

## Coming Soon:

# Mandatory Boater Safety Education

## California Vessel Operator Card (CVOC)

**O**n January 1, 2018, a seven-year phase-in of the California Vessel Operator Card (CVOC) requirements will begin. See the reverse for the phase-in schedule. By 2017, the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) will begin issuing the CVOC to boaters operating motorized recreational vessels on California waterways who can show proof of passing an approved vessel operator examination.

The new law (SB941) promotes boating safety education for California boat operators. Once issued, the CVOC remains valid for a boat operator's lifetime.

### Where can boaters take exams?

Boaters will be able to choose to take approved boating safety courses or challenge exams online, in the classroom or through home study. To learn more and for a list of exemptions visit [www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/CVOC](http://www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/CVOC) or scan the QR code below.



## How will the CVOC be phased in?

The California Harbors and Navigation Code Section 678.11(b) contains the following phase-in schedule to have a CVOC based on operator age by the dates shown.

January 1, 2018	Persons 20 years of age or younger
January 1, 2019	Persons 25 years of age or younger
January 1, 2020	Persons 35 years of age or younger
January 1, 2021	Persons 40 years of age or younger
January 1, 2022	Persons 45 years of age or younger
January 1, 2023	Persons 50 years of age or younger
January 1, 2024	Persons 60 years of age or younger
January 1, 2025	All persons regardless of age

## Can I take a boating safety course now?

If you have already taken or want to take a boater education course, DBW will determine if the course meets its CVOC requirements before the first phase-in date of January 1, 2018.

## Some safety courses can be found online at:

[www.dbw.parks.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.parks.ca.gov)

## California Vessel Operator Card inquiries

1-888-326-2822

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

