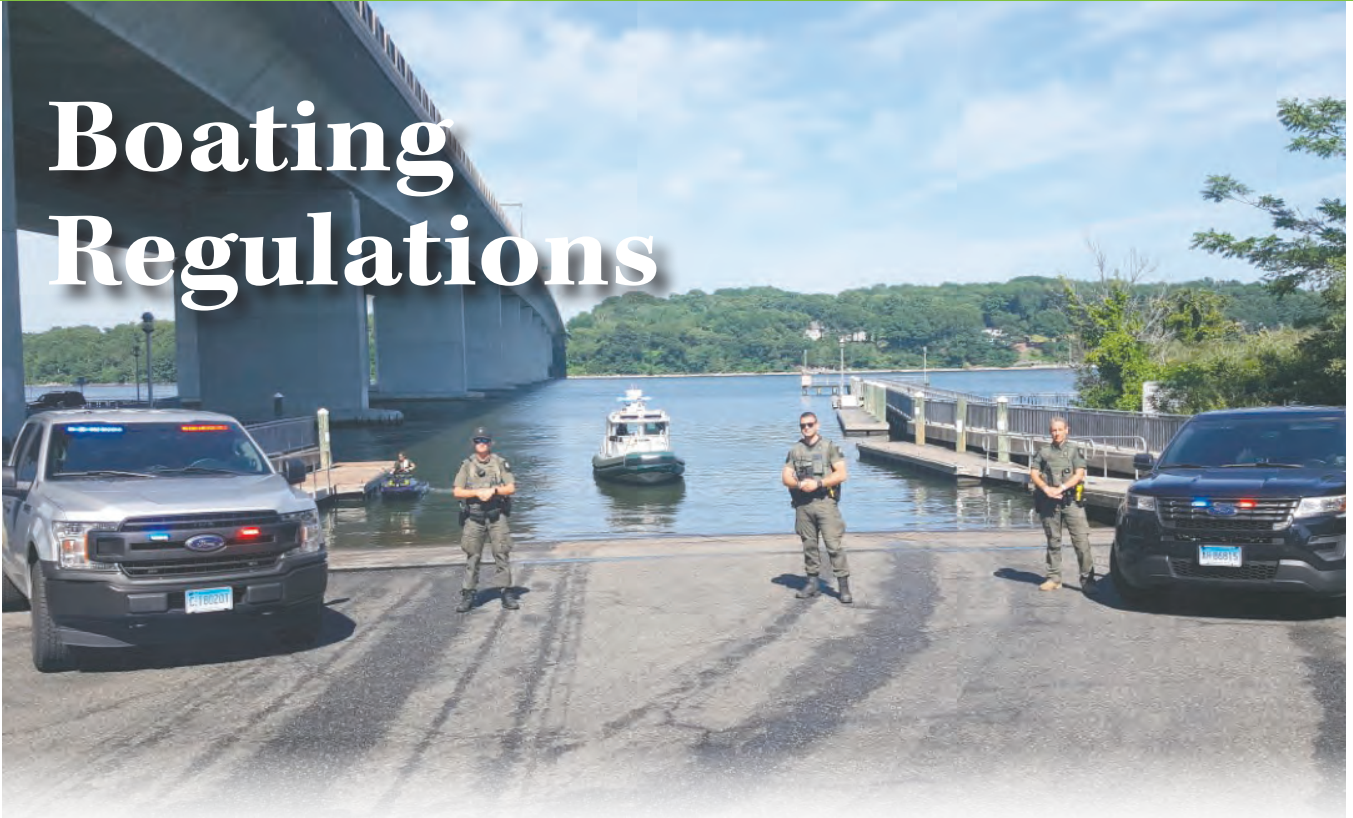


Boating Regulations



Enforcement

Several law enforcement agencies enforce Connecticut's state statutes, regulations, and federal navigational laws. Within their respective jurisdictions, the United States Coast Guard, state conservation police officers, municipal police officers, town marine officers, lake patrolmen and POST-certified harbormasters are empowered to enforce federal, state, and local boating regulations. These enforcement officers have authority to stop and board boats to check for compliance with federal or state law or to search without warrant.

State and federal boating laws specify which vessels are allowed or required to display flashing lights. There are four kinds of flashing lights to which you should pay special attention.

Law enforcement vessels engaged in enforcement activities will likely display a flashing blue light or audible signal. Flashing blue lights or sirens are not allowed on any other vessels. Because of this, vessel theft alarms must be designed in a manner so that it cannot be confused with an ordinary warning signal or siren.

Vessels engaged in government sanctioned public safety activities, such as fireboats and certain commercial assistance vessels will use alternating flashing red and yellow light signals. An example of a commercial vessel displaying alternating flashing red and yellow light signals is a commercial assistance towing vessel that is assisting a disabled vessel.

High speed ferries, submarines and air cushion vessels (hovercraft) display flashing yellow lights as part of the their

required navigation lights. Also, a barge, when being pushed in front of or towed alongside a work vessel, will display a flashing yellow light on the bow and near its centerline. Finally, a Wing-In-Ground (WIG) vessel will use a high-intensity flashing red light when taking off, landing and in flight near the surface.

If you are being approached by a law enforcement or rescue vessel using flashing blue lights or alternating flashing red and yellow lights or an audible signal, you are required to:

1. immediately slow to a speed just sufficient to maintain steerage only;
2. alter course within your ability to not inhibit or interfere with the law enforcement or fire rescue vessel; and,
3. unless otherwise directed by an officer, proceed at a reduced speed until beyond the area of operation of the law enforcement or fire rescue vessel.

If you willfully or negligently obstruct or delay a law enforcement or fire rescue vessel answering an emergency call or pursuing a fleeing law violator, you may be fined up to \$200.

If a vessel operator passes within 200 feet of a stationary law enforcement vessel using its lights and audible signal or a fire rescue vessel using its lights, the vessel operator is required to slow the operator's vessel to Slow-No-Wake speed until it is more than 200 feet away from the law enforcement or fire rescue vessel. If someone fails to slow as required, the offender shall be subject to a fine of between \$50 to \$200.

**Violation of other statutes not listed here may require a court appearance.
Consult the statutes or applicable penalties.**

STATUTE NO.	INFRACTION	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			
15-9(a)	Failure to obey order of harbor master	174.00	15-139(b)	Violation of boating safety regulations	80.00
15-129(a)(1)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding make and type of personal flotation devices and/or the use of personal flotation devices by children	75.00	15-140b	Illegal marine parade, regattas, races	80.00
15-129(a)(3)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding backfire flame controls	75.00	15-140d	Illegal obstruction to navigation or public use of waters	80.00
15-129(a)(4)	Defective muffling device	75.00	15-140e	Illegal operation of boat without a certificate or operators license	120.00
15-129(a)(5)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding fire extinguishers	75.00	15-140e(f)	Unauthorized operation of a vessel engaged in water skiing	140.00
15-129(a)(6)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding sound signals devices	75.00	15-140g	Failure to carry boating operation certificate	120.00
15-129(a)(7)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding visual distress signals	75.00	15-140h	Illegal operation of a boat by a person less than 12 years old	80.00
15-129(c)	Exceeding permitted noise level	220.00	15-140j	Permitting person less than 16 years old to operate a personal watercraft without a certificate	120.00
15-129(e)	Failure to comply with order re noise test (1st offense)	435.00	15-140j(g)	Failure to have certificate of personal watercraft operation on board while operating such watercraft	80.00
15-129(e)	Failure to comply with order re noise test (subsequent offense)	535.00	15-140j(h)	Permitting passenger to ride in front of operator of personal watercraft	80.00
15-129(h)	Altered or removed muffler	120.00	15-144(c)	Failure to display vessel registration	75.00
15-129a(a)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding the use of navigation lights	75.00	15-144(h)	Illegal operation of vessel without number/registration (1st offense)	120.00
15-129a(d)	Failure to comply with federal requirements regarding anchor lights	75.00	15-146	Failure to report change of address	75.00
15-131	Violation of rules from preventing collisions	75.00	15-147	Failure to report transfer, loss or theft of vessel	75.00
15-132	Failure to help collision victim	120.00	15-149a(a)	Failure to make written report to DEEP of boating accident involving death, serious injury or disappearance	136.00
15-133(b)	Interference with navigation	120.00	15-149a(a)	Failure to make written report to DEEP of boating accident involving property damage in excess of \$500	75.00
15-133(c)	Alteration of boat capacity label	220.00	15-153	Altering or defacing registration or certificate of number	75.00
15-133(f)	Violation of boating regulations	75.00	15-154(b)	Failure to stop vessel or take to designated area upon command	75.00
15-133(g)	Improper mooring to navigational aid	220.00	15-154(e)	Failure to reduce speed when passing stationary law enforcement or fire rescue vessel	70.00
15-134(a)	Failure to have an observer while towing skier	80.00	15-171	Discharging sewage in No Discharge Zone	up to 25,000.00
15-134(b)	Skiing in prohibited area	80.00	15-175(a)	Discharge of untreated sewage	up to 2,000.00
15-134(c)	Illegal skiing in darkness	80.00	15-175(b)	Owning/Operating vessel without marine sanitation device or with device in nonoperable condition	75.00
15-134(d)	Reckless skiing	80.00	15-180	Transporting vessel or trailer without inspecting for and properly removing and disposing of vegetation	95.00
15-135(a)	Failure to use SCUBA flag, buoy or other device	75.00			
15-135(c)	Operating a vessel within one hundred feet of SCUBA flag	75.00			

Definitions of Terms

The following definitions will prove useful in understanding the rules and regulations related to boating.

Regulated Navigational Area. Water area within a defined boundary for which regulations for vessels navigating within the area have been established under 33 CFR Part 165.

Restricted Visibility. Conditions in which visibility is restricted by fog, mist, falling snow, heavy rainstorms, sandstorms or any other similar causes.

Safety Zone. A water area, shore area, or water and shore area to which, for safety or environmental purposes, access is limited to authorized persons, vehicles or vessels. The Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is authorized to create temporary safety zones for a period not to exceed 72 consecutive hours, unless an emergency warrants otherwise.

Security Zone. An area of land, water, or land and water, which is designated under 33 CFR Part 165 by the United States Coast Guard for such time as is necessary to prevent injury or damage to the area or to secure the observance of the rights and obligations of the United States.

Slow-No-Wake. A vessel shall not produce more than a minimum

wake and shall not attain speeds greater than six miles per hour over the ground unless a higher minimum speed is necessary to maintain steerageway when traveling with a strong current. In no case shall the wake produced by the vessel be such that it creates a danger or injury to persons, or will damage vessels or structures of any kind.

State and Federal Waters

Federal Waters. Navigable waters of the United States, as defined by 33 CFR 2.36(a), within the territorial limits of the state.

State Waters. All waters within the territorial limits of the state except federal waters.

Waters of state. All waters, including federal waters, within the territorial limits of the state.

Underway. When a vessel is not moored, anchored, made fast to the shore, or aground.

Restricted Safety and Security Zones

No person shall operate, allow the operation of a vessel, or anchor any vessel on the waters of the state within a safety or security zone or a regulated navigational area.

Restricted Operating Distances and Speed Areas

No person shall operate a vessel or cause a waterskier to pass within one hundred feet of a flag, buoy or other device, marking the location of an underwater swimmer or diver.

No person shall operate a motorboat, excluding a personal watercraft, at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within 100 feet of shore, or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless taking off or landing a waterskier.

No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within 200 feet of shore, or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless taking off or landing a waterskier.

When within 100 feet of buoys marking a restricted swimming area or boat access area, vessels shall be operated at Slow-No-Wake.



Speed Regulations

When no limits are posted, operate the boat so it will not endanger others. The boat must be able to stop safely within the clear distance ahead. When passing near marinas, fishing areas, swimming areas, a vessel at anchor, or similar places, reduce speed. Operators are responsible for damage caused by their wakes.

In Connecticut, speed is limited by law for certain conditions and areas. Comply with posted regulatory signs and the regulations printed within this chapter.

Every vessel must, under crowded conditions or in reduced visibility, slow down and operate with careful regard for existing circumstances and conditions. Actions such as speeding in confined or restricted areas or skiing at prohibited times or in restricted areas can also be construed as reckless or negligent operation.

Reckless Operation

Reckless operation is the failure to exercise the degree of care necessary to prevent endangering another person or their property.

Hazardous Conditions

Enforcement officers can terminate a voyage and require the operator of the vessel to return to the nearest mooring if they discover a hazardous condition onboard. The operator must then correct this condition before proceeding on his or her way.



Mooring to Buoys

The only buoys you are permitted to moor to are mooring buoys. Mooring to a navigation buoy or other aid to navigation or regulatory marker is illegal.

Overloading

Never overload your boat with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity. Capacity labels are required on all vessels less than 20 feet manufactured after 1972, and are affixed by the manufacturer. Connecticut law forbids altering, defacing or removing the plate.

Riding on Decks or Gunwales

While underway in a vessel under power, do not ride on the bow, gunwale, transom, or in any position which is obviously dangerous. Riding on or hanging over the bow can interfere with stability and may restrict the operator's visibility. No operator of a vessel under power shall allow any person to be on a decked-over bow of such vessel while underway unless the bow of the vessel is equipped with a handrail that encompasses the bow, and all persons on the bow are inward of such handrail. On vessels under power with open bows not decked-over, no operator shall allow any person to sit or stand on the gunwale at the bow of the vessel while underway. These provisions shall not apply to persons in or on the bow of vessels engaged in anchoring, mooring, or docking activities, and when the vessel is proceeding at a dead slow speed.

Diving and Underwater Operations

In Connecticut, anyone involved in underwater swimming or diving is required to display a clearly visible red flag with a white diagonal stripe. The flag must be two-sided, not less than 13 inches high and 15 inches long. The white diagonal stripe must be reflectorized if the flag is to be used at night. It is extremely dangerous and a violation of the law for a diver to surface or swim more than 50 feet from this flag. No more than four divers may use the same diver flag unless it is displayed from a boat, in which case the number of divers must be limited to the legal capacity of the boat.

The blue/white ALPHA flag is also used to show underwater operations from a vessel in federal waters. It may be used in addition to the state's diver down flag. Boaters must not come within 100 feet of the dive flag.

It is illegal to snorkel or SCUBA dive from a state boat launch.

Waterskiing and Parasailing

In Connecticut, the definition of water skiing includes the towing of any person behind a vessel under power whether or not they are attached by a rope or any other means. This definition includes all towed water sports including waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, wakesurfing, etc.

Effective October 1, 2015, in order to operate a vessel that is engaged in tubing or water skiing you must; (1) be at least 16 years old; (2) hold a valid U.S. Coast Guard-issued vessel operator license

or a valid boating certificate issued by CT, MA, NH, NY or RI; and (3) have a CT Safe Water Skiing Endorsement issued by DEEP.

Exception: If, prior to October 1, 2015, you obtained a valid license issued by the USCG or a valid boating certificate issued by CT, MA, NH, NY or RI, you are not required to have a Safe Waterskiing Endorsement. Persons who are younger than 16 years of age, or who do not have a valid license issued by the USCG or a valid boating certificate issued by CT, MA, NH, NY or RI, are not eligible to operate a vessel engaged in tubing or water skiing.

Persons who obtain one of the above described certificates from a State that has a reciprocal agreement with Connecticut or a U.S Coast Guard License, after October 1, 2015, will be able to obtain the required Safe Water Skiing Endorsement through an online Safe Water Skiing Course. The link to the course is <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Safety/Safe-Waterskiing-Endorsement>

ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Safety/Safe-Waterskiing-Endorsement

The online Safe Water Skiing Course will provide the education portion free of charge. If a student wishes to take the examination, which would result in being eligible to receive the Connecticut Safe Water Skiing Endorsement, a fee may be imposed.

The operator of the vessel and the waterskier are responsible for operating in a manner which does not harm or strike another person or vessel. Waterskiing is forbidden between 30 minutes after sunset until sunrise or when visibility is restricted to less than 100 yards.

Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWCs) are subject to different near-shore, slow-no-wake restrictions; except for the purpose of allowing a water skier to take off or land, boats may not exceed Slow-No-Wake within 100 feet of shore and PWCs may not exceed Slow-No-Wake within 200 feet of shore. This means that, depending on the type of vessel that is being operated, a waterbody (or portion of waterbody) may simply be too narrow to legally waterski or go fast.

The operator of the boat is required to have a responsible observer at least 12 years of age facing the skier to assist the operator and monitor the progress of the waterskier. The waterskier, the observer, and the boat operator should practice and use hand signals for communication.

In Connecticut, waterskiers are required by law to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (life jacket) while engaged in waterskiing, except for those skiers who are engaged in barefoot waterskiing and are wearing a specifically designed "barefoot wetsuit" and those skiers who are engaged in trick



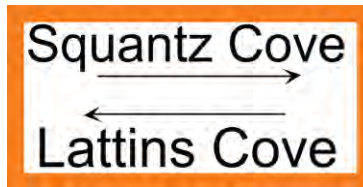
-waterskiing and are wearing standard double trick skis at least eight inches wide and not over 46 inches long, and being towed at not more than 20 mph using a tow rope longer than 50 feet long. A life jacket must be made readily available aboard the tow vessel for each skier electing not to wear one under the above exceptions. Ski belts and inflatable life jackets are not permitted.

The maximum length of a towline measured from the tow post to the waterskier's tow handle is 100 feet. No elastic component may be part of the towline. Towing of a person or persons on an inner tube without handholds is prohibited.

Except when the vessel is engaged in towing a waterskier and at least one person onboard the vessel is using it for training purposes, the rigid metal tow pole, often used for barefoot skiing, may either be removed from the boat or must be dismantled or folded and placed inside of the gunwale and parallel to the center line of the boat.

Kite-skiing and parasailing are prohibited anywhere waterskiing is prohibited or subject to special regulations. Kite-skiers and parasailers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



MOORING FLOAT WITH BUILT IN DECK RING AND FENDER

Our new Mooring Floats are 24" OD x 2.5" ID x 12" HT with built in deck ring and fender. Mooring Floats are guaranteed for 12 years for color and net buoyancy. The cost per hull with hardware is \$270.00. This equates to a nominal \$22.50 per year!

A blue reflective stripe is available for the deck ring at \$5.00.

Lettering is available at an additional cost.

Custom sizes available, call today for a quote.



**The Gilman Corporation,
1 Polly Lane, Gilman, CT 06336
(860) 887-7080, Extension 116
www.gilmancorp.com**

Rules and Regulations for Youth Boaters

Life Jackets

Life jackets must be worn by anyone under 13 years old on any vessel that is underway unless the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

Life jackets must be worn by anyone under 13 years old at all times while underway on a manually propelled vessel (examples of manually propelled vessels; kayak, canoe, paddleboard).

From October 1st to May 31st life jackets must be worn on manually propelled vessels regardless of age.

Inflatable life jackets may not be used by persons weighing under 90 lbs. or under 16 years of age.

Vessel, PWC, and Paddlecraft Operation

No person under the age of 12 may operate a vessel that is propelled by greater than 10 horsepower unless they have a SBC or CPWO and they are accompanied by a person who is at least 18 years of age and who has a SBC or CPWO.

A person under the age of 16 may be permitted to operate a vessel, other than a personal watercraft, without first obtaining a SBC or CPWO only when under the direct onboard supervision of a person at least age 18 who has had a boating certificate for at least two years.

A person under the age of 16 may be permitted to operate a PWC only



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after obtaining a CPWO or an equivalent certificate from a reciprocal state (MA, NH, NY or RI) and only when under the onboard supervision of a person at least age 18 who has a CPWO.

No passenger shall ride upon a personal watercraft unless the passenger is able to securely hold onto the person in front of them or to the handholds on the personal watercraft, and is able to keep both feet on the deck of the personal watercraft so as to maintain balance while the personal watercraft is in operation. No persons may be in front of the operator of a PWC.

All persons aboard a personal watercraft shall wear a life jacket approved for that purpose by the United States Coast Guard, and no operator of a personal watercraft shall allow any person to be aboard who is not wearing such a device.

Inflatable life jackets are not approved for PWCs.

Water skiing and Water Sports

Water skiing implies any vessel or personal watercraft on Connecticut waters that is towing a skier, tuber, or has anyone riding the wake of the vessel.

No person under the age of 16 may operate a vessel that is engaged in recreational towing activity, such as water skiing or tubing.

The operator of the boat is required to have a responsible observer at least 12 years of age facing the skier to assist the operator and monitor the progress of the waterskier.

All persons must comply with Connecticut's water skiing rules and regulations.

Jetted Articulated Vessels (Jet Pack and Flyboards)

Operators must be 16 years of age or older and have a valid Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to operate a Jetted Articulated Vessel (JAV).

Anyone who can turn the JAV on or off, or who can influence the thrust, speed or direction of the JAV is considered to be an operator of the JAV. Under these rules it is possible for a JAV to have more than one operator.

Other Regulations

No person may operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

A person under 21 years of age shall be considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the ratio of alcohol in the blood is two-hundredths (.02) of one percent or more of alcohol, by weight.

Waterskiing and Parasailing continued

shall not fly over or under obstructions such as utility lines and bridges; nor shall they fly over dams, locks, docks, launching ramps, swim areas, marinas or congested areas.

Self-propelled waterskis and surfboards, and remote control devices which tow waterskiers, are prohibited in Connecticut.

All waterski jumps and slalom courses require a permit. Contact the Boating Division or visit our website for information.

A Quick Summary of the Waterskiing and Parasailing Section

Boaters operating a boat while engaged in towed water sports must carry their endorsement.

Boaters may not waterski or operate the towing vessel so as to endanger persons or property.

The number of persons in a towing boat plus the number of persons being towed may not exceed the legal capacity of the boat, except by Marine Event Permit.

Police may terminate the water skiing activity of a given vessel for the remainder of a given day if anyone on or being towed by that vessel violates water skiing regulations.

Two water skiing violation convictions in one year will mean the loss of endorsement for the remainder of that year and the year that follows. Restoration is available only upon completion of the suspension period and passing the waterskiing class.

Teak surfing and platform dragging is prohibited. Violation of this section is now an infraction.

Wing-In-Ground (WIG) Vessels

A wing-in-ground (WIG) effect vessel must be approved by the DEEP before operating recreationally and by the U.S. Coast Guard before operating for commercial or for research purposes.

Marine Events Permits

On state waters, all marine parades, regattas, races, tournaments, fireworks over water, exhibitions, or other activities requiring exclusive use of a portion of a water body, use of a state boat launch, or modification or suspension of any laws or regulations require a permit issued by the DEEP. Applications must be received by the DEEP Boating Division at least 45 days prior to the event.

For details visit the DEEP website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boating-and-Paddling> and select "Laws / Requirements / Permits".

NOTE: If your event is on tidal waters, contact the USCG Sector Long Island Sound Marine Events Coordinator by phone: (203) 468-4565 or Email: D01-SMB-SECLISSPWMarineEvents@uscg.mil

Marker (Buoy or Beacon) Permits

All markers (buoys or beacons) other than a diver's flag require a permit from the DEEP. This includes markers placed for swim

TUBING SAFETY TIPS

Tubing is a great water sport. Please remember that riders do not have the directional control that water skiers have. Take these special precautions to ensure fun.

- Riders are required to wear a USCG approved life jacket.
- By law you must have an observer (or spotter) at least 12 years old to watch for tuber safety.
- Make sure the vessel operator, observer and tubers are alert and sober.
- Follow manufacturer's recommendations – regarding capacity in terms of passenger weight, number of riders, age limit and maximum towing speeds.
- Securely fasten the line – use a heavy duty line designed for towing tubes; check condition regularly.
- Know the area ahead of time – maintain a safe distance between the tube and other boats, piers and floating platforms.

- Learn how to balance weight – properly position tubers based on the tube's characteristics; some ride better with weight back, some need tubers to ride belly down.
- Turn off the engine and count to 10 before allowing a person into the water – the propeller continues to spin after the engine is shut off.
- Make sure the tuber and the observer understand and communicate hand signals; always listen to the tuber; use the spotter – the boat operator should not be watching the tuber.
- Use caution when making turns – tube speed increases during a turn and riders can fall off or be thrown; never have the tuber on the inside of a turn; plan ahead of the turn to make sure tube will have room to safely pass other boats or docks.
- Slow the boat speed when needed – when crossing wakes to avoid back

injuries; when pulling more than one tube (and be extra vigilant) to prevent tuber collisions.

- Approach with caution on the operator side of the boat into the wind or current – then turn the engine off; keep engine off for re-boarding.
- Never back up to a person or allow them to use the propeller to re-board.
- Securely stow all gear and tube – at the end of the day before throttling up; never have someone coil the line for tube if the boat is in gear and the tube is still in the water or has any chance of flying out of the boat.
- Vessel operator should ensure that all participants are not entangled in the tow line prior to accelerating.

For additional safe waterskiing information and our online waterskiing course, visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Safety/Safe-Waterskiing-Endorsement>

Boat Disposal

If you are the registered owner and have documentation to show this, then you can simply dispose of the boat. CGS Sec. 15-147 requires that you notify the DMV within 15 days of transfer, destruction, theft, loss or abandonment.

Below are some organizations that accept donated boats. You are encouraged to look online for additional organizations

Boats with Causes: 1-888-228-7320
[www.boatswithcauses.org/ct-boat-](http://www.boatswithcauses.org/ct-boat-donation.htm)

[donation.htm](http://www.givecars.com)

Vehicle Disposal Recycling Center:
888-495-5886

www.givecars.com

Boat Angel: 1-800-227-2643

www.boatangel.org

Boats 4 Heroes: 240-750-9899

<https://boats4heroes.org/boat-donation/>

American Cancer Society: 800.227.2345

<https://www.cancer.org>

If you wish to dispose of your vessel at your

local transfer station, contact them first to see if they accept vessels. Some require that the vessels be cut into pieces and have all liquids removed. Please properly dispose of all liquids.

If you encounter an abandoned boat, see the guidance on the DEEP - Boating Division website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Abandoned-Boats> .

areas, speed zones, navigation, information, and water ski courses or jumps. Visit the DEEP website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boating-and-Paddling> and select "Laws / Requirements / Permits" for more details.

Abandoned Boats

If your boat is missing, report it to the police and check the Abandoned Boat website <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Abandoned-Boats> in case it has been found and posted as abandoned.

If you find an abandoned vessel free floating and unattended you must contact law enforcement to report the find - it may be the only clue that an emergency is underway. Move the vessel only after law enforcement gives you permission. Under the law a boat is abandoned when it is:

- Free floating and unattended for more than 24 hours;
- Left on property without permission for more than 24 hours;
- Left at a mooring without payment;
- Left at a commercial facility for over a year without full payment; or,
- Improperly registered and left on the waters of the state.

If you are dealing with an abandoned boat:

- Submit a Notice of Abandoned Vessel to the Commissioner along with a \$20 processing fee
- Wait 45 days
- If the owner does not collect the boat in 45 days, you will be issued a Notice of assumed Ownership. You can then do what you wish with the boat.

The abandoned boat process is a closed process. Only the legal owner of an abandoned boat can "claim" an abandoned boat from the table listed on the abandoned boat website.

The fine for abandoning a boat is \$440.00, and under the abandoned boat law the last registered owner can be held liable for all costs associated with processing the abandoned boat.

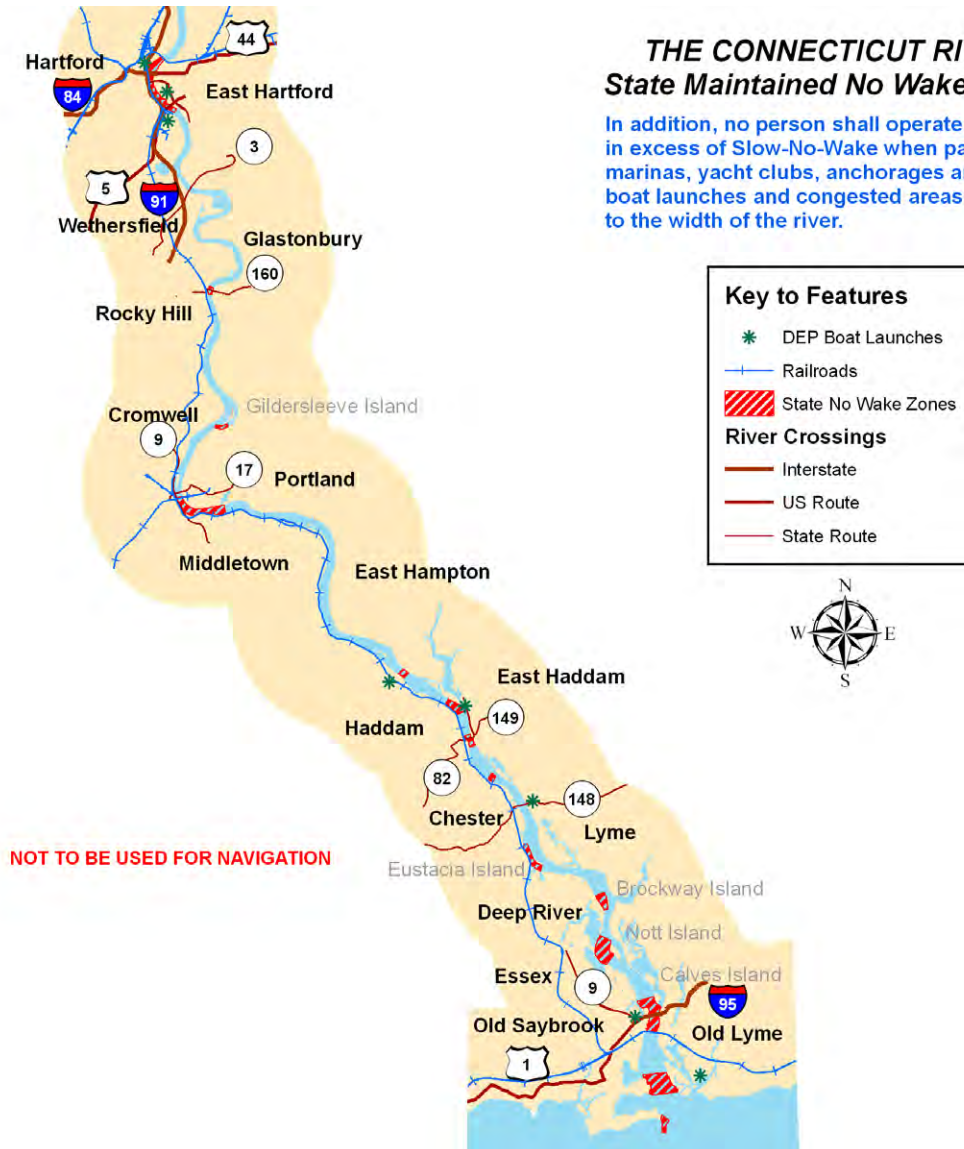
To help avoid possible fines, cancel your registration in writing within 15 days of selling or destroying your registered boat. It's the law! Send a cancellation note under your signature to the DMV Marine Vessel Section, 60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161.

Complete instructions, rules, and necessary forms are available online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Abandoned-Boats> .

Personal Watercraft Restrictions

Personal Watercraft are subject to the following operation restrictions (for age restrictions, see page 26):

- No person shall operate a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility.
- No passenger shall ride in front of the operator on a personal watercraft.
- No passenger shall ride upon a personal watercraft unless the passenger is able to securely hold onto the person in front of them or to the handholds on the personal watercraft, and is able to keep both feet on the deck of the personal watercraft so as to maintain balance while the personal watercraft is in operation.
- All persons aboard a personal watercraft shall wear a United States Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device, and no operator of a personal watercraft shall allow any person to be aboard who is not wearing such a device. Inflatable life jackets are not allowed.
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within 200 feet of shore or of a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless said personal watercraft is approaching such float, dock or shore for the purpose of enabling a person engaged in waterskiing to take off or land.
- No person shall operate a personal watercraft towing a waterskier without satisfying the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement requirements (See page 12) and no person shall waterski while being towed by a personal watercraft unless: (1) a capacity label affixed by the manufacturer indicates a carrying capacity of at least three persons: the operator, the observer and the skier; (2) minimum overall length of 119 inches, minimum overall width of 46 inches, minimum horizontal seat length of 39 inches [at least 13 inches additional seat length per person for greater than three person capacity]; (3) handholds at or near the rear of the seat suitable for



use by a rearward-facing observer; and (4) an observer age 12 or older facing the skier at all times. The boat operator, observer and waterskier must obey all other waterski rules.

- No person operating a personal watercraft shall cross or jump the wake of another vessel, when within 100 feet of the vessel creating such wake, in such a manner that the hull of the personal watercraft jumping the wake completely leaves the water.

- A “shut-off lanyard,” if so equipped, must be attached to the operator, his clothing, or his personal flotation device in a manner which will shut off the engine in the event the operator is ejected from the personal watercraft while underway.

Boating Under the Influence (BUI)

No person may operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

A person shall be considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor if the ratio of alcohol in the blood is eight-hundredths (.08) of one percent or more of alcohol, by weight, or if the person is under 21 years of age, the level is .02.

The penalty for a first violation may be: a fine between \$500 and \$1,000; one year suspension of boating privileges, six months (at least 48 hours of which cannot be suspended or reduced) in jail or suspended plus probation requiring 100 hours community service.

The penalty for a second violation within 10 years may be: a fine between \$1,000 and \$4,000; three years suspension of boating privileges, two years (at least 120 days of which cannot be suspended or reduced) in jail and probation requiring 100 hours of community service.

The penalty for a third violation and subsequent violations within 10 years may be: a fine between \$2,000 and \$8,000, suspension of



VISITING CONNECTICUT?

Check to make sure you have everything you need before enjoying the water!

Registrations & Certificates

All motor powered (gas, diesel, electric, etc.) vessels, including vessels with motors attached but not in use, are considered to be motorboats and must be registered in order to operate in Connecticut.

All out of state boat and trailer registrations must be valid in the state where they are registered. Operators must have all registration documents available in case of an inspection.

Personal watercraft (PWC) operators **MUST** have a recognized boating certificate to operate legally. These are limited to the Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation issued by Connecticut and equivalent certificates from reciprocal states. The reciprocal states are MA, NH, NY, and RI.

A boating certificate is not required to operate a manually propelled vessel.

If the operator does not own a Connecticut registered vessel or property in Connecticut, they do not need a certificate to operate a motorized vessel, other than a PWC.

If a motor-powered vessel is touching Connecticut waters for more than 60 days in a calendar year, it must be registered with the DMV and display a current Connecticut validation decal. The operator must also carry a boating certificate from Connecticut or a reciprocal state.

Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp

To operate a registered out of state vessel on Connecticut's inland waters, operators must purchase an annual Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp. The operator is required to carry this document when using a vessel on Connecticut's inland waters. The stamp is available for purchase at: <https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>.

Safe Water Skiing Endorsement

In Connecticut, a boat or PWC is considered to be engaged in water skiing when it's used to tow skiers, tubers, or has anyone riding the wake of the vessel, whether a tow line is used or not.

Operators that received a permanent boating certificate from a reciprocal state after October 1, 2015, will need to obtain a Safe Water Skiing Endorsement in order to water ski in Connecticut. Operators that received a permanent certificate from Connecticut or a reciprocal state prior to October 1, 2015, do not need a Safe Water Skiing Endorsement.

Along with the Safe Water Skiing Endorsement, operators of boats and PWCs engaged in water skiing must be 16 years old or older, and have either a Connecticut boating certificate, or a certificate from a reciprocal state.

For more information on the Safe Water Skiing Endorsement and how to obtain one please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Safety/Safe-Waterskiing-Endorsement>.



Please review the **Connecticut Boater's Guide** for more specific information or special cases. To contact the **DEEP Boating Division** call (860)-434-8638 or email deep.boating@ct.gov.

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**EMERGENCY PLANNING ZONE (EPZ)
OF DOMINION ENERGY'S MILLSTONE
POWER STATION**

THE HIGHLIGHTED AREA IS THE DOMINION ENERGY MILLSTONE POWER STATION EPZ. DURING AN ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL EMERGENCY, LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL SOUND A STEADY TONE FOR APPROXIMATELY 3 MINUTES, AND MAY MAKE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM LOUDSPEAKERS. UPON HEARING THE SIRENS, TURN ON AN EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) RADIO OR TV STATION* FOR INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION AND EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS. THE U.S. COAST GUARD WILL BROADCAST WATERWAY ADVISORIES VIA VHF MARINE RADIO CHANNEL 16. MONITOR CREDIBLE SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS AS WELL. WATERWAY QUESTIONS CAN BE ADDRESSED TO USCG SECTOR LONG ISLAND SOUND AT 800-774-8724 OR 203-468-4401.

* WTIC1080 AM/96.5 FM, WDRCT1360 AM/102.9 FM, WCTY 97.7 FM, WFSB CHAN 3, WTNH CHAN 8, WHPX CHAN 26, WVIT CHAN 30, WTIC CHAN 61

**DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY**

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boating privileges for life, three years (at least one year of which cannot be suspended or reduced) in jail and probation requiring 100 hours of community service.

Penalties for refusal to submit to a chemical test are more substantial than failing the test.

Marijuana Intoxication and Boating

Connecticut's new marijuana law provides for the legal adult use of marijuana but operating a boat while under the influence of marijuana or other drugs is still illegal. Under the new law Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) will be trained and made available to police departments around the state to test whether someone suspected of operating a boat while under the influence of marijuana or other drugs is "over the limit". Boat operators who are determined to be over the limit or refuse to submit to a drug influence evaluation from a DRE will face the suspension of their boating license upon arrest.

Boating Accidents and Reporting

All operators of vessels involved in an accident must remain at the scene and assist any other vessel or person involved, if possible, without endangering their own vessel or the people

aboard. The operator must also give his/her name, address and vessel identification number to the other operator(s) or owner of the damaged property.

Operators involved in a boating accident which results in any of the circumstances noted below shall immediately notify the nearest law enforcement agency with jurisdiction in the area and, not later than 48 hours after the accident, report the matter on a form provided by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, (DEEP) Boating Division:

1. The death of any person from whatever cause.
2. The disappearance of any person from on board.
3. The injury of any person sufficient to require medical attention beyond simple first aid.

Any accident in which the total damages to all property affected is in excess of \$500 must be reported by the operator not later than five days after the accident on forms provided by the DEEP. The form can be downloaded on our website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boating-and-Paddling-select-Laws-and-Requirements>

The operator of the vessel must make out the report, if they cannot do so, the owner or a survivor of the accident must initiate the report. (Page 65)



Rules for Jet Packs and Flyboards

Public Act 16-187 set forth rules for Water Jet Packs and Flyboards, known as Jetted Articulated Vessels (JAVs).

- You must be 16 years of age or older to operate a (JAVs).
- You must have a valid Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to operate a JAV.
- Anyone who can turn the JAV on or off, or who can influence the thrust, speed or direction of the JAV is considered to be an operator of the JAV. Under these rules it is possible for a JAV to have more than one operator.
- You are not allowed to use a JAV in a Slow-No-Wake area or within 200 feet of any dock, shore, pier or fixed structure or within 100 feet of any vessel except to transit the area: NO TRICKS ALLOWED!