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The

PENLAKE ASSOCIATION

The Law and Small Boats

The rapid increase in use of small boats on Canadian lakes and rivers has brought very much to the fore the matter of control over the operators of these ^{Text} vessels. Unfortunately, the incidence of irresponsible operators is mounting and it is quite commonplace to see such people showing off and endangering others.

There seems to be a widely held view that little can be done to discipline careless or reckless boat operators; in fact, the pertinent legislation, the Small Vessel Regulations, 1959 (part of the Canada Shipping Act), appears to be a very effective measure.

It refers specifically to the operation of a vessel in a manner "dangerous to navigation, life or limb." For this offense, a fine of up to \$500 or six months in jail is provided. Further, a person convicted under this section may be prohibited by a magistrate from operating a boat for up to one year.

Thus, the regulations are there and as the severity of these penalties becomes more widely known, this should have a salutary effect on imprudent boat operators.

—The Ottawa Citizen.