



Dear Business Owner and Boat Rental Agent:

The Oregon State Marine Board is sharing this information and resources to help your customers be safe and your business stay in compliance. Each year boat rental businesses (also known as liveries) introduce tens of thousands of people to recreational boating. Most of the time this is done safely, and customers have a great experience. But as the rental industry has grown in recent years, incidents and fatalities have increased. In 2019, the Legislature directed the Marine Board to reach out to all rental businesses and agents, require registration and begin a dialogue focused on safety.

What is a livery or boat rental business? Any person who is engaged full or part-time in the business of chartering/leasing or renting boats (including jet skis, kayaks, SUPs, etc.) to other persons.

What is not a livery or boat rental business? Anyone that does not have a boat rental business registration or less than five non-motorized boats.

What is an outfitter guide? An Outfitter Guide is a person, or someone affiliated with a business that offers outdoor recreational services (leading, instructing or assisting) for any sort of compensation.

Why are we contacting you?

As an operator or owner of a boat rental business, Oregon Revised Statute 830.425 requires you to register with the Marine Board. Registration can be done electronically by going to the [Boat Oregon Store](#), logging into your account, then **click "Online Services", and selecting "Boat Rental Business Registration."** Please complete all the information being asked, if applicable. You can also visit the [Boat Rental Business Hub](#) for additional information.

What if I am already registered, how do I renew?

Once you have registered with the Marine Board you will be required to renew every two years. The renewal process can be done by going to the **Boat Oregon Store**, logging into your account, then going to **"Online Services", and selecting "Boat Rental Business Registration Renewal"** where you will then fill out the application and submit online to the Marine Board.

Equipment Regulations

Did you know that state law requires all rental boats to be equipped with certain equipment that is in good serviceable condition? For non-motorized boats, this includes a properly fitted US Coast Guard approved life jackets and a sound making device like a whistle. For motorboats, it could also mean a fire extinguisher, a throwable flotation device and even navigation lights.

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Remember that stand-up paddleboards are considered boats; an operator must be equipped with a whistle and all persons aboard, including the operator must have a properly fitted US Coast Guard-approved life jacket labeled for the activity.

Waterway Access Permits (WAP)

If renting non-motorized boats, you must purchase the WAP for each boat. **Registering can save you money!** There is a discount on bulk permits for rental businesses, liveries, and Outfitter Guides that can only be purchased through the Marine Board online store. Go to the [agency fees page](#) and click on “Boat Rental Business” to see the breakdown.

Boating Safety Education & Boat Rentals

Oregon’s Mandatory Boating Education has been law for over twenty years. This regulation requires people operating any boat with a motor greater than 10 hp, including personal watercraft (jet skis) to complete an approved boating safety education course and carry their boating education card. Renters have the option of completing a [“Watercraft Rental Safety Checklist”](#) for motorboats and a [“PWC Safety Checklist”](#) for personal watercraft (jet skis) instead of completing a course.

Important Watercraft Rental Safety Checklist Requirements

The dates on the checklist signatory page must match the dates of the rental agreement. The bottom portion of the checklist must be carried by the renter or operator while operating to comply. ***It is not required that every person who will operate the rented motorboat complete the checklist, but the person who completed the checklist must be supervising the other operator.*** A person 16 and older may operate the rented motorboat if they are accompanied and directly supervised by a person 16 and older (18 for personal watercraft) who is carrying a boating education card or proof of completing the Watercraft Rental Safety Checklist. If you do not rent personal watercraft (jet skis) or boats with a motor greater than 10 hp, this law does not apply to your renters.

Paddling Safety Checklist

The paddle sports community continues to grow in new users and innovation. However, there continues to be a troubling trend of increased injuries and fatalities on the water among paddlers. To promote safe boating practices, the Marine Board provides a [Paddling Safety Checklist](#) that outlines the legal requirements and safety information needed for non-motorized boating. The paddling checklist is not mandatory, but we recommend going over the checklist with all paddling rental customers.

A Final Word About Safety

In recent years, Oregon has seen several fatalities and numerous complaints related to rented boats. In most situations, the renter did provide required equipment, but renters didn’t use them. The more safety and regulation information you can provide to your customers, the better. And remember that any accident involving injury beyond first aid, or \$2,000 in damage or total loss of the boat, is required to be reported to the Marine Board. You can find [Boating Incident Report Form](#) on our website.

