



*ABYC EDU-2 July 2022*

**Product Interface Division Standard  
On-Water Education Project  
Technical Committee**

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## **ABYC EDU-2**

# **ON-WATER RECREATIONAL BOATING SKILLS – HUMAN-PROPELLED**



### ***Origin and Development***

EDU-2, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills – Human-Propelled*, was first published in 2016 as *Skill-Based Human-Propelled Standard*. The 2022 revision is the work of the On-Water Education Project Technical Committee.

### ***On-Water Education Project Technical Committee***

*This list represents the membership at the time the committee was balloted.*

Pete Chisholm, *Chair*

Charlie Arms	Rick Franke	John Malatak
Pam Dillon	Kit Klemchusky	Karen Prioleau
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Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of ABYC or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

This standard, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards and is intended to provide minimum performance requirements. The Project Technical Committee that approved the standard was balanced to ensure that individuals from competent and concerned interests have had an opportunity to participate.

ABYC's Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings are open to the public. All inquiries regarding standards activity, interpretations, or meeting attendance should be directed to the ABYC Technical Department at [comments@abycinc.org](mailto:comments@abycinc.org).

ABYC and its committees do not "approve" or "endorse" any item, construction, or proprietary device.

### ***Request for Interpretations***

Upon written request, the On-Water Education PTC will render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. Requests should be presented to the PTC in a manner in which they may be answered in a "Yes" or "No" fashion.

The committee reserves the right to reconsider any interpretation when or if additional information that might affect it becomes available to the PTC. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the committee for reinterpretation.

### **Summary of Revisions**

*This list indicates revisions to the standard when compared with the previously published version. It is not intended to be used independently of the standard. It should be used for informational purposes and as a guide to the official requirements contained in this standard. It is the responsibility of the user to read and understand the complete standard.*

The main changes in this revision of EDU-2, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills – Human-Propelled* as compared with the previous edition dated 10/16, are:

- Title was changed
- Foreword was added
- Scope and Purpose were combined
- Units of Measure section was added
- Operation #8 was added

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## **EDU-2 ON-WATER RECREATIONAL BOATING SKILLS – HUMAN-PROPELLED**

*Based on ABYC's assessment of the existing technology, and the problems associated with achieving the goals of this standard, ABYC recommends compliance with this standard no later than July 3, 2023.*

### **FOREWORD**

This consensus-based standard is designed to support course providers and raise the overall level of quality, availability, and consistency of on-water, skills-based instruction in entry-level recreational human-propelled craft operation. It functions within a national system of standards for recreational boat operation. This standard (ABYC EDU-2, *On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Human-Propelled*) is designed to help course providers: a) determine what skills to include in an on-water entry-level course curriculum, and b) develop student assessment approaches for determining successful completion of an entry-level course or auditing courses.

Course providers who want to design, deliver, or evaluate an on-water course aimed at developing the skills identified in this standard should use [ABYC EDU-4, On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Instruction](#). EDU-4 defines the elements of the instructional approach and will assist education providers in ensuring that their courses will produce students who can perform the skills identified in EDU-2. Education providers are also encouraged to use the technical support documents (TSDs) developed by the US Sailing Association that accompany EDU-2 and EDU-4 to support the design and implementation of on-water entry-level instruction.

In addition, it is recommended that course providers use ANSI/NASBLA 101-2017: *Basic Boating Knowledge - Human-Propelled* (or most current equivalent) and its accompanying technical report to align knowledge and on-water skills-based course content. ANSI/NASBLA 101-2017 defines the fundamental knowledge elements (e.g., navigation rules, aids to navigation, required equipment, trip planning and preparation, safe boat operation, emergency preparedness, etc) referred to in EDU-2 that entry-level recreational human-propelled boat operators must possess as an integral part of safe boat operation.

The standard is organized as follows:

- Individual skills are organized within eight boat operations for ease of reference. Each skill can be applied to other operations.
- Each skill is described in two parts, following the leading stem phrase "*The operator is able to ...*".
- The first part (Part A) is the skill, and the second part (Part B) is the condition, or 'proficiency,' associated with the successful performance of that skill.
- Numerical identifiers assigned to each skill are for ease of reference only, and do not imply any sequential process for learning or performance, or that the skill only applies to that boat operation.

### **SCOPE**

This standard defines the entry-level skills students are able to demonstrate upon successful completion of on-water entry-level courses of instruction in recreational human-propelled vessel operation.

The skills are intended to apply to human-propelled vessels under the following conditions:

- flat water;
- current less than one knot;
- protected from the wind and waves; and
- daytime with no restricted visibility or threatening weather.

For recreational boat operations where the boat is underway, individual skills are to be accomplished in accordance with any aids to navigation, navigational rules, and any regulations applicable to the location in which the skill is being executed.

## UNITS OF MEASURE

Values stated without parentheses are the requirement. Values in parentheses are explanatory or approximate.

## REFERENCES

The following references form a part of this standard. Unless otherwise noted the latest version of referenced standards shall apply.

ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc, 613 Third Street, Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460. Fax: (410) 990-4466. Website: [www.abycinc.org](http://www.abycinc.org)

### *ABYC EDU-4, On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Instruction*

NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, 1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513. Phone: (859) 225-9487. Website: [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org)

ANSI/NASBLA 101-2017: *Basic Boating Knowledge - Human-Propelled*  
ESP TR 101-2018: *Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Human Propelled*

US Sailing Association, 1 Roger Williams University Way, Bristol, RI 02809. Phone: 1-800-877-2451. Website: <https://www.usnows.org/assess-and-update>, <https://www.ussailing.org/>

*Technical Support Document: Using American National Standards to Design and Deliver On-Water, Skills-Based Instruction for Safer Boating - Technical Support Document for the Instructional Approach Standard*

*Technical Support Document: Using the Human-propelled Skills American National Standard for On-Water, Skills-based Instruction for Safer Boating - Technical Support Document for the Human-propelled Skills ANS*

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply.

Beginner - a novice who has begun a course of instruction or is learning the fundamentals.

Entry-Level - the proficiency reached by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate amount of beginner instruction, or has achieved a sufficient level of experience, to be ready to pursue (or 'enter' safely into) recreational boating.

On-Water Instruction - a course or program of instruction that is boat-based and on the water for skills development and assessment. Instruction takes place primarily in the natural setting of the boat with experiential/active learning as the primary method of delivery used by instructors.

Paddle Craft - a vessel propelled only by its occupant(s), using a single or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.

Proficiency - a description of the behaviors and actions that demonstrate the level of competence, accomplishment, or skill in operating a recreational boat.

Rowing Craft - a vessel propelled only by its occupants, using an oar as a lever with the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.

Skill - the learned capacity, aptitude, or ability to do something.

Underway - when a boat is not at anchor or made fast to the shore, or aground.

## 1 OPERATION #1: PREPARE TO DEPART

The operator is able to:

- 1.1 **A: Assess whether conditions are favorable for the length/time of the trip ...** B: by obtaining weather forecasts and evaluating weather conditions, hazards to navigation, and other environmental factors.
- 1.2 **A: Put on a life jacket ...** B: ensuring it is serviceable, fits properly, and is appropriate for the boat/activity.
- 1.3 **A: Confirm all others on the craft put on their life jackets ...** B: ensuring life jackets are serviceable, fit properly, and are appropriate for the boat/activity.
- 1.4 **A: Inspect craft systems and safety equipment ...** B: by completing a predeparture checklist noting legally required (state, federal) equipment, and manufacturer requirements appropriate for the intended trip and forecasted weather.
- 1.5 **A: Prepare the craft for departure...** B: readying equipment (e.g., secured, appropriate load, craft balanced, etc) and individuals (e.g., safety equipment, plan, etc) for intended departure.

## 2 OPERATION #2: LEAVE A DEPARTURE POINT

*NOTE: Departure point may be a dock, slip, mooring, ramp, shoreline, etc.*

The operator is able to:

- 2.1 **A: Enter and launch the craft ...** B: using appropriate techniques for the venue (e.g., kneeling on a stand up paddleboard [SUP] during departure, etc), keeping the craft upright with minimal rocking or loss of control.
- 2.2 **A: Check for a clear departure ...** B: using a 360° scan to confirm a clear path of departure with no conflicts with craft's intended actions and boats/activities in the vicinity and ensuring that departure is not a hazard for others underway.

## 3 OPERATION #3: MANEUVER IN CLOSE QUARTERS

The operator is able to:

- 3.1 **A: Propel the craft forward ...** B: while maintaining proper grip and paddle/oar orientation along with trim and balance of the craft.
- 3.2 **A: Stop the craft ...** B: within two boat lengths, using appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.
- 3.3 **A: Turn the craft from a stationary position ...** B: 180° to the right and left, within one to two boat lengths using appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.
- 3.4 **A: Move the craft directly sideways (\*if applicable) ...** B: 10 ft (to each side) using proper techniques with appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.

*NOTE: This element is applicable when paddling a canoe, kayak, raft, or stand up paddleboard.*

- 3.5 **A: Propel the craft in a figure eight course (\*if applicable) ...** B: around markers three to four boat lengths apart, using appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.

*NOTE: This element is applicable when paddling a canoe, kayak, raft, stand up paddleboard, or operating a classic dinghy-type rowboat.*

#### 4 OPERATION #4: OPERATE IN OPEN WATER

The operator is able to:

- 4.1 **A: Propel the craft forward in a straight line ...** B: 15-20 boat lengths using appropriate and effective strokes to maintain a constant heading, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.
- 4.2 **A: Turn the craft while maintaining forward motion ...** B: 90° to the right and left using appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.
- 4.3 **A: Move the craft sideways (\*if applicable) ...** B: 10 ft (to each side) using proper techniques with appropriate and effective strokes, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.  
  
*NOTE: This element is applicable when paddling a canoe, kayak, raft, or stand up paddleboard.*
- 4.4 **A: Move the craft backward ...** B: three to four boat lengths using appropriate and effective reverse strokes while maintaining directional control and while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.

#### 5 OPERATION #5: ARRIVE AT A DESTINATION – MAKING FIRST CONTACT

*NOTE: Arrival point may be a dock, slip, mooring, ramp, shoreline, etc.*

The operator is able to:

- 5.1 **A: Check for a clear approach ...** B: confirming a clear path of arrival with no conflicts with craft's intended actions and boats/activities in the vicinity and ensuring that arrival is not a hazard for others underway.
- 5.2 **A: Arrive at a destination point and exit the craft ...** B: using appropriate techniques for the venue (e.g., kneeling on a SUP during arrival, etc), keeping the craft upright with minimal rocking or loss of control.

#### 6 OPERATION #6: SECURE THE CRAFT (PREPARING TO LEAVE CRAFT UNATTENDED)

The operator is able to:

- 6.1 **A: Secure the craft and equipment ...** B: using appropriate techniques and anticipating winds, currents, and tides.

#### 7 OPERATION #7: PERFORM GENERAL SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES

The operator is able to:

- 7.1 **A: Maintain a proper lookout during all operations ...** B: by demonstrating frequent 360° visual checks and identifying potential hazards.
- 7.2 **A: Avoid capsizing the craft ...** B: by maintaining proper body position and paddle/oar techniques.
- 7.3 **A: Exit the craft after capsize ...** B: using proper body position and contact with the craft and paddle/oar (wet-exit).
- 7.4 **A: Avoid cold water shock and hypothermia ...** B: by wearing appropriate clothing and gear for the venue.
- 7.5 **A: Use essential safety equipment ...** B: by ensuring it is available on the craft and appropriate for the trip; following local, state, and federal laws and regulations; and employing safety equipment according to manufacturer instructions.
- 7.6 **A: Propel the craft on an appropriate course ...** B: using the information provided by navigational aids (e.g., charts, buoys, landmarks) and hand/whistle signals.

- 7.7 **A: Avoid collisions ...** B: by maintaining a proper lookout, assessing potential hazardous situations, and taking early and decisive action, while maintaining trim and balance of the craft.

**8 OPERATION #8: PERFORM EMERGENCY PROCEDURES/MANEUVERS**

The operator is able to:

- 8.1 **A: Rescue self and the craft ...** B: using a proper self-rescue technique appropriate for the type of craft.
- 8.2 **A: Rescue a person in the water and capsized craft ...** B: considering personal safety and using an appropriate assisted rescue technique and standard practice for rescue priorities.

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