



Our waterways are under the watchful eyes of the DC Harbor Master. His job is to regulate the operation, navigation, mooring and anchoring of all vessels in the District of Columbia waters. Under his command are twenty officers and sergeants who patrol the waters for hazards, monitor the radio for distress calls and performing duties as The Underwater Search and Recovery Team. Their rescue territory extends twelve (12) miles outside the DC jurisdiction. They are here to enforce the rules and regulations that help keep you and your family out of harms way. The DC Harbor Patrol hopes you find this brochure informative and beneficial for all who care to experience the safe boating waters of the **District of Columbia**.

Who Is Required To Register?

The District requires that ALL vessels choosing DC as their state of primary use must be registered. Kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, sailboats, jet skis, sail and motor boats.

Visitors are welcome to enjoy the district waters as a guest for a period of fifty- (50) consecutive days. You must have on board one of the following:

- A current registration, in your name, from your state of primary use
- A current Certificate of Documentation from the US Coast Guard
- A travel visa from another country

Any vessel used in DC beyond fifty (50) consecutive days must acquire DC registration to be in compliance with the "District of Columbia Titling Act of 1983".

If you have rented a slip at an area marina for more than 50 days, you should contact our office.

Continued use of the vessel in the District waters for a period exceeding fifty (50) consecutive days shall create a presumption that the vessel is not temporary and you must register in the District.

Violators of these regulations will be fined and impoundment of your vessel is possible.

JET SKIS

The US Coast Guard officially considers PWC's (personal water craft), or jet skis, to be a powerboat. Under the law, the same requirements and regulations as all other Class "A" inboard powerboats applies to these vessels.



What paperwork do I need?

Are you moving your boat to DC as your state of primary use? Is your boat registered in another state?

You need to file an application and surrender your title and/or registration to DC. We will then issue you a new title, registration, decals and assign DC vessel numbers to be placed on the bow of the boat.

Is this a new vessel (not previously owned) purchased from a dealer or manufacturer?

The original bill of sale (BOS), Manufacturer Statement of Origin with the first assignment completed to the owner (s). The DC application must be completed and signed by all owner's.

Was this boat previously owned?

If you purchase a used vessel from a dealer or as a casual sale, the title must be completed and signed by any persons listed as owners. Where a lien is indicated, the seller must supply you with a lien release. Provide proof of current registration in the name of the person(s) selling the boat, and an original BOS. The purchase price is honored for 30-days. After 30 days we will compare the amount of sale with the current fair market value and you will be taxed on the greater amount @ 6%.

Is this a Coast Guard Documented Vessel?

When you are the owner of a CGDV and you wish to make DC your primary state you will have to complete our registration application and present your current Certificate of Documentation (COD)

If you are purchasing a Documented vessel and intend to apply for CG Documentation in your name, you can receive a 60-day temporary registration. Contact our registration office for further instructions.

Display Your Registration Decals

These indicate that you have completed the requirements for the District of Columbia. Your registration is renewed yearly and the card must be aboard the vessel and available for inspection by law enforcement officers whenever the boat is in use.

FEE SCHEDULE

Title Fee	\$2.00
Title Tax	6 % of amount shown on *BOS or fair market value
Lien Recording	\$1.00

(Documented vessels do not pay tax, title or lien fees)

Annual Registration Fee

Non Powered	\$10.00
Powered vessels:	
<16 ft	\$15.00
16 ft to 26 ft	\$25.00
>26 ft to 40 ft	\$35.00
Over 40 ft	\$60.00

***IF THE AMOUNT OF SALE IS BELOW A FAIR MARKET VALUE, PROOF OF REPAIRS TO DAMAGES MAY BE REQUIRED.**

Change of Address or Ownership

Titling your vessel is a way of protecting your personal property. We need your assistance by keeping your information current. You must notify the Harbor Master within 15 days of the effective date of change in person, by mail or e-mailing a letter referencing your name, your old address, the DC vessel number and the new address along with a photocopy of your ID. This will ensure your renewal will arrive in a timely manner.

In the event of a sale, donation, family transfer or destroyed, you must notify us within 5 days. Contact our office for instructions. We will update your record and alleviate unnecessary renewal mailings.

Duplicates

Occasionally, a **title** may be lost or damaged. The registered owner must complete a duplicate request form and present his/her ID to the Boat Registration office. The processing fee is \$5.00.

Lost registration decals are a reusable item and some situations may require a police report be filed along with the duplicate request and submitted to the Harbor Patrol office. The fee is \$5.00.

**Personal check or money order
payable to "DC TREASURER".**

**We do not accept credit cards or
cash.**

BOATING SAFETY CARD REQUIRED

DC requires any person operating a vessel in the waters of the District of Columbia to have, in their possession, a boating safety card as recognized by NASBLA or the United States Coast Guard. Harbor Patrol offers an excellent course, free of charge, taught by certified instructors. Contact our office to register for this class.

**Harbor Patrol (24 hr)
202-727-4582**

Monitoring marine channels 16 and 17

Boat Registration

Office Hours

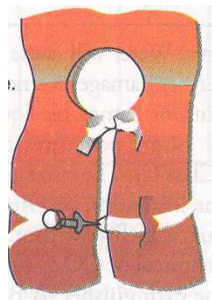
Mon – Thu 6:30 to 4:30

Or e-mail: linda.fabrie@dc.gov

202-727-4582

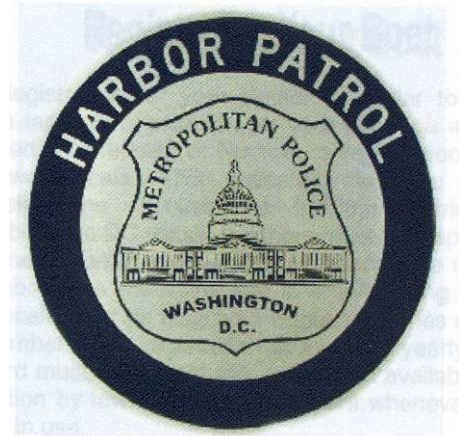
Fax 202-727-3663

It is advisable for you to call first as these hours may change.



**BOAT SMART FROM THE
START!**

HOW TO TITLE AND REGISTER YOUR BOAT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Metropolitan Police Department
Special Operations Division

**Boat Registration
550 Water St, S.W.
Washington DC 20024
202-727-4582**

Government of the District of Columbia
Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

Lieutenant Paul Niepling
Harbor Master

The District of Columbia Boat Titling Act of 1983 requires any vessel principally used on District of Columbia waters shall register with the Harbor Master to obtain a Certificate of Title, registration number and annual registration decals.