



DNREC Virtual Public Hearing

Proposed Revisions to: 7 DE Admin. Code 3100 “Boating” (Docket # 2025-R-F-0009)

Welcome. Any visual content that is part of this hearing will appear in this window.

Computer Audio: Use the **audio connections menu** to turn audio on or off.

Telephone Audio: DIAL-in Number: 1-305-224-1968

Meeting ID: 843 3278 9340

Comments will be accepted using the DNREC Comment form, via email, or by USPS mail as noted on the hearing event page (<https://de.gov/dnrechearings>)

Contact & Resources

- ❖ Primary contact: **Drew Aydelotte, Natural Resources Police Major**
- ❖ Email: **Drew.Aydelotte@delaware.gov**
- ❖ Phone: **(302) 739 - 9913**
- ❖ Document access: **<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/public-hearings/>**

Agenda

- ☐ Welcome and introductions
- ☐ Purpose of proposed amendments
- ☐ Background and statutory authority
- ☐ Detailed review of proposed amendments
 - ☐ Summary of key impacts
 - ☐ Regulatory process to date



Purpose of the Amendments



Align regulations with updated Federal requirements



Clarify definitions and reduce ambiguity for regulated parties



Modernize procedures to reflect current best practices



Enhance public health/safety/quality outcomes



Streamline compliance and reduce administrative burden



Background & Statutory Authority



Current regulation: **7 DE Admin. Code 3100**, last amended April 1999



Governing statutory authority: **23 Del Code §2114**



Mandates for review and amendments:
Programmatic review by the USCG referencing 46 USC Chapter 131

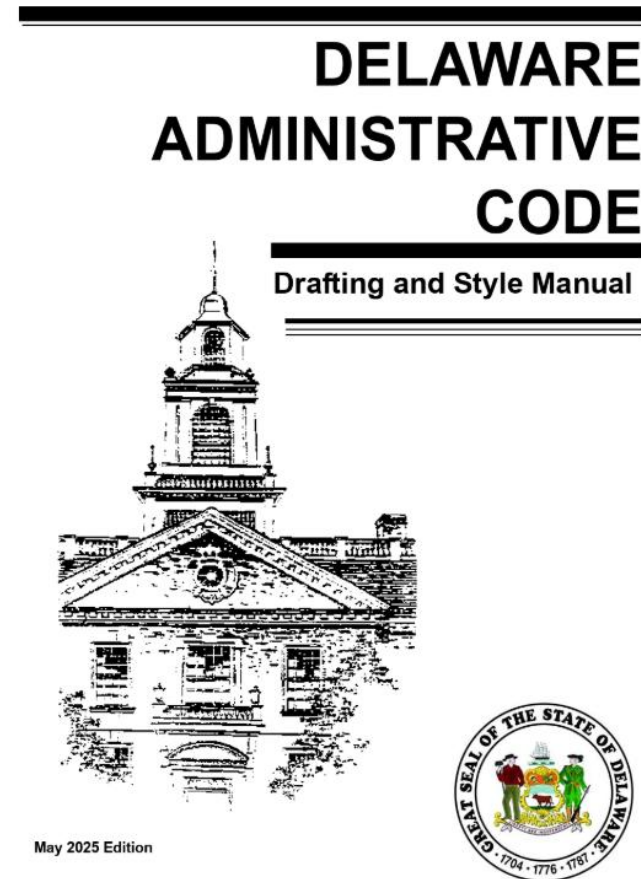


Related federal or state guidance: **33 CFR and 46 USC**



Grammar, Style, and Formatting Changes

- There are many changes being made to update formatting and style of the Department's regulations.
- These changes are not substantive and do not change the intent of the various regulations.



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations

- **§ 1.0 General** – Adds new term '**Natural Resources Police Officer**' replacing 'enforcement officer'
- **§ 2.0 Definitions** – Adds new terms including **ECOS, ECOS Link, Wearable PFD**; clarifies **State of Principle Operation** and multiple safety-related definitions



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations Continued

- **§ 3.0 Vessel Registration & Numbering** – Specifies application and certificate requirements, numbering format, and display of certificates of number (CON)
 - **3.16** (CON Application) / **3.17** (Contents of CON)
 - Adds terms for what the vessel is used for: **commercial operation; charter fishing**
 - Adds terms for what the hull is made of: **rubber/vinyl/canvas**
 - Adds terms for vessel type: **air boat, auxiliary sail, cabin motorboat, houseboat, inflatable boat, open motorboat, paddle craft, personal watercraft, pontoon boat, rowboat, sail only, or other**
 - Adds terms for the propulsion: **air thrust, manual, propeller, sail, water jet, or other**
 - Adds terms for the drive type: **inboard, outboard, pod drive, sterndrive, or other**
 - Adds terms for fuel type: **gas, electric**
 - Removes the SS# requirement and adds in terms that include: **owner's tax identification number, date of birth, driver's license number and other unique number**
 - **3.20** Size of CON
 - Added term “**pocketsized**” and that it can be in a **digital** or hard copy form.



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations Continued

- **§ 4.0 Casualty Reporting** – Expands accident reporting triggers and immediate notification requirements
 - **4.2.1.4** Reportable accidents threshold increased from \$500 to \$2000.
 - **4.6.2** Adds immediate notification to Law Enforcement when a vessel related property accident occurs, and the owner of that property cannot be located.



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations Continued

- **§ 5.0 Water Skiing** – Updates lists of prohibited areas
 - **5.2 Prohibited Water Skiing Areas:** Adds the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C&D)
- **§ 6.0 Vessel Speed** – Sets 100-foot buffer zones for emergency vessels
 - **6.1.2** Adds slow-no-wake requirement when within 100 feet of any law enforcement or other emergency vessel with its emergency lights activated.



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations Continued

- **§ 9.0 Minimum Required Equipment** – Updates PFD, fire extinguisher; and adds ECOS requirement
 - **9.2.1.2** Clarified the requirements for portable and semi-portable fire extinguishers onboard a vessel
 - **9.2.1.6** Addressed other fire extinguishers that may be carried onboard as excess equipment
 - **9.2.17** Adds description of what must be fitted on a fire extinguisher to address the space concerned
 - **9.3.1** Adjust the PFD terminology from “type I, II, III, IV” to new terms “wearable” and “throwable”
 - **9.3.4** Changes the fire extinguisher “type B” to new terms “20-B”, “5-B”, or 160-B
 - **9.4** Adds “Engine cut-off switch/link” requirement



Detailed Changes by Section – Boating Regulations Continued

- **§ 10.0 Boat Ramps & Parking** – Clarifies parking restrictions
 - **10.3** Adds the term “vessel” to list of equipment that cannot be left unattended in a Division owned parking lot in excess of 48 hours without contacting NRP.



Summary of Key Impacts

These amendments modernize Delaware's boating regulations for the first time in over two decades.

They:



Strengthen **safety requirements** for recreational and commercial boaters.



Enhance **law enforcement capabilities** through clearer authority and updated reporting thresholds.



Simplify and **modernize registration processes** and recordkeeping.



Improve **alignment with U.S. Coast Guard standards**, ensuring reciprocity across state lines.



Regulatory Process To Date

- The Start Action Notice underwent Division Directors' review, received the Secretary's signature.
- A Deputy Attorney General from the Environmental Unit in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice conducted a legal review of the draft regulation.
- The Deputy Secretary reviewed and approved of the draft regulation.
- Legal Notice advertising the public hearing was made available on the DNREC website, the Public Meeting Calendar, and published in both *The Wilmington News Journal* and *Daily State News*.
- The proposed regulations, the Register Notice, and the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and Impact Statement were published in the *Register of Regulations*.



DNREC Exhibits

- Exhibit 1: A copy of approved [Start Action Notice #2025-05](#) pertaining to the proposed revisions.
- Exhibit 2: A copy of [Register Notice SAN #2025-05 and proposed amendments](#) to 7 DE Admin. Code 3100 Boating as published in the October 1, 2025, [Delaware Register of Regulations](#).
- Exhibit 3: A copy of the [Regulatory Flexibility Analysis/Regulatory Impact Statement](#), as published in the October 1, 2025, [Delaware Register of Regulations](#).
- Exhibit 4: [Public Notice of hearing](#), as published on the DNREC website on October 1, 2025.
- Exhibit 5: [Notice of public hearing](#) as it appeared on the Delaware Public Meeting Calendar on October 2, 2025.
- Exhibit 6: [Affidavit and Legal Notice](#) published in the Daily State News on October 1, 2025.
- Exhibit 7: [Affidavit and Legal Notice](#) published in The Wilmington News Journal on October 1, 2025.
- Exhibit 8: Notice of intent to revise regulations that pertain to 7 DE Admin. Code 3100 *Boating* as it appeared on the [Division of Fish and Wildlife](#), and [Natural Resources Police](#) Facebook pages (October 2, 2025).
- Exhibit 9: [DNREC Public Hearing Presentation](#)



Contact & Resources

- ❖ Primary contact: **Drew Aydelotte, Natural Resources Police Major**
- ❖ Email: **Drew.Aydelotte@delaware.gov**
- ❖ Phone: **(302) 739 - 9913**
- ❖ Document access: **<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/public-hearings/>**



DNREC Virtual Public Hearing

Proposed Revisions to: 7 DE Admin. Code 3100 “Boating” (Docket # 2025-R-F-0009)

Thank you for joining us. We will accept comments on this matter through Thursday, November 6, 2025.

Comments may be submitted in writing

Via online form at <https://de.gov/dnrecomments>, via email to

DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov, or USPS mail:

Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer

DNREC – Office of the Secretary

89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

The full verbatim transcript will be posted when it becomes available.

For more information, find the event page for this hearing on the DNREC Public Hearings page at

<https://de.gov/dnrehearings>