



Canadian Safe Boating Council
Conseil canadien de la sécurité nautique

STANDARDS FOR PFD WEAR – BEST PRACTICES

(January 18th, 2008)

“CSBC believes that all operators and passengers of all sizes and types of kayaks, canoes and self-propelled vessels and all types of other craft that are 6 meters or less in length, while people are on deck and while the boat is underway, should wear lifejackets or PFDs.”

In 2008 CSBC will be approaching organizations involved in boating and will ask them the following questions.

1. Do you agree that the above statement is a good ‘best practice’?
2. Can your organization support this statement or can you tell us what is your policy in regards to PFD wear?
3. Do you think the time is right for the federal government to incorporate the above statement into mandatory wear legislation?

Background

In 2002, the Canadian Safe Boating Council struck a Lifejacket/Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Taskforce to review and develop options concerning increased PFD use for recreational boaters in small craft. In October of that year, the Taskforce contracted with SMARTRISK, to develop a research paper summarizing the best available evidence, pro and con, pertaining to mandatory lifejacket/PFD use. The Research Paper, “Will it float?” was presented by SMARTRISK at the 2003 CSBC Symposium. The paper is available at www.csbc.ca

Please provide any feedback to: Al Will, Chair CSBC

chair@csbc.ca or 905-628-8639