

# Trying to keep you alive

The primary focus of Victorian Ports Corporation is promoting the safety of all waterway users in the port waters of the port of Melbourne. This includes recreational and commercial users.

The popularity of boating in Victoria has increased every year since the late 1980s. This is clearly shown by the number of boat registrations reported by Maritime Safety Victoria. In 2017-18 financial year there were 195,338 registrations compared with 107,000 in 1989-90. That is almost double the number of registrations in 28 years.

## Steer Clear patrols

Every summer, VPCM's Transport Safety Officers (TSOs) patrol the port waters in the two Harbour Master boats.

The TSOs main task is to check that recreational boaters are keeping safe by obeying the waterway rules. And, they are always looking for opportunities to help boaters understand where they are in the bay and to know the dangers that exist in certain areas.

Last summer, 2018-19, they had to intercept and speak with the operators of 360 recreational boats for disobeying the rules. The operators were putting both themselves and their passengers in danger.



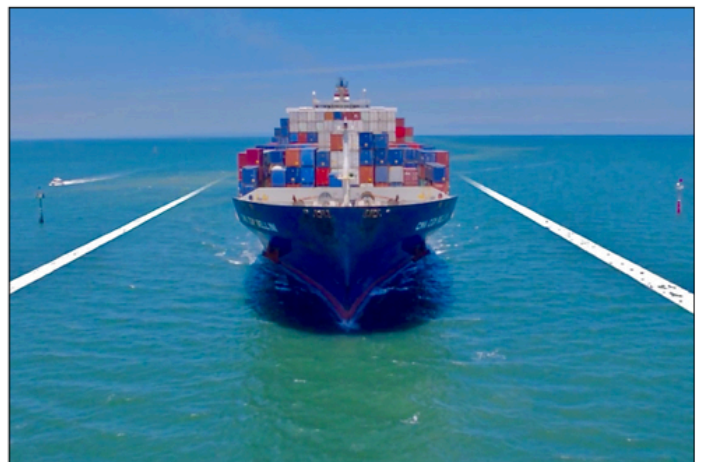
Generally, boats were found fishing while anchored or drifting in designated shipping channels or the Transit Only Zone. In most cases, the TSOs just provided education and advice on the local waterway rules to ensure the safety of everyone in the boats.

Disappointingly, 50 of these 360 interactions were with boat operators who had been spoken to on a previous occasion for the same issue. Where the incident warranted it, these repeat offenders were reported to Victoria Water Police and/or Maritime Safety Victoria.

The TSOs are authorised under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic) and can issue infringements to vessel operators.

VPCM wants you to stay safe on the water.

Click the links to have a look at VPCM's educational boating safety videos on its website:



## Steer-Clear



## Don't-Rock-The-Boat

Check your boating safety equipment, ensure it hasn't expired and that you know how to use it if you ever need to.

You may wish to download the Maritime Safety Victoria Recreational Boating App to help plan your trip.