

Headway Speed Only ZONES

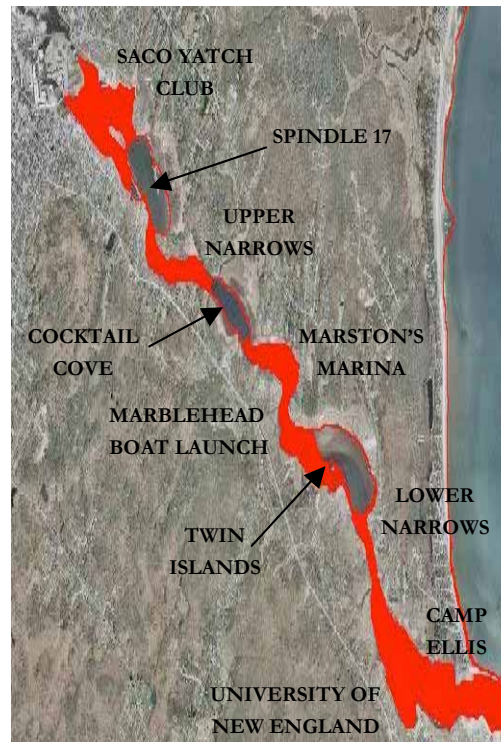
One of our most critical roles is the enforcement of the “Headway Speed Only” zones along the river and within the harbors. Local ordinances prohibit excessive speed and the creation of a wake near the shorelines, swimming areas, marinas, private docks, moorings and other protected sites. These headway speed areas are clearly marked along the river. Headway speed is defined as just enough power to allow your boat to navigate safely through the water. Depending on the size of your boat, headway speed may vary.

A wake refers to the waves coming from the back of your boat. Any speed above headway speed will create a wake and it is not a question of going too fast. The fine for making a wake in a “headway speed only” zone will be in excess of \$100 and can be as high as \$500. Furthermore, civil penalties can result from the damages you may cause. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAMAGE YOUR WAKE CREATES.** Please, don't be in a hurry. The wake you create causes soil erosion, may cause anchored or moored vessels to sustain damage and may tip over or injure other boaters.

Also, watercraft must be operated at a reasonable and prudent speed as to avoid danger, injury or unnecessary inconvenience in any manner to other watercraft and their occupants, whether anchored or under way.

The Saco River, with its limited width, does not provide many areas where someone may be able to exceed headway speed. There are 3 areas with limited restrictions: The area around Spindle 17, Cocktail Cove & the area between the Twin Islands and the Lower Narrows. Caution must be used around these areas even though they are outside the normal restrictions.

SACO RIVER – HEADWAY SPEED ONLY ZONES



**AREAS IN RED ARE HEADWAY
SPEED ONLY – NO WAKES**

Questions?

Contact one of the following agencies:

Saco Police Dept: (207) 282 - 8200
Biddeford Police Dept: (207) 282 - 5127
Maine Marine Patrol / Maine State Police:
1-800-482-0730

Or the

United States Coast Guard:
(207) 767-0363

For Weather Conditions Call
The National Weather Service:
(207) 688 - 3210

BIDDEFORD & SACO HARBOR PATROL

*Dedicated to the Protection and
Conservation of the Saco River*



WHO ARE WE?

In 1999, in response to an increase in the boating population, the Cities of Biddeford and Saco joined forces to provide enforcement action on the tidal waters of the Saco River. Both cities have assigned one permanent police officer to the program, and utilize other trained officers to provide fulltime patrol on the waterways.



Patrolling Hospital Bay (Photo by Peter C. Moumouras)

In conjunction with the Maine Marine Patrol (<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/>) and the United States Coast Guard, the members of the Biddeford & Saco Harbor Patrol enforce marine laws within the Saco River, Saco Bay and the Biddeford Pool area. Our mission includes ensuring the safety of all boaters, the protection of coastal property and the enforcement of marine laws. In addition to this, we also respond to rescue calls, vessels in distress, illegal fishing complaints, endangered or injured wildlife and we work closely with our local Code Enforcement Offices to ensure compliance with shoreland zoning laws and to monitor coastal conservation.

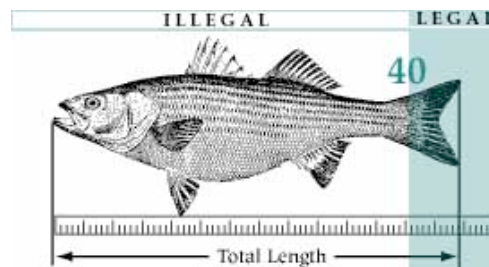
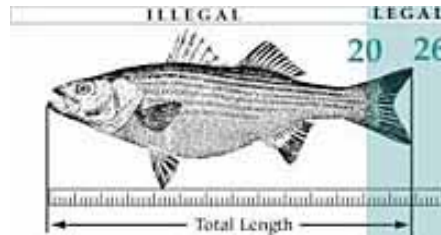
STRIPED BASS RULES - GENERALLY

RULES VARY BY YEAR - VERIFY BEFORE FISHING

BAG & SIZE LIMITS - A person may take and possess 1 fish per day. The fish may be between 20 and 26 inches total length, inclusive, OR 40 inches or greater in total length.

DISPOSITION - Personal Use Only. Sale is prohibited. Fish must remain whole and intact while fishing.

GENERAL GEAR RESTRICTIONS - Hook and line only, no gaffing of striped bass



IF YOU NEED HELP

Although we try to assist all boaters, the reality is that we cannot be everywhere all the time. If you need emergency assistance, contact the Coast Guard on Channel 16 of your VHF radio or dial 911 on your cellular telephone. If you are disabled or otherwise need non-emergency help, you can call us on VHF channel 16, the Coast Guard Auxiliary or if you need a tow SEA TOW at (888) 273-2869.



Working with Marine Rescue to save an injured seal.



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian branch of the U S Coast Guard. Saco Bay Flotilla 24 provides patrols on the Saco River and in Saco Bay. We perform search and rescue (SAR), training, safety, environmental & pollution patrols, safety zones for marine events and assist disabled recreational boaters. We work cooperatively with the U S Coast Guard, Maine Marine Patrol and your Harbor Patrol. Our vessels are identified by the distinctive patrol signs, U S Ensign and patrol flag. We monitor the VHF Ch 16, so if you need to call us on the water, call: "Coast Guard Auxiliary" on Ch 16. When we answer, we will direct you to an appropriate channel for your message. If you observe someone towing a vessel, please stay clear, as the towed vessel has little control and parts of the towline may be submerged.

SAFE BOATING CLASSES

The Coast Guard Auxiliary also provides a variety of safe boating courses to the boating public. Most of our courses are held at the University of New England in Biddeford. For detailed information on classes, visit our local website at: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~0130204/>.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS

Do you know if your vessel has all of the required safety equipment on board? If you are in doubt, then you might want to have a **FREE** Vessel Safety Check (VSC). To contact a Vessel Examiner for a VSC go to our public website at: <http://www.uscgaux.org/~0130204/vsc.html> or go to the National link at: <http://safetyscanet/>

For more information about the Coast Guard Auxiliary contact: Wayne Hutchins, 207 282-9349 or whutchi1@maine.rr.com