

## Boat Permits Required in Oregon starting in 2010

A new program to protect Oregon waterways from the damaging impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS) requires boaters to purchase an AIS Prevention Permit to use their boats beginning January 1, 2010. The program charges a permit fee to operators of motorized and manually powered boats to fund regional inspection teams and statewide coordination of aquatic invasive species prevention efforts.

The \$5 permit fee is automatically paid when powerboats or sailboats 12 feet or longer are registered for the 2010 boating season. Powerboats with registrations that expire December 31, 2010 do not need a permit until 2011. The \$5 fee will be included with the boat registration renewal. Current registration decals are proof of payment into the Aquatic Invasive Species Permit program.

Operators of manually powered boats 10 feet or longer (such as canoes, kayaks, drift boats, paddle boards, rafts, small sailboats, and stand-up paddle boards; NOT surf boards or wind boards) must purchase and carry a permit when using the boat in 2010. Permits are transferrable to other manually powered craft, and can be loaned to friends and family members. If you lose your permit, you will need to purchase another permit.

The permits required for a motorized boat is separate and distinct from the permit required for a manually powered boat. The permit for a motorized boat is specific for the boat and the permit purchase is included in the registration decals. If you own multiple motorized boats, you need a separate permit for each one. The permit for manually-operated boats must be purchased. That permit is transferable among multiple operators and multiple manually powered boats. A separate permit is required for each manually operated boat that is in use.

If there are multiple people in a single manually-powered boat, only one of them is required to carry a permit. If there is one person in each of multiple manually powered boats, each individual needs to carry a permit on board. The same permit is required for Oregon residents AND non-residents using manually powered boats. Permits are printed on water-resistant paper and easy to carry, similar to a fishing license.



Permits can be purchased at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife license agents, ODFW offices that sell licenses ([www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses)), and online at ODFW's website ([www.dfw.or.state.us/online\\_license\\_sales/index.asp](http://www.dfw.or.state.us/online_license_sales/index.asp)). Permits cost \$7 (\$5 permit plus \$2 agent fee). Online purchases are subject to an additional \$2 shipping and handling fee. Online permit purchasers can print a temporary permit and use it immediately. The permanent permit will be mailed.

Washington and Idaho boaters, who pay for aquatic invasive species prevention programs in their own states, are not required to have an Oregon Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit while boating in the Columbia or Snake rivers. However, when they move into Oregon's state waters, such as the Multnomah Channel or Willamette, Deschutes and John Day rivers, boaters are required to have an Oregon permit.

The reciprocity agreement also extends to boat launch sites in Oregon. Washington and Idaho boaters may launch into the Columbia or Snake rivers or into tributaries within one river mile of rivers without a permit for the purposes of accessing the Columbia and Snake rivers. Oregon boaters can also launch from sites in Washington to access the Columbia River. Oregon officials are seeking similar recognition for Oregon invasive species permit holders who want to launch in Idaho.

Non-resident motor boat permits cost \$22 (\$20 permit + \$2 agent fee). Permits are available ONLY through ODFW license agents, ODFW offices that sell licenses, and on the ODFW web site. Online purchases are subject to an additional \$2 shipping and handling fee. Online permit purchasers can print a temporary permit and use it immediately. The permanent permit will be mailed. *Out-of-state permits will not be sold through boat registration agents or the Oregon State Marine Board.* The non-resident motorized permit is NOT transferrable to the manually powered craft. If the manually powered boat is in use, then the operator will need to carry a \$7 permit.

Exemptions to the new law include:

- Boats and float toys under 10 feet in length
- Operators younger than 14 years of age
- State, county and municipality-owned watercraft used for official business
- A ship's lifeboat used solely for life-saving purposes
- Seaplanes
- The Lightship Columbia
- Organizations that operate primarily as a part of organized activities for the purpose of teaching youths scout craft, camping, seamanship, self-reliance, patriotism, courage, and kindred virtues).

Law Enforcement Officers will issue warnings for the first few months of the program. By the 2010 boating season, they will begin actively enforcing the new permit law. **A violation of the permit law is a Class D Violation and carries a \$142 fine.**

The law prohibits launching a boat if there are any aquatic species visible on the hull, motor, trailer or related equipment, or any invasive species inside the boat. The goal of the law is to prevent aquatic invasive plants, shellfish or other organisms from being released into un-infested waters. The law focuses on the launch, not the transport or retrieval of a boat.

Boaters will need to incorporate a few "housekeeping" protocols into their outdoor planning. The boat operator needs to find a suitable location (self-serve carwash, permeable surfaces [lawn, gravel driveway, etc.] away from storm drains, ditches or creeks) to clean the boat **after** a day of boating. A good garden hose, soapy water and a brush or sponge is all you need. As part of the clean-up, be sure to drain interior compartments (live well or bilge area), leave all hatches open and let the boat dry in the sun if possible, clean mud off anchor ropes, waders, crab rings, fishing gear and other equipment.

**Launching a boat with visible aquatic species on the hull, motor, trailer or related equipment, or any invasive species inside the boat is a Class B infraction with a maximum fine of \$242.** The objective is not to issue citations but to educate and ensure compliance with the new law.

