Don't put your life on the line

Tips for safe boating

Know what to do in case of emergency

Lifejackets – Useless unless worn

For more information on fishing safety, including translated material, more fact sheets and free downloads
visit **www.safefishing.com.au**

BE SAFE

Lifejacket – know when to wear one. There must be a lifejacket for everyone on board, ready for use. Its required by law to wear a lifejacket when crossing a bar but you should also consider wearing one when you're boating alone, at night, when it starts to get rough, or you're a long way from help. Encourage children to wear a lifejacket whenever they're on deck and especially when the boat is underway.

Alcohol – go easy on the drink and keep under point 05.

Navigate safely – always travel at a speed safe for the conditions and keep a proper lookout. If you're traveling at night or if there's a lot of other boats, slow down.

Lights – if your lights aren't fitted properly you can't expect others to see you. Be bright at night.

Keep a proper lookout at all times for things like floating debris, hazards like submerged reefs or rocks, other boats especially kayaks and dinghies, and of course swimmers.

Cold Water – When you're getting rugged up ask yourself – "could I swim in this gear if I had to"? If you're not sure, wear a lifejacket – it's a lifesaver and can also keep you warm. Watch out for your passengers and especially encourage them not to wear waders. You can't swim in waders even with a lifejacket.

BE PREPARED

Boat Suitability Check the weather forecast before you go, ask about local river, lake or sea conditions and ask yourself "can you and your boat handle it"?

Offshore – When offshore boating, plan your trip – check the weather and makes sure all safety gear is on board and working. Think about wind, waves, tides and safe havens should the conditions change. Carry a marine radio and 406 MHz EPIRB emergency beacon.

Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.

Log in with the volunteer coast guard that operates in your area.