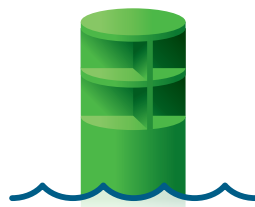


Aids to Navigation are any type of marker that assists boaters in their safe navigation of waterways. These aids to navigation can be broken down into two types: Buoys, which are markers on the water and Day Beacons, which are markers on land. They can each come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Furthermore, some may be illuminated to make them easier to see when visibility is limited. Navigation charts will indicate if a specific aid is illuminated along with the light's colour and flashing pattern. Restriction signs are other types of navigational aids that inform each boater of certain laws and restrictions that pertain to various waterways.

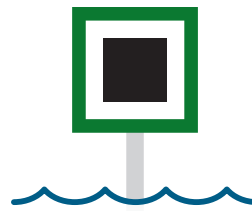
## Lateral Buoys and Day Beacons – both navigable waterways and local waterways:

### 1. Port:

These should be kept on one's Port (Left) side when proceeding in an upstream direction.



**Port-Hand Buoy:**  
Green with flat top



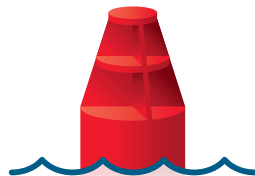
**Port-Hand Day Beacon:**  
Open green square with inner black square



**Local Port Marker:**  
Green ball

### 2. Starboard

These should be kept on one's Starboard (Right) side when proceeding in an upstream direction.



**Starboard-Hand Buoy:**  
Red with pointed top



**Starboard-Hand Day Beacon:**  
Open red triangle with inner red triangle



**Local Starboard Marker:**  
Red ball

## 3. Hazard Buoys

Hazard Buoys are located directly above a hazard to navigation and may or may not state the nature of the hazard within the open diamond. (Eg. Rocks, Shoal, etc.)



**Hazard Buoy:**  
Orange Diamond on  
white buoy



**Local Hazard Marker:**  
Yellow ball



**Local Hazard Marker:**  
White jug

## 4. Keep Out Buoys

Keep Out Buoys are used to signify areas where boat traffic is not allowed.



**Keep Out Buoy:**  
Orange Diamond with  
cross on white buoy



**Local Keep Out Markers:**  
Red Warning Dam sign



**Local Keep Out Markers:**  
Bumpers tied together  
blocking access

## 5. Control Buoys

Control Buoys are used to mark areas where boaters should reduce speed to a level marked within the open circle; normally 10km. It should be noted that, even at this reduced speed, some hull designs still cast a wake. Boaters should slow to the point where no wake is created.



**Control Buoy:** Orange  
Circle on white buoy.  
Mark speed limits,  
no wake zones



**Control Day Beacons:**  
Square or Circular sign  
with black text



**Local Control Markers:**  
Circle or Square with  
speed limit text

## 6. Information Buoys

Information Buoys are useful in that they provide much needed information such as the existence of nearby marinas, campgrounds, fuelling stations, etc.

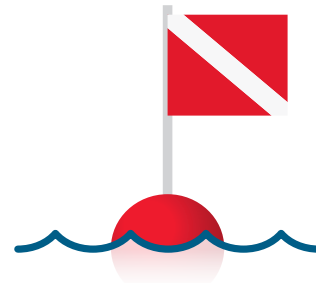


**Information Buoy:**  
Orange Square  
on white buoy

---

## 7. Diving Buoys

Diving Buoys signify that people are engaged in diving within this vicinity and boaters should stay at least 100 ft. Away. Boaters should also be familiar with a Code Alpha flag which should be flown on the boat associated with the diving activity.

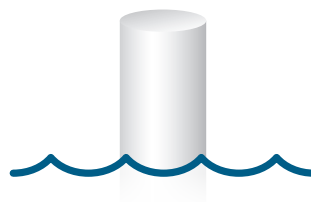


**Diving Flag:**  
Red flag with white  
diagonal strip

---

## 8. Swimming Buoys

Swimming Buoys are used to denote the boundary of a designated swimming area. Boaters should stay well clear as swimmers may still venture beyond the markers.



**Swimming Buoy:**  
White with flat top

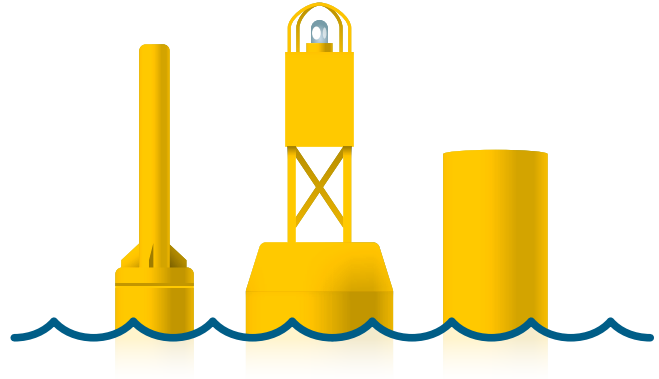


**Local Swimming Markers:**  
White bumpers  
tied together

## Other Types of Buoys

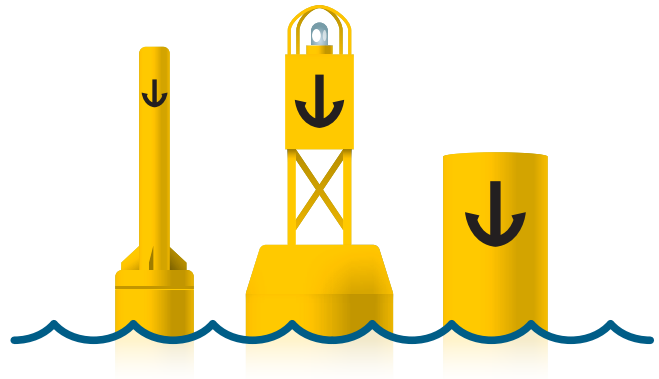
### Cautionary Buoys

Cautionary Buoys mark dangerous areas due to the existence of underwater pipelines, seaplane bases, firing ranges, race courses and areas where no through channel exists.



### Anchorage Buoys

Anchorage Buoys mark the perimeter of designated anchorage areas.



### Mooring Buoys

Mooring Buoys are the only buoys that are legal to tie-up to. They are used for mooring of vessels that cannot come right in to shore including keeled sailboats.

