

WATERWAY ACCESS PERMIT BOATING REGULATIONS



Boat.Oregon.gov | 503-378-8587

Since 2010, the Oregon State Legislature has enacted several important environmental regulations to protect against the spread and introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to Oregon waterways. The regulations listed below apply to Oregon residents and non-residents bringing boats into the state. It's especially crucial that anyone bringing a boat into Oregon, no matter what type, shape or size of watercraft, be sure to Clean, Drain and Dry the boat before your arrival to the state and every time you move from one waterbody to another.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Permit:

- All operators of motorboats not registered in Oregon are required to purchase and carry an AIS permit. These annual permits for out-of-state registered motorboats (and any sailboat that is over 12ft in length) are available for purchase through the Marine Board's website and at any Oregon business that sells hunting and fishing licenses for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Only one permit is required per boat, and for large permitted marine events, the permits can be held on-shore by an event organizer. All Oregon registered motorboat owners pay their AIS fee along with their two year registration, so a separate AIS permit is not required.

Waterway Access Permit:

- All operators of non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks, rafts, SUP's, etc.) and any sailboat that is at under 12ft in length) are required to carry a Waterway Access Permit. Revenue from this permit supports the AIS prevention efforts and the development of access for non-motorized watercraft. The permits can be purchased at the same locations as the AIS Permit described above and are available as a one-week; one-year or a two-year permit with just one per boat required. They are also transferable between different non-motorized boats. These permits can also be held on-shore by an event organizer for larger permitted marine events, provided that the number purchased permits totals the amount of boats on the water during an event.

Boat Inspection Stations:

- In Oregon, law requires that anyone transporting a boat into the state, if traveling past an open inspection station (four signs placed out on the highway will be present within the mile before the station if it is open), must stop and have their boat inspected for the presence of AIS. These inspection station operations are supported by revenue collected from AIS Permit sales. If arriving watercraft do not meet Clean, Drain and Dry standards, additional measures, such as watercraft decontamination, may be necessary.

Permits are not for sale at these stations, nor are they required to be in your possession prior to launch in an Oregon waterway.

Clean Launch Law:

- This prohibits the launching of a boat into an Oregon waterway if there are any visible aquatic species (native or non-native) on the exterior or interior of the boat or on the trailer or any related equipment. All boats entering an Oregon waterway must be Clean, Drained and Dry!

Pull the Bilge Plug Law:

- This law requires a boater, after leaving a waterbody in Oregon, to remove or open all drain plugs, bailers, valves or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges, livewells and motorwells before transporting a boat within the state. This law also applies to non-motorized boats (regardless of size and type).
- There is an exemption to this law and that allows for temporarily keeping water in a livewell during an authorized ODFW fishing tournament during the fish weigh-in process only.

These boating regulations are in-place to help protect Oregon's waterways against the threats posed by aquatic invasive species. Watercraft that are moved from state-to-state and are used in multiple waterbodies have been identified as the primary way that AIS have spread across the country. Please follow the simple Clean, Drain and Dry procedures while enjoying your boating activities and help Oregon protect our aquatic resources. If you have questions or want clarification on any of these laws or for other information on AIS in Oregon, please contact the Marine Board's Environmental Programs Coordinator at 503-378-2625.