

POWER

PADDLE / OAR

SAIL



EXPERIENCE OREGON'S WATERWAYS



Spring 2023

Boat Oregon Newsletter



Wear It like a Pro

Wearing a lifejacket or PFD (personal floatation device) is the simplest and most effective action you can take to be safe as a boater... but you knew that.

Every experienced boater knows that life jackets save lives and have likely even heard a few supporting statistics. In fact, year after year, nearly *80% of boating fatalities are drownings in the United

States, and at least 80% of those who drowned were not wearing a life jacket. In Oregon over the past decade, an average of 10 recreational boating fatalities every year are attributed to not wearing a life jacket.

This information is widely available and painfully consistent, and in our modern world of lightning-fast data exchange and adequate signage, it would be difficult to avoid. Yet every year, too many people still drown in Oregon boating accidents from not wearing a properly fitting life jacket. Why is this? What led to their choices?

[Read more...](#)

In Case You Were Wondering - Inflatable Life Jackets are NOT for Children

Inflatable lifejackets have been around for recreational boaters' use for at least two decades now.

There's a growing trend of youth under 16 years old wearing inflatable life jackets on boats. You may not know, but inflatable life jackets are NOT APPROVED for users under 16 years old. There are no U.S. Coast Guard-approved child-size inflatables or hybrid life jackets. Why? The biggest factor is directly related to the body size requirement with safety.

Inflatable life jacket harness or waist belt styles can only be slightly adjusted to fit a very wide range of adult body types. The inflatable bladder size prevents a snug fit on children and the life jacket can easily slip up and off of the body when entering the water and inflated.

In instances where children have worn and activated inflatables, the bladder can be pressed against the face. Due to sizing issues, this discomfort can cause panic, leading to uncontrolled breathing and gasping for air. This in turn can lead to swallowing water and potentially drowning. Swimming is also difficult for children and the fit of inflatables. Another factor indirectly related to the sizing is the difficulty of manually pulling the inflation cord or adjusting the air volume with the manual mouthpiece without practice and training. For less mature youth 16 and over, non-swimmers, and less mobile adults, inflatable lifejackets are not recommended. Inherently buoyant life jackets (foam flotation) are still the best choice. Learn more about all [life jacket](#) types and other important safety resources at Boat.Oregon.gov.



WATERWAY ACCESS PERMIT
one per 10' or longer boat

How to Purchase Waterway Access Permits from Us

We sell one and two-year Waterway Access Permits online. Permits are valid for one (or two!) calendar years.

1. Go to **Boat.Oregon.gov/store**
2. Click **Online Services** in the upper right-hand corner
3. Click the link for the permit option you want
4. Click **Register** to create an account and follow the prompts

Permit sales fund [facility and education grants](#) to serve nonmotorized boaters as well as help fund boat inspection stations.

Tell Us What You Think About Boating Facility Grant Applications

The Marine Board's Boating Facility Program received 10 grant applications for its most recent funding opportunity requesting \$5.4 million in needs for motorized and nonmotorized funding. These grants are for the improvement or development of boating facilities, educational initiatives, and boating experiences for people in underserved communities. The Marine Board wants to [hear from boaters](#) on the grant applications and how boating dollars should be invested. The deadline to review applications and provide comments is April 17, 2023.



The agency anticipates allocating \$2.2 million in state funding for these projects. Because of the amount requested by facility operators, public comments are an especially important part of the grant application evaluation process and will be carefully considered before funds are awarded.

For more information on Marine Board grant opportunities, please visit our [Boating Facilities Webpage](#). Check out the images below that highlight your boating dollars at work.



Nearly 15,000 Boats Inspected for Aquatic Invasive Species in 2022!

The Oregon State Marine Board coordinates with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to implement the state's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. Each year, ODFW crews inspect thousands of boats coming to Oregon across our southern, eastern, and northern borders. In 2022, inspectors

at check stations in Ashland, Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Ontario, and Umatilla conducted 14,462 watercraft inspections and performed 314 decontaminations. Six of the decontaminated boats carried zebra and/or quagga mussels, an incredibly destructive invasive species that have wreaked havoc in other states.

Click here to learn more about the program and view the most recent annual report. Also, remember that we all play a role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, so make sure to clean, drain, and dry your boat and other gear prior to going to other waterbodies.



BOAT OREGON STORE

You can:

- Apply for Motorboat Title & Registration
- Renew Motorboat Registration
- Purchase an out-of-state AIS permit
- Apply for a Boating Safety Education Card or Replacement
- Apply for a Towed Watersports Endorsement
- Buy One or Two-Year Waterway Access Permit

FAST | SAFE | SECURE

Boat.Oregon.gov/store

The Fastest Way to Renew Your Motorboat Registration is Online

Motorboat registrations are valid for two calendar years and the fastest way to renew is online! Click on the Boat Renewal Tab on the store landing page to get started. Need help? [Start here.](#)



OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS REPORT

Icons representing various water activities: jet ski, motorboat, sailboat, kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard, and rowing.

Subscribe to the "OAR"

Which boat ramps are open? What are some good places to explore this season? Subscribe to our Opportunities and Access Report to find out! The report is emailed at most, once a week during the peak summer months.

Oregon State Marine Board

435 Commercial St NE, Suite 400,
Salem, Oregon, 97301
P.O. Box 14145, Salem, Oregon 97309-5065

503-378-8587
marine.board@boat.oregon.gov



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