

Captain...Ahoy!



PAUL BOLDEN

**By Paul Bolden,
Captain of the 9th Coast
Guard District, Central Region**

Sea State

As of this writing the current sea temp off PIB is 36.1°F and 37.4°F off of Port Clinton. Water temperature at Put-in-Bay is expected to drop to 33.6°F in the next 10 days. Waves over the next several days should not exceed 3 feet on average.

Priming for Boating Season '23

If we have open waters, March starts the boating season in the waters around PIB (at least for the diehard). As a reminder, for those mariners venturing out on the water in March and April, please keep in mind that current water temperatures can mean hypothermia very quickly if

you should fall overboard. Please be dressed appropriately and have suitable survival gear. Here's a chart to help you assess your risk level.

Water Temperature (Fahrenheit)	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness	Expected Time of Survival
32.5 degrees	Under 15 minutes	Under 15 to 45 minutes
32.5 to 40 degrees	15 to 30 minutes	30 to 90 minutes
40 to 50 degrees	30 to 60 minutes	1 to 3 hours
50 to 60 degrees	1 to 2 hours	1 to 6 hours
60 to 70 degrees	2 to 7 hours	2 to 4 hours
70 to 80 degrees	2 to 12 hours	3 hours to indefinite
Over 80 degrees	Indefinite	Indefinite

(Personal Flotation Device Manufacturer's Association)

An area of boating that doesn't get discussed much is the importance of using sounding devices to indicate your intentions while boating. Understanding how to signal other boats of your intentions as well as understanding the intentions of other boats by their audible signals can be a matter of injury or life and death.

Boating in and around Put In Bay has become increasingly more crowded (especially during peak months). With record boat sales over the last couple of years and no boater education required for most new boat owners (in the state of Ohio) adds a degree of risk in being out on the water. Please familiarize yourself with the proper boating signals.

Who's Required To Use Sound Signal Equipment

Boats less than 39.4 feet in length must carry a sound producing device. This can be a bell, whistle, or air horn or your boat's onboard horn.

Boats 39.4 feet to 65.6 feet in length must carry a whistle and a bell. The whistle must be audible for 1/2 nautical mile.

Sound Signals

Sound signals are referred to as "blasts" and there are two different types of blasts used for warning and steering signals. A Short Blast which lasts one second and a long blast which lasts from four to six seconds.

One Short Blast indicates that I intend to leave you on my port side. When you pass another boat, you will maneuver by leaving them on your left side as you pass. If you are behind a vessel, going the same direction and about to overtake it, one short blast indicates that I intend to pass you on your starboard side, my port side".

Two Short Blasts indicates that I intend to leave you on my starboard side". If you are behind another vessel, going the same direction and about to overtake it, two short blasts indicates that I intend to pass you on your port side, my starboard side."

One Prolonged Blast indicates that you are departing a dock or slip. It signals that a vessel is getting underway. A prolonged blast is also used when approaching a blind bend.

Three Short Blasts indicates that you are operating in astern propulsion e.g. backing away from a dock.

One Prolonged Blast and Three Short Blasts indicates you are getting under way, and that you are backing up (e.g. departing a dock in reverse).

Five Short Blasts indicates DANGER.

Passing Port to Port. When approaching an oncoming vessel that you wish to pass port to port, give one short blast with your horn. They should respond with a similar blast.

Passing Starboard to Starboard. When approaching an oncoming vessel that you wish to pass on its starboard side, give two short blasts with your horn. They should give the same signal in response.

There are other boating signals beyond these but this is a good start and should be the most useful in our waters. I know that it is a tall order but if you study and use them we will all be a lot safer for it. Now would be a great time to take a "Safe Boating Class". You can contact the Coast Guard Auxiliary to find out how.

For information about serving in the Coast Guard Auxiliary, taking a Safe Boating Class or receiving a Vessel Safety Check. Scan the appropriate QR Code.



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