepower or greater, *Florida law (P.L. 327.395)* requires anyone who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 to successfully complete an **approved boating safety course** and obtain a Boating Safety Education Identification Card issued by the FWC.



Florida does not have a "boating license." The Boating Safety Education Identification Card is proof of successful completion of the educational requirements and is valid for life.

29,359 Cards issued state-wide in calendar year 2012.



Visitors can get a ***temporary certificate in order to rent a boat or PWC.***

What Courses are “Approved”?

Classroom Courses (Must be minimum 8 hours)

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Boating Skills and Seamanship Course

- This course is offered several times per year in locations throughout the Keys

U.S. Power Squadron

America's Boating Course

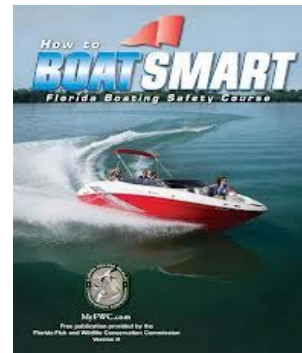
- This course is offered several times per year in locations throughout the Keys



Correspondence Course

FWC “How to Boat Smart” manual

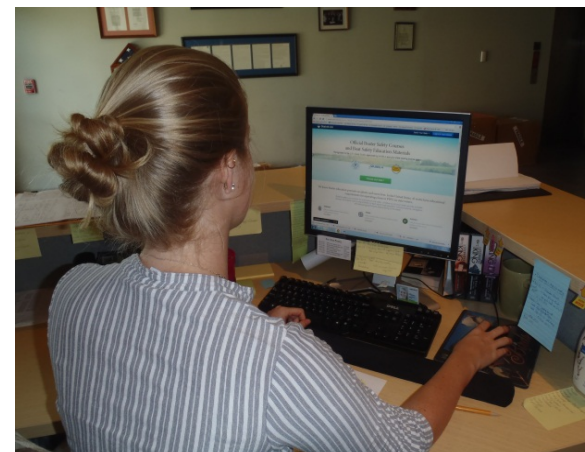
- Pick up the manual at your local tax collector's office; study and take the exam at home; mail to FWC for grading and certification



What Courses are “Approved”?

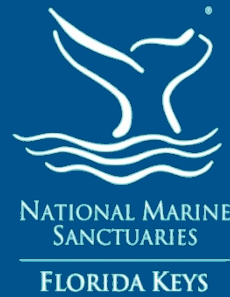
FWC-approved Online Boating Courses Available

Boat-Ed Online	boat-ed.com
Boater 101	boater101.com
Boat US	boat.us
Nautical Know How	boatsafe.com
PWC Safety School	pwcsafetyschool.com
American Safety Council	floridaboatingcourse.com
Boating Basics Online	boatingbasicsonline.com/content/fl/
American Boat Operator	boatcourse.com
Boater Exam	www.boaterexam.com/usa/florida/
Safe Boating Card	www.safeboatingcard.com/?ref=myfwc



- Online Boating Course completion accounts for 60% of Boater Safety I.D. cards issued state-wide

Additional Boater Education



Eco-Mariner

Online Course- <http://ecomariner.org/>



The goal of the Eco-Mariner course is to provide motor boaters with the necessary knowledge to protect Florida Bay's sensitive environment. This course provides an understanding of Florida Bay's Geography, Threats, Protection, and Regulations.

~1000 Certified "Eco-Mariners" since 2009. (Source: NPCA)

Additional Boater Education



**Possession of a
USCG License
meets the
Florida State
Boater
Education
requirement**

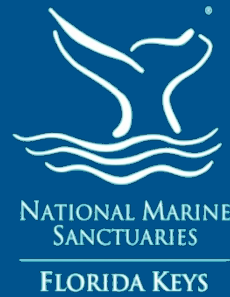
**May be obtained directly through USCG or a
USCG-Approved Captain's License Course
(Sea School)**

USCG-approved vendors can be found at:
<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/courses/default.asp?tab=0#TabbedPanels1>

USCG-NMC approved vendor in *Monroe County*:

Captains Marine • Based in the Florida Keys and is approved by the United States Coast Guard and National Maritime Center to conduct classroom and online courses for the following: OUPV; 50-100 Ton Masters; Tow, Sail, & Marine Radio Operator Endorsements

Monroe County Boater Education Statistics



- Total Registered Recreational Vessels: **23,863**
- Boater Safety I.D. Cards issued: **355** (Source: FWC, 2012)
 - Completed USCG Auxiliary BS&S Class: **~700** (Source: USCG Auxiliary, 2012)
 - Completed USPS ABC Boater Course: **~100** (Source: USPS, 2012)
 - Online Boating Course completion accounts for **60%** of Boater Safety I.D. cards issued state-wide (all counties +/- 5%)
- FKNMS partners with USCG Auxiliary and USPS by providing education staff to give a 1-hour guest lecture specific to sanctuary regulations and resource protection as related to boating during most classes held in Monroe County

Potential Next Steps



- Engage with Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Boating Advisory Council
- Host a joint meeting / workshop
- Present Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary boating and boating education issues to the Boating Advisory Council



*FWC Boating Advisory Council meeting in Key West May 2014

National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Todd.Hitchins@noaa.gov

floridakeys.noaa.gov

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