

All Boats

In South Carolina, vessels may not be operated in excess of idle speed within 50 feet of an anchored vessel, wharf, pier, dock, or a person in the water. Vessels may not operate in excess of idle speed within 100 yards of the Atlantic coastline. (Sec. 50-21-870)

Equipment

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) - All boats must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. In South Carolina, any person under twelve years of age must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD when on board a class "A" (less than 16 ft. long) boat.

Fire Extinguisher - One Coast Guard approved hand-held portable fire extinguisher must be aboard each boat less than 26 ft. if the boat is carrying passengers for hire or if the construction permits the entrapment of flammable vapors or if it has a permanently installed gas tank, including gas tanks that use any type of fastener that would hamper the immediate removal of the tank from the boat. Additional extinguishers are required in boats larger than 26ft. Contact SCDNR for complete regulations.

Navigation Lights must be on between official sunset and sunrise.

Flares are required for vessels in coastal waters.

Bells, Whistle - All boats less than 39.4 feet must carry an efficient sound producing device. Every vessel from 39.4 to 65.6 feet must carry a whistle and a bell.

Personal Watercraft

In South Carolina, each person on a personal watercraft must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V PFD.

A personal watercraft may not be operated between sunset and sunrise and must be equipped with a self-circling or lanyard-type engine cutoff switch.

When operating a personal watercraft, one may not operate in a manner so as to leave the water completely while crossing (jumping) the wake of another vessel within 200 feet of the vessel creating the wake.

Marine Events

A permit is required for any boat race or tournament. For permits or information on these and other marine events, contact: Marine Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9302.

Minimum Age of Operators

In South Carolina, boat operators under age 16 must complete a boating course approved by the SCDNR to operate a boat or personal watercraft with a 15 h.p. motor or greater, unless accompanied by an adult age eighteen years or older.

Watercraft and Outboard Motor Titling and Registration Fees	Current	Effective Dec. 16, 2008
New SC Watercraft Registration & Title	\$40.00	No Change
SC Watercraft or Outboard Motor Title	\$10.00	No Change
Renew 3 Year SC Watercraft Registration	\$30.00	No Change
Transfer SC Watercraft Registration & Title	\$16.00	No Change
Duplicate Watercraft/Outboard Motor Title	\$5.00	No Change
Duplicate Watercraft Registration Card	\$1.00	\$5.00
Duplicate Watercraft/Outboard Motor Decal	\$1.00	\$5.00
Late Fee (31-60 days)	\$15.00	No Change
Late Fee (61 or more days)	\$15.00	\$30.00
Important for Watercraft/Outboard Motor Owners to Notify SCDNR When...		
Change of Address	15 days	30 Days
Change of Ownership (Sale, disposal, etc)	15 days	30 Days
Report Stolen Watercraft/Outboard Motor	Immediately	No Change

Reporting Boating Accidents

The operator of every vessel involved in a boating accident shall report to the DNR whenever the accident results in loss of life, loss of consciousness, medical treatment or disability in excess of 24 hours, or property damage. For more information, call 843-953-9302.

Restrictions

Airboats are prohibited on public waters of this state from the freshwater-saltwater dividing line seaward, and on that portion of Lake Marion and Santee Swamp west of the I-95 bridge upstream, to the confluence of the Congaree and Wateree rivers during the season for hunting waterfowl.

Boating Education and Information

For boating class schedules or additional information on subjects covered in this section, see page 9 or contact: SCDNR, Boating Safety & Education, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9302, in Columbia call 803-734-3995, statewide 800-277-4301 or visit dnr.sc.gov/education.html.



See page 10

Vessel Sewage Regulations

It is illegal:

- To have a toilet installed aboard your boat without a marine sanitation device.
- For any boat used for habitation moored at a private dock to discharge raw or treated sewage.
- For houseboats to discharge treated or raw sewage in freshwater.
- For any vessel to discharge in a No Discharge Zone.

Designated No Discharge Zones

- Broad Creek (Hilton Head Island)
- Lake Hartwell
- Lake Murray
- Lake Keowee
- Lake Thurmond
- Lake Wylie

Property Taxes - The bill of sale or title to any watercraft or outboard motor shall require certification that personal property taxes have been paid by the titled owner as of the date of sale. Check the status of South Carolina titled watercraft and outboard motors at dnr.sc.gov/boating under "SC Boat Facts" before you buy.

Registration - Watercraft propelled by any mechanized means must be registered in addition to being titled in the owner's name.

Stolen Watercraft/Outboard Motors - The owner of a watercraft or outboard motor which has been stolen should immediately contact SCDNR Marine Investigations at 803-734-3856 to receive a Theft Report form. Forms can also be found at dnr.sc.gov/boating in the Forms section

Titling - Titles are valid until the watercraft or outboard motor is sold, traded or exchanged. The seller of used watercraft or outboard motors in South Carolina must produce a South Carolina Certificate of Title in his/her name at the time of sale. All **sailboats** must be titled. All **outboard motors** 5 horsepower and greater must be titled. All **watercraft** must be titled except: documented vessels, windsurfers, and those propelled by human power with oars, paddles or similar devices.

Mailing Address - SCDNR Watercraft Section, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202-0167.

What Can You Do?

To prevent the possible dangers that sewage can cause to humans and the environment, boaters should: use portable toilets, utilize onshore or floating restrooms, or have a Marine Sanitation Device installed on board and use a pumpout at a local marina.

For more information, contact Scott Meister at SC-CVA@dnr.sc.gov, 843-953-6686 or visit dnr.sc.gov/cleanvessel/.

