



UPDATE

Oregon Department of State Lands

Date: May 6, 2026

Effective July 1, 2027: Updated Fees and Rules for Leases, Licenses, and Registrations on Oregon-owned Waterways

The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) has adopted updated administrative rules, including changes to fees and compensation, for leases, licenses, and registrations on Oregon-owned waterways. These changes implement best management practices to protect the health and safety of these waterways and achieve sustainable operations in managing waterway authorizations for marinas, ports, docks, floating homes, and more.

When Do the Changes Apply?

[See a summary of changes to fees and compensation rates here.](#)

- **On or before June 30, 2027:**

[See OAR 141-082 rules in effect](#)

- For all waterway authorizations, current application fees apply to applications that are postmarked or received by DSL on or before June 30, 2027.
- For waterway leases, current compensation rates apply to all new and renewed leases executed on or before June 30, 2027.

- **On or after July 1, 2027:**

[See updated OAR 141-082 rules \(PDF\)](#)

- For all waterway authorizations, updated application fees take effect for applications received on or after July 1, 2027.
- For waterway leases, updated compensation rates apply to all new and renewed leases executed on or after July 1, 2027, regardless of application date. Beginning July 1, 2027, leases will be assessed an annual \$100 surcharge for the Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund.

What Changed?

Changes adopted in administrative rules include:

- **Use a single method for calculating compensation for waterway leases.** Previously, people and businesses leasing waterways could choose from three different methods. This creates inconsistency, administrative inefficiencies, undervalues the use of state-owned land, and can result in inequities for users on the same waterway.
- **Increased application fees and new fees for late renewals and legal consultation.** Existing application fees did not cover the full administrative costs of processing. Adding new fees helps recover costs associated with delays and legal review when required.
- **Required financial assurances, reduced lease terms, and updated application requirements.** Oregon's waterways have experienced serious environmental harms and financial risk due to some private uses of public lands. Greater protections will help to mitigate those risks.
- **Clarity and minor updates.** It's been over 11 years since the last update to these rules. Minor updates provide clearer and simpler language where it was confusing or unnecessarily complex.

Additional Background

The people of Oregon own the beds and banks of all navigable and tidally influenced waterways throughout the state. Oregon-owned rivers, lakes, and the territorial sea are shared resources the public may use for navigation, recreation, commerce, and fishing. DSL oversees these waterways by promoting healthy, safe, and responsible waterway use. Marinas, ports, docks, floating homes, and other uses of public waterways require authorization from DSL. Some authorizations, including leases and registrations, compensate the public and ensure the use does not adversely affect the health and safety of public lands or waters or unreasonably interfere with other uses.

In recent years DSL has explored strategies to achieve sustainable operations in managing waterway authorizations and ensure lease rates are consistent and fair. In addition, Oregonians have experienced serious environmental risks and unexpected financial liability from some private uses along waterways such as neglected structures and stockpiling of hazardous and derelict boats. DSL has identified best management practices for waterway leases that will help protect the health and safety of public lands and waters and minimize operational risks. These needs have been addressed through this rulemaking.

A rulemaking advisory committee was convened from November 2024 – March 2025 to inform the proposed changes. A public comment period was held in Summer 2025, prior to approval by the State Land Board in April 2026.

See all rulemaking materials on the DSL website: www.oregon.gov/dsl/Pages/rulemaking.aspx

Questions?

Contact the proprietary coordinator supporting waterway authorizations for your county: [see DSL staff directory here](#).