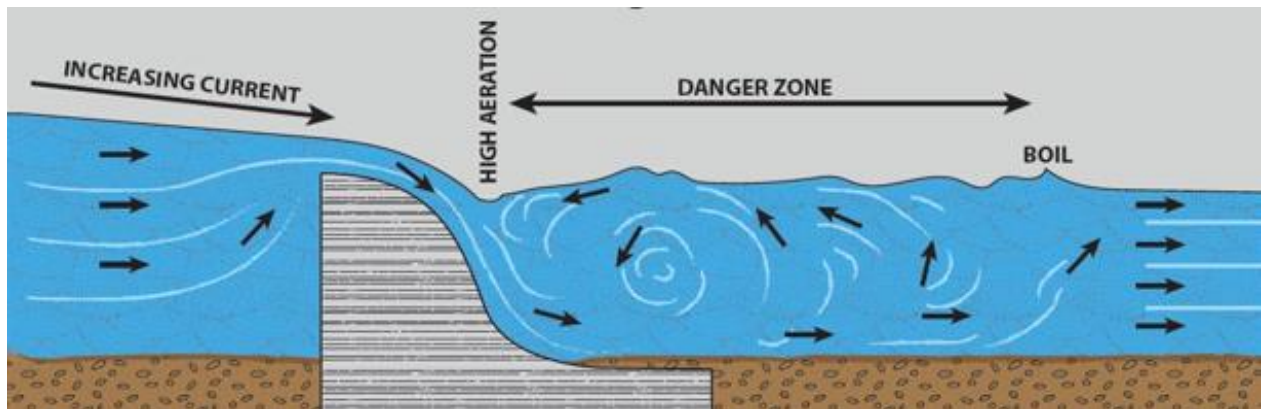


Safety Alert - Flow upstream of Weirs

The danger zone is downstream of weirs, as explained here [Stay Away from Weirs and Sluices - British Rowing](#) but it is helpful to understand the flow upstream of a weir and how it can drag a boat towards the weir. Every weir is different and the flow conditions over each weir can change dramatically from day to day.



Rowing boats sit on the surface of the water and have a relatively low draught. They are affected by the surface flow and wind only.

Above a weir, where the water is deep, the surface velocity is relatively low but closer to the weir the deep-water flow is concentrated into the small depth between the crest of the weir and the surface of the water. The surface flow speed will increase very rapidly.

What to expect above a weir: -

- The water above the weir may look deceptively still or placid, making it difficult to recognise the danger from upstream.
- As the water approaches the weir, it speeds up significantly, drawing you closer.
- As you get closer the water becomes increasingly fast and turbulent and can trap people and boats.

Do not turn or spin anywhere near a weir,

The water upstream of a weir may look safe but looks can be deceptive. Always stay a safe distance away from weirs. This is also explained in the [Safety-Alert-Keep-clear-of-Weirs-Dec-2019.pdf](#).

Keep well away from weirs; if the flow is strong keep even further away

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[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer.](#)