Frequently Asked Questions

Fleet / Boating

1. **How many boats are in the FBC Maine fleet? What are the styles and brand of the boats?**
   We have 30 vessels in our fleet. We have center, side, and dual consoles, cruisers, rigid inflatables as well as pontoon boats at our lake location in Naples, Maine. We carry top brands such as BRIG, Sea Fox, Eastern, Starcraft, and Sweetwater. As we continue to grow, we are dedicated to keeping a consistent boat to member ratio and will add more boats to the fleet as our membership grows. Our reservation system has a listing of all boats at each location with details about each vessel including passenger capacity, outboard engine size and amenities.

2. **How old are the boats?**
   All the boats in our fleet are new model vessels. We sell and replace our boats every 2-3 years.

3. **What hours can I go boating?**
   The club opens at 8 am and you must be back at the dock 30 minutes prior to sunset. NO exceptions. Nighttime operation is NOT permitted.

4. **Can I boat early in the morning before work?**
   We do allow members to leave the dock prior to 8 am, but this must be preapproved by our Dockmaster. You must request an early checkout in the comments section of your reservation and then should reach out to the Dockmaster the day prior to your reservation to confirm. You cannot leave before sunrise.

5. **Are you pet friendly?**
   Yes! Pets are family too. You are welcome to bring your furry family members on any of our boats at no additional charge.

6. **Do I have to fuel the boat and clean it when I'm done?**
   No, our friendly Dockhands are responsible for fueling and cleaning all of our FBC boats after every reservation. Just make sure to take all your belongings and pay for the fuel you used that day. We will take care of the rest.

7. **What is the inclement weather policy?**
   As a boater, we follow marine weather, which can be different from what you see on the local news. We often restrict boating during a posted Small Craft Advisories. If there is a weather issue, the Dockmaster will contact you. If you are at all concerned about the weather conditions for your boating reservation time, feel free to reach out to the Dockmaster before heading to our club location.

8. **What are the dock phone numbers?**

Yarmouth:	207-653-9204
Portland:	207-650-4038
South Portland:	207-607-6521
Naples:	207-751-0207

9. **What is the cancellation/no-show policy?**
   If you are unable to make your reservation or are running late, we ask you notify the Dockmaster. If you are late for your reservation and we are unable to contact you, your reservation may be forfeited. Please be courteous to your fellow members and cancel any reservation that you cannot use. We reserve the right to charge a $25 no show fee to members who are consistently late or miss their reservations.

10. **What are the navigation limits or restrictions?**
    Our FBC boats are not permitted more than 25 miles from shore. Any boat beyond 25 miles is not insured and is outside of our towing range. If you have been certified and cleared by our training captains, you can go offshore, beyond the Colregs Demarcation Line.

11. **Do I need to bring safety equipment to the boat with me?**
    No, all boats in our FBC fleet are equipped with all USCG required safety gear. If you plan to be boating offshore regularly, especially if by yourself, we encourage you to purchase the items listed in the offshore training manual.

12. **Where can I find a list of the dock phone numbers?**
    A list of dock locations and phone numbers is available through the online reservation system and also in the orange boxes in each vessel.

13. **Do you have kid's life jackets?**
    We do! We have partnered with SeaTow and they have provided us with an assortment of complimentary kid's, youth, and adult life jackets. However, we highly recommend that you purchase life jackets that properly fit you and your family. Comfort is key and so is a safe, snug fit. We have established a partnership with **West Marine in Portland Maine** who offers a **10% discount** on life jackets to all FBC Maine members.

14. **How many people can I bring with me on the boat?**
    FBC follows all Federal Laws that mandate the maximum number of people that a boat can legally carry. Passenger capacity varies per vessel. Information on passenger capacity for each vessel is listed on our reservation system.

15. **What should I do in case of an emergency or issue out on the boat?**
    If it is a true emergency, call 911 with your cell phone and/or call May Day on channel 16 on the VHF. If it is not a true life and death situation, reach out to the Dockmaster for guidance. Dockmaster phone numbers are listed on the orange box in each vessel.

16. **How many reciprocal locations are there? How do I use them?**
    As of May 31st, 2021, we have 285+ locations across North America and Europe. Click here to see the list of all the current clubs. Using a reciprocal club is easy. Simply log in to the member online reservation system on the FreedomBoatClub.com webpage. New members will need to scroll down to enter their new activation code upon first logging in. Then choose your date and the FBC location where you want to boat, and voila, you are on your way to enjoying time on the water at your next exciting vacation destination. Please Note: The FBC App can only be used for Maine reservations.

17. **When should I make a reciprocal reservation?**
    As far in advance as possible through the online system. Some training may be required depending on the location you choose. Simply click New Reciprocal Reservation from the left side navigation and select the date and location desired.

18. **What about training?**
    At Freedom Boat Club, we take safety very seriously. We offer unlimited, FREE training to our members. In Maine, we have four U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Captains on staff to provide personalized training to our members. If you feel you want additional instruction, just contact one of our Training Captains and schedule a convenient time for a training.

19. **How about insurance?**
    All Freedom Boat Club members are covered by Chubb Marina insurance that limits financial exposure to $2,500 per incident. For members looking for added coverage, we have options that reduce member liability and hull/machinery deductible at a minimal cost. These are totally optional.

20. **What should I know about fishing?**
    Anyone over the age of 16 needs a fishing license. Residents and nonresidents may obtain fishing licenses online or from agents throughout the State (sporting goods stores, many convenience stores, town clerks and turnpike service centers, or from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife office in Augusta. Note: Not all town clerks issue nonresident licenses.

    A person is required to keep his/her fishing license with him/her at all times while fishing or transporting fish and must exhibit their license for inspection by any warden, department employee, guide or landowner upon request. An electronic license or permit can be displayed in lieu of a physical paper license or permit. Possession of fishing tackle on the waters of this State without a fishing license is prima facie evidence of fishing in violation of the law.

Reservations

1. **How do I make a reservation?**
   Reserving a boat is easy. Simply log in to your reservation dashboard via the FBC app (Android and iOS) or by clicking the member link on the top left side of the FreedomBoatClub.com webpage. **Note: New members will need to scroll down to enter their New Activation Code upon first logging in**. From there, choose your desired date, vessel, and time slot.

2. **How often can I boat? Is it unlimited?**
   Freedom Boat Club is truly unlimited boating. We allow up to 4 rolling reservations at any given time. Simply put – you can have 4 reservations on the books and once you use one, you free one up. You may book reservations up to 6 months in advance! On top of that, we allow unlimited spur of the moment booking. No reservation required. This works great during the week and at the very beginning or late in the season.

3. **How many reservations am I allowed at a time?**
   Most reservations are for ½ day periods – 8:30 am - 1 pm or 2 pm to ½ hour before sunset. To make a full day reservation, you need to book two of the ½ day slots. You can have up to 4 reservations in our system at one time. It's a rolling reservation system, so as you use one, it rolls off and you can add another. You are also allowed unlimited same day reservations, which do not count against your 4 in the system. You can call our Dockmaster as often as you like and if there are available boats that day, you are welcome to use them.

To keep it fair for everyone and prevent the weekends from stacking too far in advance, only 2 of your 4 reservation can be weekend reservations. Also, you can only book either Saturday or Sunday on the same weekend. This helps ensure that everyone has a shot to get out on a given weekend.

4. **How does the waitlist work?**
   You can waitlist a specific boat or waitlist any boat on a specific day. If the boat becomes available, our Dockhands will contact members on the waitlist in chronological order. Please note, **if they cannot reach you, they will reach out to the next member on the list.** HELPFUL TIP: Some members have set a specific ring tone for FBC Dock Phones to help make sure they don't miss these calls.