WATERCRAFT

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION



2027

REGULATIONS

REGISTRATION

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CLEAN DRAIN DRY · WYOMING ·

Aquatic Invasive Species
Inspection and Program Decal Required (See pages 4 and 15)

WEAR IT WYOMING

Wear It Wyoming
- Wear your lifejacket at all times.
- Boat safe and sober.
- Complete boater education online.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the United States Coast Guard are Partners in Watercraft Safety.
Renew your watercraft registration online: https://wgfd.wyo.gov/

DISCLAIMER: The following sections are a condensed summary of applicable watercraft laws and other important information. This summary is in no way intended to alter the content or statutory intent of those laws. If you have any questions regarding the precise language, you can view a copy of State Statutes (Titles 31 and 41) and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) Regulations, available at the Cheyenne Headquarters, Department Regional Offices, the Department website, or consult the following websites: *http://sos.wyo.gov* or *http://wyoleg.gov.*

REGISTERING YOUR WATERCRAFT

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Headquarters or any Regional Office can process renewal, duplicate, transfer of ownership and new registrations.

Motorboat Certificate of Number Required

All motorboats powered by propulsion machinery of any type and operated on the waters of this state shall be numbered (***to include electric trolling motors***).

No person shall operate nor shall the owner permit the operation of any motorboat unless the motorboat is numbered in accordance with state law, applicable federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state; the certificate of number issued for the motorboat is in full force and effect; and, the identifying number set forth in the certificate of number is displayed on each side of the bow of the motorboat.

Exempt Motorboats

A motorboat shall not be required to be numbered if it is:

a. Already covered by a number in full force and effect, which has been awarded to it pursuant to any federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state. If the motorboat remains in this state in excess of ninety (90) consecutive days and is operated on the waters of this state at any time during this ninety (90) day period, the operator shall comply with the provisions for a certificate of number in the manner prescribed in this section;
b. Presently numbered under the rules of the Department until the present registration expires;
c. A motorboat whose owner is the United States, a state or a subdivision thereof, but such ownership must be visibly evident.

Issuance of Certificate and Assignment of Number

The owner of each motorboat requiring numbering by this state shall apply for a certificate of number with the Department on forms approved by the Department. The application shall be signed by the owner and accompanied by the fee required. Upon receipt of the application in approved form, the Department shall issue to the applicant a certificate of number stating the number awarded to the motorboat and the name and address of the owner. The owner shall paint on or attach to each side of the bow of the motorboat the identification number in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Department in order that it may be completely visible. The number shall be maintained in legible condition. The certificate of number shall be available at all times for inspection on the motorboat for which issued, wherever the motorboat is operated. If any motorboat is rented for less than one (1) day, the owner or his designee may retain the certificate of number on shore if the certificate is readily available for inspection.

The owner of any motorboat for which a current certificate of number has been issued pursuant to any federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state shall apply for a certificate of number if the motorboat remains in this state in excess of ninety (90) consecutive days and is operated on the waters of this state at any time during this ninety (90) day period.

Each certificate of number issued under this Act expires on December 31 of the last year of valid registration under the certificate unless sooner terminated or discontinued under this Act.

The purchaser of a motorboat may operate the motorboat for thirty (30) calendar days immediately following the date of purchase without a new certificate of number if upon demand by a person authorized to enforce this Act, the new owner can furnish notarized proof of ownership and the date the motorboat was acquired. Upon transfer of ownership of a motorboat, the current certificate of number may be transferred to the new owner upon application to the Department. Application by the new owner shall include the owner's name, owner's original signature, address and the certificate of number of the motorboat, together with payment of the registration fee, presentation of proof that all sales tax or use tax have been paid and presentation of proof of a certificate of title.

Upon receipt of application and fee, the Department shall transfer the certificate of number issued for the motorboat to the new owner. Unless the application is made and fee paid within thirty (30) days, the motorboat is without certificate of number and no person shall operate the motorboat until a certificate is issued. No number other than the number awarded to a motorboat or granted reciprocity pursuant to the law shall be painted, attached or otherwise displayed on either side of the bow of such motorboat.

The owner of any motorboat shall within fifteen (15) days notify the Department if such motorboat is destroyed or abandoned, or if his address no longer conforms to the address appearing on the certificate of number. In all such cases, the notice shall be accompanied by a surrender of the certificate of number. When the surrender of the certificate is by reason of the motorboat being destroyed or abandoned, the Department shall cancel the certificate and enter such fact in its records. If the surrender is by reason of a change of address on the part of the owner, the new address shall be endorsed on the certificate and the latter returned to the owner.

A watercraft registration form can be obtained from Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional offices or by contacting the Game and Fish Headquarters at 1-800-842-1934. The watercraft registration form may also be obtained on the Department website: *http://wgfd.wyo.gov*.

Registration Fees for Watercraft

1 year registration $30.00*

3 year registration..... $80.00*

*Registration fees are nontransferable and nonrefundable ***to the same owner or to a new owner.***

Duplicate Registration $10.00

(Needed if the watercraft registration for current year has been lost, destroyed, mutilated or becomes illegible.) A properly completed watercraft registration form (***Duplicate*** box checked) is required for a duplicate certificate of number.

Motorized Watercraft Dealer $30.00

A person engaged in the manufacture or sale of motorboats may, upon application to the Department in the manner and on forms prescribed by rule and regulation, obtain certificates of number for use in the testing or demonstrating of these motorboats. The fee for each registration under this subsection shall be thirty dollars ($30). The number assigned by certificates of number issued under this subsection shall be temporarily placed on the watercraft to be tested or demonstrated.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Decal Fees

Resident Motorized AIS Decal $20.00
Resident Non-Motorized AIS Decal $5.00
Nonresident Motorized AIS Decal $50.00
Nonresident Non-Motorized AIS Decal $15.00

Registration/AIS Decal Combo Fees

1 year registration/ AIS Decal $50.00

3 year registration/ AIS Decal $140.00

Measuring Your Watercraft

It is important that you list the exact length of your watercraft in feet AND inches. Length is the straight line distance from the bow to stern excluding the deck, bowsprits, bumpkins, rudders, outboard motor brackets and similar fittings or attachments.

Watercraft are divided into four (4) class lengths as follows:

I. CLASS A: Less than sixteen (16) feet in length.
II. CLASS B: Sixteen (16) feet or over and less than twenty six (26) feet in length.
III. CLASS C: Twenty six (26) feet or over and less than forty (40) feet in length.
IV. CLASS D: Forty (40) feet or over.

Proof of Ownership for New Registration and Transfer of Ownership

Before a watercraft can be registered in Wyoming, proof of ownership shall be provided. The following will be accepted as proof of ownership for registration:

- A copy of or the original certificate of title issued in the name of the applicant(s) with the correct Hull Identification Number (HIN). The correct HIN will need to be verified if any of the following situations exist:
  - The ownership transfers and the watercraft HIN appears to be incorrect or there is no HIN associated with the watercraft, or;
  - The registration is not renewal to the state of Wyoming and the owner cannot produce a current or the immediately preceding year's registration from another state.
- HIN inspections shall be conducted by Department law enforcement personnel or any Wyoming peace officer.
- A certificate of title from another state. A watercraft that has been titled in another state can be registered in Wyoming with a copy of the certificate of title from the other state. The certificate of title shall be in the same name(s) as the person(s) applying for the registration in Wyoming, as evidenced by the certificate of title.

Proof of ownership for homemade watercraft shall consist of a ***photocopy*** of a notarized affidavit by the builder indicating the date construction was completed and a properly executed certificate of title. Builders of homemade watercraft may receive hull numbering information from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Offices.

Renewal of Certificate of Number/Registration

Watercraft can be registered for a one (1) year period or a three (3) year period. Normally, you will receive a notice by mail to renew your registration for another calendar year, verify the information and make any corrections where necessary (i.e. change in address, change in propulsion machinery of any type, etc.). Whether you are notified or not, you are responsible for renewing the registration for your watercraft. The certificate of number assigned to your watercraft remains the same if you renew it continuously. ***Please be advised, if you allow five (5) or more years to pass without renewing your certificate of number registration, the number assigned to your watercraft shall be dropped from the Department's files and shall be reissued to another party.***

Placement of Number and Registration Decal on Watercraft

Refer to Chapter 22, Section 4. See page 9.

The registration number issued to your watercraft appears on your registration certificate. Sign your registration and keep it on board your watercraft when you use it. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department only assigns the watercraft number and the applicant is responsible for purchasing and attaching the number to the watercraft. ***The letters and numerals shall be a minimum of three (3) inches high, of a block character, and contrast with the background. They may be painted on or attached to the watercraft. They shall read from left to right and shall always be legible.***

Upon receipt of your new watercraft registration, if the number assigned is different than the number presently on the watercraft, remove the old watercraft number and replace the number with the newly assigned Wyoming watercraft number.

When you place your number on your watercraft, leave a space or provide a hyphen between the WY and the assigned number. Leave another space or hyphen between the number and the letters that follow.

Decals indicating year of registration expiration shall be displayed on each side of the watercraft behind and directly in line with the number of the watercraft.

The year on the decal will indicate the year of expiration. For a three (3) year registration processed in 2027, the decal will have "29."

Only the proper decal shall be visible. Either remove the incorrect decal or place the proper decal directly over the expired decal displayed on the watercraft.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program Inspection Information

It is unlawful to launch any watercraft without first complying with aquatic invasive species prevention requirements. Any person transporting any watercraft into the state by land from March 1 through November 30 shall have the watercraft inspected by an authorized inspector prior to launching. Any person transporting any watercraft that within the past thirty (30) days has been in contact with a water known or suspected to contain zebra, quagga or golden mussels in any state or province, shall have the watercraft inspected by an authorized inspector prior to launching regardless of time of year. All persons transporting a motorized or non-motorized watercraft not exempted in Chapter 62 section 4(b) shall stop at mandatory aquatic invasive species check stations that are established on their route of travel. As part of all inspections, all compartments, equipment and containers that may hold water, including, but not limited to, live wells, ballast and bilge areas shall be completely drained as directed by authorized inspectors. Any person who refuses to permit inspection of their watercraft or refuses to complete any required removal and disposal of aquatic invasive species shall be prohibited from launching their watercraft.

Draining and Transporting Watercraft

Immediately upon removing a watercraft from any waters of this state, the operator shall remove all visible vegetation from the watercraft and trailer and drain all water from the watercraft including, but not limited to, water in the hull, ballast tanks, bilges, live wells and motors. All bilge, ballast, and live well plugs and other barriers that prevent water drainage from a watercraft shall be removed or remain open while a watercraft is transported by land within the state.

AIS Decal and Placement Information

All owners or operators of motorized watercraft registered outside of Wyoming, any owners or operators of Wyoming registered watercraft that have not paid the aquatic invasive species program fee as part of their watercraft registration fee and all owners or operators of non-motorized watercraft shall purchase and display an Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal valid for the current calendar year on their watercraft prior to contacting or entering any water of the state. All non-motorized inflatable watercraft ten (10) feet in length or less, all solid and inflatable paddle boards regardless of length and all devices defined as water sport toys are exempt from this decal provision.

Owners and operators of motorized watercraft required to purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal shall display the decal on the starboard (right) side of the bow six (6) inches left of and directly in line with the watercraft registration decal. Non-motorized watercraft owners or operators shall display the decal on the bow in such a manner that the decal shall be visible when the watercraft is underway.

Only the Aquatic Invasive Species Program Decal which is currently valid shall be displayed.

Pecking order

1. Vessel not under command
2. Vessel restricted by ability to maneuver
3. Fishing vessel
4. Sailing vessel
5. Power driven vessel