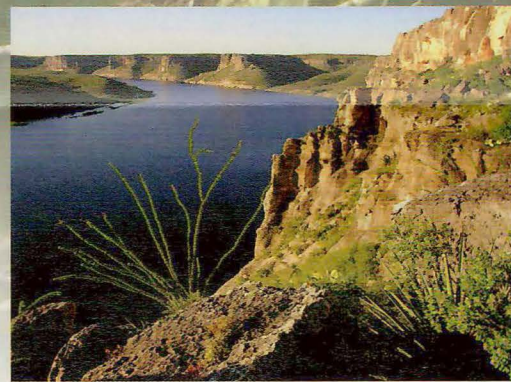




Amistad—"friendship" in Spanish—lies on the United States-Mexico border. The park offers excellent water sports, fishing, birding, canoeing, and bow hunting. The reservoir was created for flood control, water storage, power generation, and recreation in 1969 with the completion of Amistad Dam. Two bronze eagles at the dam's center symbolize the cooperation between Mexico and the United States in building and managing the dam. The park extends 81 miles up the Rio Grande, 14 miles up the Pecos River, and 25 miles up Devils River.

Amistad National Recreation Area (NRA) protects and interprets exceptional examples of Lower Pecos River rock art, one of the densest concentrations of Archaic rock art in North America. The Panther Cave archeological site, jointly protected by Amistad NRA and Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, is seven miles from the Pecos River boat ramp and accessible only by boat. The spectacular Panther Cave pictograph panel is 100 feet long and contains figures 18 feet high. The National Park Service provides a public boat dock and steps that lead to Panther Cave.

Amistad Dam is operated and maintained jointly by the United States and Mexico sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission. The commission transferred ownership of the land on the United States side of Amistad Reservoir to the National Park Service in 1990, when Congress designated the area Amistad National Recreation Area. Today Amistad's mild temperatures make the area a popular winter destination, and good fishing is enjoyed year-round. Welcome to—Bienvenido a—Amistad!



Amistad Reservoir has 540 miles of shoreline in Texas. The Rio Grande is navigable for about 75 miles behind the dam. Boating, water-skiing, fishing, camp-

ing, and archeological sites are major attractions. The international boundary follows a line of mid-channel buoys along the historic riverbed.

The park offers year-round adventure. You can explore the lake and the Pecos and Devils rivers in motorboats, sailboats, kayaks, houseboats, and

scuba gear. Water temperatures drop to 54°F in winter and rise to 84°F in summer. People enjoy swimming from May to October.

Indian tribes have lived here for thousands of years, hunting, fishing, and gathering other food. Many left their stories in rock art—pictographs—that are

some of the oldest in North America. Carbon-dating reveals that some pictographs in Panther Cave are 3,500 years old.

Steep limestone cliffs, some over 200 feet high, rise above the Pecos River and the upper Rio Grande arms of the reservoir. Carved by the rivers

over millennia, exposed layers tell the region's geologic history. Fossilized shells reveal that this area was once covered by a shallow, inland sea.

Steady winds on the reservoir make sailing a joy.

The peninsula and coves (above) are just a portion of the reservoir's 350-mile shoreline in Mexico. To visit Mexico, drive across the dam or the bridge

in Del Rio, Texas. You must have your passport to return to the United States.

Getting To Know the Plants and Animals

Plants Three plant communities meet at Amistad. Honey mesquite (see far right) and blackbrush of the South Texas Brush-

lands converge on sotol and lechuguilla (far right) of the Chihuahuan Desert to the west. Both merge into the live oak and juniper savannah of the Edwards Plateau to the north. Topog-

raphy, soil type, and rainfall determine where each community grows best, but they often mingle. Drought-tolerant plants include ceniza (far right), prickly pear cactus (middle), yucca, and ocotillo (below).

Fish Largemouth, white, and striped bass, crappie, yellow and channel catfish, and alligator gar are popular catches.

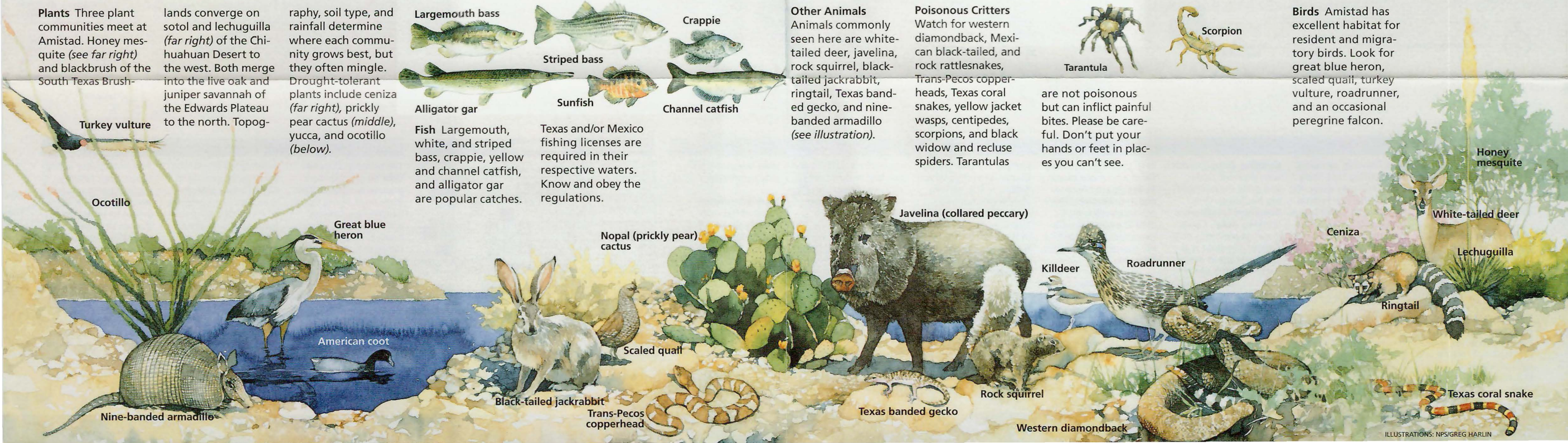
Texas and/or Mexico fishing licenses are required in their respective waters. Know and obey the regulations.

Other Animals Animals commonly seen here are white-tailed deer, javelina, rock squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbit, ringtail, Texas banded gecko, and nine-banded armadillo (see illustration).

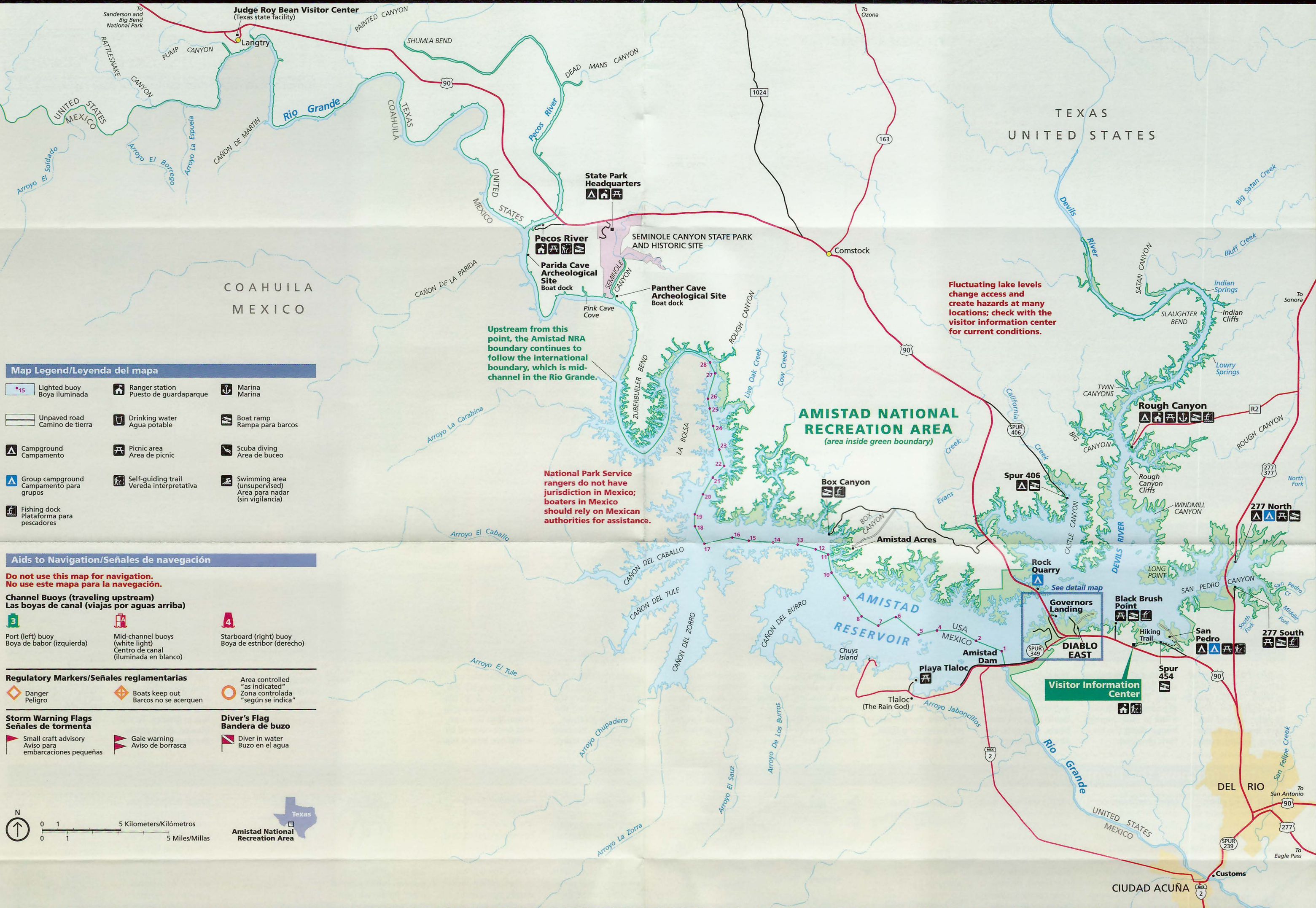
Poisonous Critters Watch for western diamondback, Mexican black-tailed, and rock rattlesnakes, Trans-Pecos copperheads, Texas coral snakes, yellow jacket wasps, centipedes, scorpions, and black widow and recluse spiders. Tarantulas

are not poisonous but can inflict painful bites. Please be careful. Don't put your hands or feet in places you can't see.

Birds Amistad has excellent habitat for resident and migratory birds. Look for great blue heron, scaled quail, turkey vulture, roadrunner, and an occasional peregrine falcon.



Enjoying Amistad



Planning Your Visit

Getting Here Amistad National Recreation Area is west of San Antonio, Texas. Reach it via U.S. 90 or U.S. 277.

Visitor Information Center Here you will find information, exhibits, films, and a bookstore. It is open daily, 8 am to 5 pm, year-round.

The National Park Service oversees facilities, interpretive programs, and protection of cultural and natural resources on the U.S. side of the reservoir.

Fees Boating, camping, and hunting fees apply. Other fees may apply. National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes are honored. There is no entrance fee to the park.

Accommodations Food, lodging, gas stations, and RV parks are in Del Rio and along U.S. 90.

Traveling to Mexico If you travel to Mexico you must have a passport to return to the United States. Carrying firearms or ammunition into Mexico is prohibited.

Camping Campgrounds with shelters, tables, and grills are available (no hookups). Only Governors Landing has drinking water. Camp in designated sites only. Camping by boat is allowed except at designated harbors and at boat ramps, developed areas, hunt areas during hunting season, and on private property next to the lake. Commercial campgrounds with full facilities are nearby.

Swimming There are no designated swim beaches in the park. You may swim anywhere except at designated harbors and at boat ramps. Governors Landing picnic area is a popular swimming spot. There are no lifeguards; swim at your own risk.

Fishing A Texas fishing license is required when fishing in U.S. waters; state regulations apply. A Mexican fishing license is required by everyone in the boat if there is fishing gear on board when you are on the reservoir's Mexican side.

Hunting Archery-only hunting for white-tailed deer, javelina, turkey, and mouflon sheep is allowed in five designated areas. A National Park Service (NPS) hunting permit and Texas hunting license are required; all regulations apply. Hunting with shotgun and birdshot only is allowed in hunt areas for dove, waterfowl, and quail in season.

Private Property Amistad National Recreation Area's boundary is at the 1,144-foot elevation. A high-water mark is visible at about the 1,124-foot level. Please respect the rights of private property owners next to the lake.

Cultural Resources All archaeological features, rock art, and artifacts are protected by federal and state laws; laws are strictly enforced.

More Information Amistad National Recreation Area 4121 Veterans Boulevard Del Rio, TX 78840 830-775-7491 www.nps.gov/amis

Amistad National Recreation Area is one of over 390 parks in the National Park System. To learn about national parks and National Park Service programs in America's communities, visit www.nps.gov.

Diablo East Detail Map

The map shows the area around the Diablo East Reservoir, including the Southwinds Marina, Governors Landing, and the Diablo East Reservoir. It also shows the location of the Amistad Dam and the Tlaloc (The Rain God) monument.

Boating

The park has 12 public boat ramps. The most popular are Diablo East, Black Brush Point, Rough Canyon, Box Canyon, and Pecos River. Launch boats at designated ramps only. An NPS lake-use permit is required for all motorboats and for sailboats longer than 14 feet. Buy them at Diablo East, Rough Canyon, and Pecos River, or at the visitor information center.

Boating Safety Pay attention to the weather. Use a weather radio and monitor the sky. Strong winds with gusts 60 to 80 mph can suddenly arise. Get to shore quickly. If you get caught, move to a protected cove and wait for the storm to subside. Always carry emergency equipment, including warm clothing, food, water, a flashlight, and enough fuel. If you capsize, stay with the boat—it is easier to find you.

Remember, your safety is your responsibility.

- It is illegal to operate vessels recklessly, negligently, or under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics.
- Vessels must maintain flat wakes in designated harbors. Operators are responsible for damage caused by their boat wake.
- Vessels must stay 100 feet from swimmers, down waterskiers, and divers' flags.

More Safety Tips Real dangers exist here. Know and obey boating rules and regulations.

Diablo East Detail Map

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