

Water Safety Tips

Compiled by the Connestee Falls Fishing Club (revised and reissued February 2017)

When Boating:

- **Wear PFD's** – Minimize risk of drowning. Personal Flotation Devices (life jackets) should be in good condition, readily available, and of proper size for the intended user.
- **Don't overload** – Do not exceed the maximum capacity for your boat. Distribute the load evenly fore and aft and side to side.
- **Prevent falling overboard** – Small craft boaters need to be especially careful. Keep centered and low in the boat. Avoid standing up or moving about the boat, but if it is necessary, maintain three points of contact (e.g., keep both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand in contact with the boat at all times). Many times alcohol is involved with falls overboard.
- **If an individual falls overboard** – Throw a PFD to the victim if they are not already wearing one. Pull the victim onboard keeping the weight in the boat balanced. If it is not possible to get the victim back onboard, have him hold on to the boat or a line and tow him to shore.
- **If alone and fallen overboard** – Try to get back into the boat but if you can't, stay with the boat and wait for help. If the water is cold (risk of hypothermia) it may be best to swim to shore if you are wearing a PFD. If you are not wearing a PFD try to get one out of the boat or another buoyant item (oars, paddles, cooler) to use as a flotation device.
- **If capsized or swamped** – Stay with the boat if it remains afloat and wait for help. If the water is cold (risk of hypothermia) it may be best to swim to shore if you are wearing a PFD. If you are not wearing a PFD look for one floating in the water or another buoyant item (oars, paddles, cooler) to use as a flotation device.
- **Keep a sharp eye on the water ahead** – Avoid swimmers and other watercraft.
- **Avoid boating during severe weather** – High winds and lightning are dangerous.

When walking along shoreline:

- **Use caution** - rocks and soil may be slippery or unstable. Docks / piers may be slippery when wet or soiled with geese excrement.
- **Observe signs** – “No fishing when swimmers are present”. “No fish cleaning”. “CFPOA fishing license required”.