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Captain's Corner

Capt. Lyman Louis

It's been a busy summer and while these fall days are getting shorter, the rivers are still filled with boaters. There are several safety factors we should take into consideration as the nights are longer and the snow levels are falling.

Even for short day outings, everyone on board needs to have sufficient warm clothing in the event an overnight stay aboard is unavoidable. A minor breakdown or running out of fuel can turn into a tragedy if keeping warm becomes an issue.

Several times during the summer I had the experience of late night calls to families stuck out on a boat longer than they'd expected. Kids dressed only in swimsuits as temperatures fell in to the fifties have a special place in my heart and on my boat.

I can't tell you how many times this happened, but I can tell you that each boat operator got an earful before I was done with them. If you want to put yourself at risk, be my guest. But keep the kids safe and warm.

This is particularly important now that the longer nights are cooler and fall fishing is in full swing.

See you on the rivers,

Capt. Lyman Louis

You can e-mail Capt. Lyman at askthecapt@seatowpdx.com.