



FACT SHEET: How to Comply with Public Act 26-60: Unregistered Vessel/Paddlecraft Owner Contact Information

Summary:

In 2026, a law was passed ([Public Act 26-60](#)) that requires that all unregistered vessels being used on Connecticut waters to be marked with or have attached to it current and valid contact information for the owner of such vessel. This includes all vessels that are not required to be registered such as paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, small sailboats, and rowboats.

When is it effective?

It is effective now. Governor Lamont signed Public Act 26-60 on May 20, 2026, and the law became effective upon passage.

How can I comply?

Vessel owners can attach or print the information in any way they want to as long as the contact information is current, legible, waterproof and firmly attached or applied to the vessel. Ideally vessel owners could use an "If Found" sticker from the DEEP Boating Division, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, or local fire or police departments, but demand is high and stickers might not be immediately available.

Alternatives include the use of a waterproof luggage/identification tag attached by a zip-tie, or a strip of duct tape with the contact information written on it with waterproof marker, or information printed on paper and placed in a plastic bag that is sealed and duct-taped to an interior space of the vessel. Even printing the contact information directly onto the vessel using permanent marker would be compliant.

No matter how one chooses to comply it is important that vessel owners leave the contact information attached the vessel at all times even when exiting, beaching, or storing the vessel so that responders can determine if an unmanned vessel is just lost or if search and rescue is needed.

What is current and valid contact information?

- **Name.** If you do not want to provide your full name, either first OR last is acceptable.
- **Two phone numbers.** Two phone numbers are highly recommended. In the event your phone loses power, service, or goes overboard, first responders can call a secondary contact to determine if a search and rescue operation should be commenced.

Additional recommended information (optional):

- **Conservation ID number.** A Connecticut Conservation ID Number is a unique and permanent number that is assigned to you by the Connecticut Online Sportsmen Licensing System. This is the number associated with your Boating Certificate, Connecticut Hunting License, or Fishing License. If you wish to have a free Conservation ID Number assigned, please go to the [Online Sportsmen Licensing System](#) and follow these [instructions](#).
- **Address.** An address can be extremely helpful in the event first responders are unable to make contact via phone, but please take care to guard your privacy where possible (see below).

Privacy Concerns:

DEEP understands that privacy is a concern for some persons. It is recommended you place your information in the interior space of your vessel if feasible. The priority is for information to be legible and readily available to first responders. The use of the Conservation ID number can provide better privacy than name and phone number but may delay response time for rescue.

Questions? Contact the Boating Division

860-434-8638

Deep.boating@ct.gov

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