

SOUTH CAROLINA ABANDONED VESSELS



SECTION 50-21-10. DEFINITIONS.

- (1) “Abandon” or “abandoned” means any watercraft that has been moored, stranded, wrecked, sinking, or sunk, and has been left unattended for longer than forty-five days. A watercraft is not abandoned if it is legally moored or is on private property.

50-21-190

ABANDONING WATERCRAFT OR OUTBOARD MOTOR

- **SECTION 50-21-190.** Abandoning watercraft or outboard motor; penalty; removal.
- (A) It is unlawful to abandon a watercraft or outboard motor on the public lands or waters of this State or on private property without permission of the property owner. This section does not apply to persons who abandon a watercraft in an emergency for the safety of the persons onboard; however, after the emergency is over, the owner and operator of the abandoned watercraft shall make a bona fide attempt to recover the watercraft.
- (B) A person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned up to thirty days, or both. In addition, the owner must remove the abandoned watercraft within fourteen days of conviction. The magistrates and municipal courts are vested with jurisdiction for cases arising under this section.
- (C) An abandoned watercraft as identified by the department may be removed at the risk and expense of the owner and disposed of by any governmental agency that has jurisdiction over the area where the abandoned watercraft is located.
- (D) The department must conduct investigations of any watercraft subject to the provisions of this section to determine the status of the watercraft as abandoned. The department must send written notice and make additional reasonable efforts to notify the last known owner, if any, of the status of the watercraft. If efforts to notify fail, then the department must post a notice on the watercraft advising that the watercraft is abandoned. If the owner claims the watercraft within forty-five days of the date the notice is posted, the watercraft is not considered abandoned.
- (E) A watercraft identified by the department as abandoned for at least ninety days may be claimed by any person or entity as abandoned property.

SCDNR ABANDON VESSEL PLACARD



. Regulations of Division as to construction, equipment, and
other safety standards.
SECTION 50-21-610

(1) The department may promulgate regulations which establish boat construction or associated equipment performance or other safety standards.

(2) In order that boatmen may pass from jurisdiction to jurisdiction in an unhindered manner:

(a) Regulations promulgated by the department which establish any boat construction or associated equipment, performance or other safety standard shall be identical to Federal Regulations for enforcement purposes except that regulations requiring the carrying or using of marine safety articles to meet uniquely hazardous conditions or circumstances within this State may be adopted; and if regulations for such safety articles are not disapproved by the United States Coast Guard, regulations shall not be in conflict with Federal requirements;

(b) Operational regulations and other equipment regulations such as for mufflers shall not be in conflict with Federal requirements.

REGULATION: 123-3 LIGHTS

Every vessel at anchor, whether occupied or not, shall display anchor lights between official sunset and sunrise. Except that anchor lights do not have to be displayed on a vessel anchored in a “special anchorage area” designated as such by the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Coast Guard or the SC Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, (SCDNR).









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Imagery Date: 3/1/2014 32° 58.829' N 79° 37.407' W elev 3 ft eye alt 709 ft



ANCHOR / MOORING LIGHT FROM SUNSET TO SUNRISE



**A VESSEL IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE NUMBERED UNDER THIS CHAPTER IF
IT IS:
50-23-320**

- **SECTION 50-23-320.**
- (A) (1) covered by a certificate of number in effect which has been issued to it pursuant to federal law;
- (2) a federally approved numbering system of another state. However, this vessel must not be held or used in this State for more than sixty consecutive days;
- (3) from a country other than the United States and temporarily using the waters of this State;
- (4) a vessel whose owner is the United States except recreational-type vessels;
- (5) a vessel whose owner is the United States, a state, or political subdivision to a state used for governmental purposes and which is clearly identifiable as such;
- (6) a vessel's lifeboat if the boat is used solely for lifesaving purposes;
- (7) a vessel's tender;
- (8) boats designed, constructed, and used for racing;
- (9) a vessel belonging to a class of boats which has been exempted from numbering by the department after the department has found that the federal government has exempted the vessel or class of vessels from their numbering provisions or as otherwise permitted by the federal government;
- (10) documented by the United States Coast Guard or a federal agency successor to it;
- (11) used under authority of a valid temporary certificate of number issued by the department or its agent; or
- (12) a sailboat or paddle boat when no propulsion machinery of any description is installed in or attached to the boat.
- (B) Nothing in this chapter prohibits the numbering of an undocumented vessel upon request by the owner even though the vessel is exempt from the numbering requirements of this chapter.

Numbering of vessels.

50-23-310

- **SECTION 50-23-310.** Every vessel using the waters of this State shall be numbered except those exempt by Section 50-23-320. No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of any such vessel on such waters unless the vessel is numbered in accordance with this chapter or in accordance with applicable Federal law or in accordance with a Federally-approved numbering system of another state and unless
 - (1) The certificate of number issued to such a vessel is on board and in full force and effect.
 - (2) The identifying number set forth in the certificate of number is displayed on each side of the forward half of the vessel.
 - (3) The decals issued by the department are attached to each side of the bow of the boat within six inches following the identifying number. Such decals, when a certificate of number is issued or renewed, shall be deemed a part of the registration number.
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EXEMPTIONS

50-23-030

- **SECTION 50-23-30.** Watercraft documented by the United States Coast Guard or its predecessor or successor agency and water skis, aquaplanes, surfboards, windsurfers, and similar devices, and those watercraft propelled exclusively by human power are not required to be titled.

WATERCRAFT TITLES; NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER.

50-23-20

- **SECTION 50-23-20.** Any watercraft or outboard motor, or both, held or principally used in this State must be titled by the department. An owner of a watercraft or outboard motor titled in this State must notify the department within thirty days if ownership is transferred to another person, entity, or transferred out of state or otherwise disposed.