

Boating

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 at official sunset to 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 10 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.

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: Boat Titling & Registration, 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 Boat Titling & Registration 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 Boat Titling & Registration 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 Boat Titling and Registration 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.

Boating Safety Tips

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Check the weather.
- Let someone know where you are going.
- Gather all lifesaving devices. Make sure they are in good serviceable condition and are the correct size for all passengers (especially children).
- Check the fuel and the battery charge.
- Make sure lights are in good working condition on the boat and trailer.
- Make sure fire extinguisher is readily accessible and in good serviceable condition.
- Put the plug in.
- Connect trailer safety chains to tow vehicle.
- Carry a cell phone if possible.



ON THE WATER:

- Know the aids to navigation and buoy system in your areas.
- Don't operate the boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- When operating sailboats be aware of overhead powerlines and wires.
- If someone falls overboard, throw something that will float (PFD, raft, cooler).
- All boats approaching from the right have the right of way.
- Always anchor from the bow of the boat and pull the anchor before leaving.
- If boat capsizes, stay with the boat.
- If caught in a storm, head into the wind, put on PFDs and keep passengers low in the boat.
- Cold water boaters such as duck hunters, fishermen, sailors beware! Cold water kills.
- Call Operation Game Thief (1-800-922-5431) to report boating, fishing or hunting violations.