

# VESSEL & EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

Section 3 of the survey relates to Vessel & Equipment Regulations. A number of items were addressed including boat noise, lighting, marine sanitation devices and numbering and titling requirements.

## BOAT NOISE

Thirty-one states have a maximum noise level for motor boats; 25 do not. The standard for maximum noise level ranges from 75 to 90 decibels. The standards used by most states are SAE J-2005 and SAE J-1970. Developed by the Society of Automotive Engineers, SAE J-2005 and SAE J-1970 are sound testing procedures that measure the decibel level of stationary and moving motorboats respectively. Using the SAE J-2005 (stationary test), most states set maximum noise levels at 86 to 90 decibels. When the SAE J-1970 (shoreline test) is used, the maximum noise level is commonly 75 decibels. The distance of measurement for most states is 50 feet. Depending on the state and the manufacture date of the motor, maximum noise levels may differ. The penalties for exceeding motor boat noise levels range from \$0 to \$1000.

Altering factory mufflers is a violation of the law in 30 states. Twenty of the 30 states that have muffler alteration laws also have maximum noise levels for motor boats.

## MOTOR NOISE LEVELS

### NUMBER OF STATES\* THAT:

Set maximum noise level for motor boats	31
Prohibit altering factory mufflers	30
Allow local ordinances to govern boat noise	12

Source: NASBLA Reference Guide to State Boating Laws, Sixth Edition, 2000

\*Includes District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands. Excludes Canada.

## ANCHOR LIGHTING

For the most part, states have uniform anchor lighting requirements for boats. Only Indiana and Maryland do not require anchor lights. Additionally, 11 states do not specify which vessels must have anchor lights. The U.S. Coast Guard recommends that anchor lights be visible at a distance of two miles. Some states exempt vessels from displaying anchor lights when in special "anchorage areas."

## ANCHOR LIGHTS

### NUMBER OF STATES\* THAT:

Require anchor lights	54
Specify which vessels must have anchor lights	45

Source: NASBLA Reference Guide to State Boating Laws, Sixth Edition, 2000

\*Includes District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands. Excludes Canada.

# BOAT NOISE

## [Table 3.1]

State	Maximum Noise Level	Levels and Standard	Muffling Alteration Law
Alabama	Yes	86dB -Marine Police Standards	Yes
Alaska	No	n/a	No
American Samoa	Yes	Federal regulations enforced	N/A
Arizona	Yes	86dB SAE J1970	No
Arkansas	No	n/a	No
California	Yes	86 dB pre-Jan 1976; 84 dB pre-Jan 1978; 82 dB post-Jan 1978	No
Canada (Ontario)	No	n/a	n/a
Colorado	Yes	86Db(a) on the A scale	Yes
Connecticut	Yes	SAE J2005 90 dB(a) prior to 1/1/93; 88 dB(a) after 1/1/93. SAE J1970 75 dB(a)	Yes
Delaware	No	n/a	No
District of Columbia	No	n/a	Yes
Florida	Yes	90 dB(a) at 50 feet.	No
Georgia	No	n/a	Yes
Guam	No	n/a	No
Hawaii	No	n/a	No
Idaho	Yes	J1970 75dB(A), J2005 90dB(A) pre 11/1/95 & 88 dB(A) after	Yes
Illinois	Yes	SAE J 2005 90dB(a); J1970 75 dB(a)	No
Indiana	No	n/a	Yes
Iowa	Yes	86dB as measured on a scale at 50 feet minimum	No
Kansas	No	n/a	No
Kentucky	No	n/a	No
Louisiana	Yes	Must be adequately muffled	No
Maine	Yes	90 dB(a) stationary; 75 dB(a) operational	Yes
Maryland	Yes	90 dbA - SAE J2005	Yes
Massachusetts	Yes	Federal standards	Yes
Michigan	Yes	90 dB(a) SAE J-2005 or 75 dB(a) SAE J-1970	Yes
Minnesota	Yes	82 dB(a) at 50 feet post 1/1/82; 84 dB(a) pre 1/1/82	Yes
Mississippi	No	n/a	No
Missouri	Yes	86 dB at 50 feet or 90 dB at idle speed at 1 meter	Yes
Montana	Yes	SAE J-2005 - 86 dB	No
N. Mariana Islands	No	n/a	No
Nebraska	No	n/a	No
Nevada	Yes	86 dB(a) SAE-J34 - Model Act pending February 2001	No
New Hampshire	Yes	Manufactured before 1977, 86 dB(a) at 50 feet, Manufactured between '78 & '81, 84 dB(a), Manufactured after '81, 82 dB(a)	Yes
New Jersey	Yes	90dB(a)	Yes
New Mexico	Yes	Reasonable manner	Yes
New York	Yes	SAE J1970 - 75 dB(a), SAE J2005 - 90dB	Yes
North Carolina	No	n/a	Yes
North Dakota	No	n/a	No
Ohio	Yes	Effective 1/1/2000, 90 dB SAE J2005 (Stationary) 75 dB running	No
Oklahoma	n/a	n/a	Yes
Oregon	Yes	90 dBA J2005 < 1/1/93; 88 dBA > 1/1/93	No
Pennsylvania	Yes	SAE J-2005 88dB(a)	Yes
Puerto Rico	No	n/a	No
Rhode Island	No	Reasonable level	Yes
South Carolina	No	n/a	No
South Dakota	No	n/a	No
Tennessee	Yes	86 dB at 50 feet SAE J34	Yes
Texas	No	n/a	No
Utah	Yes	For boats 1993 or older, 90 dB(a); 1994 or newer, 88 dB(a)	Yes
Vermont	Yes	82 dB at 50 feet	Yes
Virgin Islands	No	n/a	Yes
Virginia	No	n/a	Yes
Washington	Yes	SAE J1970 75 dB(a); SAE J2005 90 dB pre 1/94; 88 dB post 1/94	Yes
West Virginia	No	n/a	Yes
Wisconsin	Yes	86 dB(a) J1970, J2005, J34a	Yes
Wyoming	No	n/a	Yes

## AGENCY NAME AND DEPARTMENT [Table 1.1]

State	Organization	Cabinet or Department?	Personnel Deputized to Enforce Federal Fish & Game Laws
Alabama	Marine Police Division	Conservation & Natural Resources	No
Alaska	Div of Parks & Outdoor Recreation	Department of Natural Resources	No
American Samoa	Dept. of Public Safety, Marine Enforcement	Department of Public Safety	Yes
Arizona	Arizona Game and Fish Department	Game & Fish Department	Yes
Arkansas	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission	An autonomous agency	Yes
California	CA Department of Boating & Waterways	California Resources Agency	Yes
Canada (Ontario)	Ont. Provincial Police, Traffic & Marine Safety	Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General	Yes
Colorado	CO DNR, Colorado State Parks	Department of Natural Resources	No
Connecticut	Dept. of Environmental Protection	Department of Environ. Protection	Yes
Delaware	Division of Fish & Wildlife Enforcement	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
District of Columbia	Harbor Patrol	Metropolitan Police Department	Yes
Florida	Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission	Constitutional Agency	Yes
Georgia	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Guam	Guam Police Department, Harbor Patrol	Guam Police Department	No
Hawaii	Div. of Boating and Ocean Recreation	Dept. Land & Natural Resources	Yes
Idaho	Department of Parks & Recreation	Department of Parks & Recreation	No
Illinois	Office of Law Enforcement	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Indiana	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Iowa	Law Enforcement Bureau	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Kansas	Department of Wildlife & Parks	Department of Wildlife & Parks	No
Kentucky	Law Enforcement Division	Department of Fish & Wildlife	Yes
Louisiana	Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	Department of Wildlife & Fisheries	Yes
Maine	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department	Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department	Yes
Maine	Maine Marine Patrol / Salt Water	Marine Resources	No
Maryland	Natural Resources Police	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Environmental Police	Fisheries, Wildlife & Environ. L.E.	Yes
Michigan	Law Enforcement Division	Department of Natural Resources	No
Minnesota	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
Mississippi	Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Yes
Missouri	Missouri State Water Patrol	Department of Public Safety	No
Montana	Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Yes
N. Mariana Islands	Department of Public Safety	Department of Public Safety	Yes
Nebraska	Nebraska Game & Parks Commission	Game & Parks Commission	Yes
Nevada	Nevada Division of Wildlife	Dept. of Cons. & Natural Resources	Yes
New Hampshire	Division of Safety Services	Department of Safety	No
New Jersey	New Jersey State Police	Department of Law & Public Safety	Yes
New Mexico	New Mexico State Parks	Energy, Minerals & Natural Res.	No
New York	NY State Parks & Recreation	NY State Parks & Recreation	No
North Carolina	Wildlife Resources Commission	Environmental & Natural Resources	Yes
North Dakota	North Dakota Game and Fish Department	Game and Fish Department	Yes
Ohio	Division of Watercraft	Department of Natural Resources	No
Oklahoma	Highway Patrol, Lake Patrol Section	Department of Public Safety	No
Oregon	Oregon State Marine Board	State Marine Board	No
Pennsylvania	Fish & Boat Commission	Fish & Boat Commission	No
Puerto Rico	Dept. of Natural & Environmental Res.	Dept. of Natural & Environ. Res.	Yes
Rhode Island	Division of Law Enforcement	Dept. Environmental Management	Yes
South Carolina	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	Yes
South Dakota	Department of Game, Fish & Parks	Dept. of Game, Fish & Parks	Yes
Tennessee	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	Autonomous	Yes
Texas	Parks & Wildlife Department	Law Enforcement Division	Yes
Utah	Division of Parks & Recreation	Department of Natural Resources	No
Vermont	Vermont State Police, Marine Division	Dept. of Public Safety	No
Virgin Islands	Dept. of Planning & Natural Resources	Dept. of Planning & Natural Res.	Yes
Virginia	Department of Game & Inland Fisheries	Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries	Yes
Washington	State Parks & Recreation Commission	Parks & Recreation Commission	No
West Virginia	Division of Natural Resources, L.E. Section	Bureau of Commerce	Yes
Wisconsin	Department of Natural Resources	Department of Natural Resources	No
Wyoming	Game & Fish Department	Game and Fish	Yes

## WEB SITES AND LEGISLATIVE MEETING DATES [Table 1.2]

State	Agency Web Site Address (http://www.)	State Legislature Web Site Address (http://www.)	State Legislature 2000 Meeting Dates
Alabama	dcnr.state.al.us	legislature.state.al.us	February 6 to May 14
Alaska	alaskaboatingsafety.org	legis.state.ak.us	January 8 to May 8
American Samoa	n/a	samoanet.com/asg	Begins January 8
Arizona	azgfd.com	azleg.state.az.us	January 8 through April 17
Arkansas	agfc.state.ar.us	arkleg.state.ar.us	January 8 to March 8
California	dbw.ca.gov	leginfo.ca.gov	December 4 to Sept 14 September
Canada (Ontario)	gov.on.ca/opp/	n/a	n/a
Colorado	coloradoparks.org	state.co.us/gov	January 10 to May 9
Connecticut	dep.state.ct.us	cga.state.ct.us	January 3 to June 6
Delaware	dnrec.state.de.us/fw/fwwel	state.de.us/research/assembly	January 9 to June 30
District of Columbia	mpdc.org	dccouncil.washington.dc.us	Begins January 2
Florida	state.fl.us/fwc	leg.state.fl.us	March 6 to May 4
Georgia	dnr.state.ga.us	state.ga.us/legis	January 8 to mid March
Guam	guampolice.com	n/a	Begins January 8
Hawaii	hawaii.gov	capitol.hawaii.gov	January 17 to early May
Idaho	idahoparks.org	state.id.us/legislat	January 8 to late March
Illinois	dnr.state.il.us	legis.state.il.us	Begins January 10
Indiana	state.in.us/dnr	state.in.us/legislative	January 8 to April 29
Iowa	state.ia.us/dnr	legis.state.ia.us	January 8 to April 27
Kansas	kdwp.state.ks.us	state.ks.us/public/legislative	January 8 to late April
Kentucky	state.ky.us/agencies/kdfwr	lrc.state.ky.us	Begins in January
Louisiana	wlf.state.la.us	legis.state.la.us	March 26 to June 18
Maine	mefishwildlife.com	janus.state.me.us/legis	December 6 to June 20
Maryland	dnr.state.md.us	mlis.state.md.us	January 10 to April 9
Massachusetts	state.ma.us/dfwele/dle_toc	magnet.state.ma.us/legis	Begins January 3
Michigan	dnr.state.mi.us	michiganlegislature.org	Begins January 10
Minnesota	dnr.state.mn.us	leg.state.mn.us	January 3 to May 30
Mississippi	mdwfp.com	ls.state.ms.us	January 2 to April 1
Missouri	mswp.state.mo.us	moga.state.mo.us	January 3 to May 30
Montana	fwp.state.mt.us	leg.state.mt.us	January 3 to late April
N. Mariana Islands	dps.gov.mp	N/A	Full time legislature
Nebraska	ngpc.state.ne.us/boating	unicam.state.ne.us	January 3 to early June
Nevada	nevadadivisionofwildlife.org	leg.state.nv.us	February 5 to June 4
New Hampshire	state.nh.us/safety/ss/index	state.nh.us	January 3 to late June
New Jersey	n/a	njleg.state.nj.us	Begins January 9
New Mexico	emnr.state.nm.us/nmparks/	legis.state.nm.us	January 16 to March 16
New York	nysparks.com/boats	assembly.state.ny.us	Begins January 9
North Carolina	state.nc.us/wildlife	ncga.state.nc.us	January 24 to early July
North Dakota	state.nd.us/gnf	state.nd.us	January 9 to mid April
Ohio	dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/watercraft	legislature.state.oh.us	Full time legislature
Oklahoma	dps.state.ok.us	lsb.state.ok.us	February 5 to May 25
Oregon	boatoregon.com	leg.state.or.us	January 8 to early July
Pennsylvania	fish.state.pa.us	legis.state.pa.us	Full time legislature
Puerto Rico	drnapr.com	senado.gvmt.pr.us	January 8 to June 30
Rhode Island	state.ri.us/dem	riin.state.ri.us	January 2 to late June
South Carolina	n/a	leginfo.state.sc.us	January 9 to June 7
South Dakota	state.sd.us/grp	state.sd.us/state/legis	January 9 to late March
Tennessee	state.tn.us/twra	legislature.state.tn.us	January 30 to late May
Texas	tpwd.state.tx.us	capitol.state.tx.us	January 9 to May 28
Utah	parks.state.ut.us	le.state.ut.us	January 15 to February 28
Vermont	dps.state.vt.us	leg.state.vt.us	January 3 to mid May
Virgin Islands	n/a	senate.gov.vi	Begins January 8
Virginia	dgif.state.va.us	legis.state.va.us	January 10 to February 24
Washington	parks.wa.gov	leg.wa.gov	January 8 to April 22
West Virginia	dnr.state.wv.us	legis.state.wv.us	February 14 to April 14
Wisconsin	dnr.state.wi.us	legis.state.wi.us/	Begins January 3
Wyoming	gf.state.wy.us	legisweb.state.wy.us	January 9 to early March