



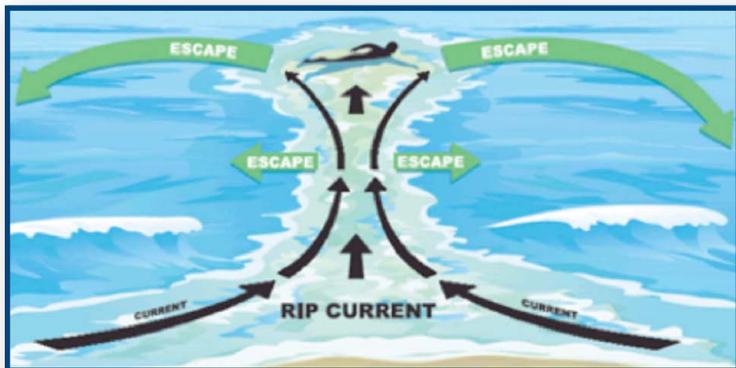
SAFETY *ALONG THE SHORE*

With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, Michigan is the perfect place to swim, boat, fish, kayak, or beachcomb!

While enjoying the beauty of our Great Lakes, be sure to respect the water as well. Just like ocean shorelines, swimmers and anglers can be caught in rip currents.

Rip currents typically form at breaks in sandbars, and also near jetties and piers. They are powerful, often narrow currents moving away from shore.

Rip currents can pull even the strongest swimmer away from a beach and out to open water, leading to tragedy. Last year, 30 people



BEFORE YOU HIT THE WATER:

- Know the wave forecast before heading to the beach
- Know how to swim
- Never swim alone
- Swim near a lifeguard
- Be cautious at all times

drowned in rip currents in the Great Lakes, and 23 were rescued.

Sometimes you can spot a rip current by an area of churning water; a change in water color; sand, seaweed or debris moving offshore; or a break in the incoming wave pattern.

The Michigan Senate is working to have Michigan join other states in using a uniform rip current warning system that is easy for swimmers to understand and specific to local beach conditions.

In the meantime, remember to stay aware of your surroundings – and have fun on our amazing Great Lakes!

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT:

- Stay calm
- Don't fight the current
- Swim out of the current, then to shore
- If you can't escape, float or tread water
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance

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