

## 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. 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, PO 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.

## 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 in excess of \$500. 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, PO Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, 843-953-9302, in Columbia call 803-734-3995 or statewide 800-277-4301.



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 Wylie
- Lake Keowee
- Lake Thurmond

## 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 Lorianne Riggin (for Inland Waters) at [RigginL@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:RigginL@dnr.sc.gov), 803-360-0034; or Scott Meister (for Coastal Waters) at [MeisterS@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:MeisterS@dnr.sc.gov), 843-953-9062; or visit us at [www.dnr.sc.gov/cleanvessel/](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/cleanvessel/)



## Titling and Registration Fees

New Registration & Title . . . . .	\$40
Boat or Motor Title . . . . .	\$10
Registration Renewal . . . . .	\$30
Transfer of Registration & Title . . . .	\$16
Duplicate Boat or Motor Title . . . .	\$5 ea.
Duplicate Boat or Motor Decal . . . .	\$1 ea.
Title Search . . . . .	\$10 per record
Late Fee (Thirty-First (31) Day and Thereafter) . . . . .	\$15

All watercraft and/or motors **MUST** be registered or titled within thirty days of purchase.

For more information or forms contact: Watercraft Division, P.O. Box 167, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 734-3857

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

**Registration**- All watercraft propelled by any mechanized power must be registered in the owner's name. Watercraft registration is valid for 3 years after date of issue. Registration card must be on board while boat is in operation.

**Change of Address** - SCDNR Watercraft Division **MUST** be notified in writing within 15 days if owner's address changes. Description of the boat or outboard motor (including registration number, title number, hull identification, etc.) must be included.

**Change of Ownership** - SCDNR Watercraft Division **MUST** be notified in writing within 15 days of the date of sale of boat or outboard motor. Seller must provide a description of the boat or motor sold, name and address of buyer and date of sale.

**Reporting Stolen Watercraft and Outboard Motors** - The owner of a watercraft or outboard motor which has been stolen should contact SCDNR Watercraft Division at 734-3858 immediately. An OB Motor/Vessel Theft Report will be mailed to the owner. Upon receipt of the completed report the boat/ motor will be put on record as stolen. If the watercraft or outboard motor is later recovered, please notify the Department in writing.

**Property Taxes** - The bill of sale or title to any watercraft or an outboard motor shall require certification that property taxes have been paid by the titled owner as of the date of sale.