Rules to follow

These rules were developed by both port users and regulators. If you operate a vessel or seaplane in the Port of Victoria, they apply to you.

→ Do not go over the speed limit. In the Outer Harbour (between Ogden Point breakwater and Shoal Point) the speed limit is 7 knots. Inward from Shoal Point the speed limit is 5 knots.
→ Do not sail inside Shoal Point. Lower all sails, even while under power.
→ Do not anchor your vessel anywhere in the Port of Victoria, unless you have been authorized by the Harbour Master.
→ Do not discharge blackwater. A prohibition is in effect.

VICTORIA HARBOUR IS A WATER AIRPORT
BOATERS MUST KEEP CLEAR OF SEAPLANE RUNWAYS.

There are two seaplane runways in the Port of Victoria. One is in the Middle Harbour and one is in the Outer Harbour. They are very active. Upwards of 100 flights take off or land in the port per day.

White strobe lights on top of beacons (at Shoal Point, Laurel Point and Berens Island, and on Pelly Island) flash when a seaplane is about to take off or land. When you see the strobe lights, use extreme caution.

NON-POWER-DRIVEN VESSELS:
WHERE TO TRAVEL

Non-power driven vessels such as canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards are allowed to transit the harbour using the inbound/outbound boat lanes. In addition, there are areas which are reserved specifically for non-power driven vessels:

A special area reserved for non-power driven vessels is on the north shore of Middle Harbour, north of the five white buoys. Paddlers may transit along the shoreline through the corridor that goes under the buildings at the Victoria International Marina or can also transit on the offshore side of the marina, between the docks and white buoys.

Paddlers may only cross runways in two places:
→ at the Songhees/Laurel Point Narrows
→ in a straight line joining Shoal Point and Berens Island

Before you cross, watch for strobe lights. They will tell you when a seaplane is about to take off or land.

SMALL POWER-DRIVEN VESSELS:
WHERE TO TRAVEL

Power-driven vessels less than 20m (65 feet) in length, including sailboats, must use marked lanes to travel through the Outer and Middle Harbours. Power-driven vessels are not permitted on the north shore of the Middle Harbour.

The two inbound/outbound lanes are:
→ located in the south of the Middle Harbour and into the Outer Harbour
→ marked with five lighted yellow cautionary buoys

LARGE POWER-DRIVEN VESSELS:
WHERE TO TRAVEL

Power-driven vessels more than 20m (65 feet) in length may use runways to travel through the Outer and Middle Harbours. Vessels must transit without stopping or delay while in these areas.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

→ Harbour Master/Port Official: For general port information or to report marine incidents, contact the Harbour Master on VHF channel 18A or at 250-363-3578. 24/7 emergency number: 250-380-8177.
→ Harbour Patrol: If you are unclear about these directions, Harbour Patrol is on the water in black and grey inflatable vessels and happy to help. Contact them on VHF 18A during all daylight hours in the spring and summer, and during regular office hours in the fall and winter.
→ Canadian Coast Guard: In a marine emergency: call on VHF channel 16 or *16 on a mobile phone. Or call the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre at 1-800-567-5111, #SAR(727) on a mobile phone.
→ Moorage: For public, call the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority on VHF 66A or at 250-383-8326.
→ Victoria International Marina: For moorage, call on VHF 68A.
→ Canada Customs: Clearance dock located on the south side of Middle Harbour at Raymur Point. Telephone: 1-888-226-7277.
→ Johnson Street Lift Bridge: At northeast of Inner Harbour. Operated by the City of Victoria. Reach the bridge operator on VHF channel 12.
→ Victoria Police Non-Emergency Line: 250-995-7654

Note: If you do not comply with these rules and restrictions, you may be subject to summary conviction and/or fines. Authority comes from the Canada Marine Act, Practices and Procedures for Public Ports.