

National Survey on COVID-19's Impact on Recreational Boating

Jurisdiction	Restrictions on Rec. Boating -Y/N	Comments	Sources
New England			
Maine	No	The issuance of fishing derby and bass tournament permits is temporarily suspended until further notice. These events often include gatherings of large groups of participants and spectators and would be inconsistent with current social distancing requirements. April 27, 2020.	<p>State Resources: https://www.maine.gov/covid19/</p> <p>Inland Fisheries: https://www.maine.gov/ifw/emergency-updates/index.html</p>
New Hampshire	No	New Hampshire Fish and Game have not made any changes to seasons, and all rules and regulations remain in effect and will be enforced by Conservation Officers. Some outdoor activities still permitted include fishing, clamming, the use of NH Fish and Game's Wildlife Management Areas and boat ramps, and wildlife watching. Trout stocking is just beginning, and fishing is an excellent way to relax and reduce stress. April 27, 2020.	<p>NH Fish & Game: https://nhfishgame.com/2020/03/27/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19-restrictions/</p>
Massachusetts	No	Fishing and boating are allowed as outdoor activities, and individuals should practice social distancing. All MassWildlife Wildlife Management Areas remain open to the public. April 25, 2020.	<p>Mass.gov COVID-19 Directives: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-guidance-and-directives</p> <p>Mass. Wildlife: COVID-19 Response: https://www.mass.gov/news/masswildlife-covid-19-response</p>
Rhode Island	No	Boat ramps are open, except for ramps located within state parts that remain closed until further notice. Social distancing guidelines still apply, and boaters are encouraged to consider the size of the vessel, the number of people on board, and the ability of people to stay six or more feet apart. The RI Coastal Resources Management	<p>RI State Parks FAQ: http://riparks.com/covid19.php</p>

		Council has also issued Marina, Yacht Club, and Harbor Master Guidance to ensure the CDC's health and safety guidelines are followed. Updated: April 27, 2020 at 10:45 a.m.	RI Coastal Resources Management Council COVID-19 Marina, Yacht Club, and Harbor Master Guidance: http://www.crmc.ri.gov/news/2020_0409_marinas.html
Connecticut	No	The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has confirmed that all state boat launches are currently open. Gatherings of people at state boat launches must be limited to no more than five people, and CDC guidance on maintaining 6-foot social distancing must be followed at all times. Boat occupants should be limited to cohabitating family members only and groups of no more than five. April 20, 2020.	CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Press Release: https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/News-Releases/News-Releases---2020/DEEP-Urges-Safe-Boating-Social-Distancing-Practices-at-State-Boat-Launches-During-COVID-19-Pandemic
Mid-Atlantic			
New York	No	Recreational boating is permissible, provided that no establishment offer chartered watercraft services or rentals. Updated: April 24, 2020, at 11:10 AM. The Erie Canal is deemed non-essential and maintenance and repair work has ceased. The New York State Canal system will not open for through navigation on May 15 as previously announced.	New York Governor Executive Order: https://esd.ny.gov/guidance-executive-order-2026 Canal Corporation Notice to Mariners: http://www.canals.ny.gov/wwwapps/tas/notices/ntm.aspx?id=1459
New Jersey	No	Recreational boating is permissible as long as strict social distancing and sanitization protocols are followed. Chartered watercraft services or rentals will not be allowed, and restaurant activity at these sites must be limited to take-out or delivery only. April 18, 2020.	Joint Governor Agreement: New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut: https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/amid-ongoing-covid-19-pandemic-governor-cuomo-governor-murphy-governor-lamont-announce
Pennsylvania	No	Recreational boating is permissible but anglers and boaters should limit travel by fishing close to home, cover their faces with a mask or other cloth covering, keep a distance of at least six feet from others (the length of arm with an outstretched fishing rod is a useful guide), only go fishing with members of their families living in the same household, and never share fishing gear with others. April 7, 2020.	Fish and Boat Commission Press Release: https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/fish-and-Boat-Commission-Details.aspx?newsid=316

Delaware	No	Recreational boating is permissible but not boating from beaches. Boat ramps are open but must practice social distancing. April 2, 2020.	<p>Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Press Release</p> <p>https://news.delaware.gov/2020/04/02/dnrec-closes-park-and-wildlife-area-amenities-limits-outdoor-recreation-activities-at-beaches/</p>
Maryland	Yes	Under Governor Logan Hogan’s Order regarding sheltering in place of March 30, 2020, all recreational boating activities in Maryland waters are prohibited. Persons may still reside on a vessel and may go fishing or crabbing for food but not recreation. April 25, 2020.	<p>Maryland Department of Resources FAQ: https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/03/31/frequently-asked-questions-about-governor-hogans-stay-at-home-order/</p> <p>Interpretive guidance on Order: https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/OLC-Interpretive-Guidance-COVID19-08.pdf</p>
Virginia	No	Recreational boating is a permitted outdoor activity. The Governor’s Executive Order 55 instituting social distancing of at least six feet from other individuals who are not family, household members, or caretakers at all times and prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more individuals apply to recreational boating. April 25, 2020.	<p>Executive Order: https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf</p> <p>Virginia Marine Resources Division: https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-55-Temporary-Stay-at-Home-Order-Due-to-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf</p>
Atlantic Coastal			
North Carolina	No	The governor’s Executive Order No. 121 of March 27, 2020, defines outdoor activity as essential and does not restrict recreational boating. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has stated that boating is permitted as long as it complies with social distancing requirements limiting gatherings to 10 people and	<p>Executive Order: https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO_121-Stay-at-Home-Order-3.pdf</p>

		maintaining 6 feet of distance. If law enforcement determines this is not followed, closures of boating and fishing access areas may occur. April 25, 2020.	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Message from the Director: https://www.ncwildlife.org/News/NCWRC-Coronavirus-related-Closings-and-Alerts
South Carolina	Yes, see comments	Executive Order 2020-16 of Governor Henry McMaster dated March 30, 2020, closed public boat ramps and landings and public access to waters of the State for recreational purposes. However, the subsequent Executive Order 2020-25 reopened public access to waterways to facilitate recreational activities. Local authorities maintain a right to close boat ramps if needed to protect public health. The beaching or rafting of boats is prohibited. Vessels are to remain underway absent exigent circumstances. Anchoring to fish is permitted. No more than two individuals who are not family members from the same household may be on a boat. Family members residing in the same household may boat together. April 25, 2020.	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2020/apr/a16_boatramp.php http://www.dnr.sc.gov/covid19faqs.html Executive Orders: https://bit.ly/3bJZEYc https://bit.ly/3eQ7lh7
Georgia	No	Per Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order of April 2, 2020, outdoor activities are considered an essential activity, which is permitted so long as it involves fewer than ten people and as long as they maintain a 6-foot distance. This includes fishing and boating, and the Wildlife Resources Division remains operational across the state as of April 25, 2020.	Executive Orders: https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division: https://gadnrle.org/covid-19
Florida	Yes, see comments	Per Executive Order No. 20-09 of Governor Ron DeSantis, recreational boats can have no more than ten people aboard and must remain 50 feet apart (unless underway); this includes a prohibition against mass gatherings and rafting boats. This order is set to expire when Executive Order 20-52 expires, May 8, 2020. Some fish management areas are closed, including all in south Florida's Broward, Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties.	Executive Order: https://myfwc.com/media/23318/eo20-09.pdf Florida Fish and Wildlife: https://myfwc.com/recreation/notices/covid-19/ https://myfwc.com/recreation/notices/ Miami-Dade County Orders: https://www.miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/emergency-orders.page

		Miami-Dade County previously closed boat ramps, but plans are underway to reopen them with restrictions noted above and limited hours. April 25, 2020.	
Gulf States			
Alabama	No	By Order of the State Health Officer of April 3, 2020, outdoor activities, including recreational boating, are considered an essential activity, which is permitted so long as it involves fewer than ten people and as long as they maintain a 6-foot distance. April 25, 2020.	<p>Order of the State Health Officer: https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/04/Fin-al-Statewide-Order-4.3.2020.pdf</p> <p>Outdoor Alabama Guidance: https://www.outdooralabama.com/COVID-19</p>
Mississippi	No	Per Governor Tate Reeves’s Executive Order 1473 of April 20, 2020, recreational boating with appropriate social distancing is permitted with occupancy limited to the greater of 2 occupants or 50% of the occupancy of the vessel. April 25, 2020.	<p>Executive Order: https://www.sos.ms.gov/content/executiveorders/ExecutiveOrders/1473.pdf</p>
Louisiana	No	Under the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, recreational boating with appropriate social distancing is permitted, fewer than ten people, and maintaining a 6-foot distance. April 25, 2020.	<p>Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Guidance: https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/ldwf-wmas-are-open-but-public-must-practice-social-distancing</p>
Texas	No – but see comments.	Under Governor Greg Abbot’s Executive Order, GA-16 essential outdoor activities are permitted; this includes fishing and boating. Texas state parks are open for day use with social distancing required as of 20 April 2020. However, some lakes and boat ramps are closed to boating by local authorities. April 25, 2020.	<p>Texas Parks & Wildlife: https://tpwd.texas.gov/newsmedia/releases/?req=20200420a https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/laws/</p> <p>Executive Order: https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/EO-GA-16_Opening_Texas_COVID-19_FINAL_04-17-2020.pdf</p>
West Coast			
California	No, but see Comments	To prevent visitation surges and prevent the spread of COVID-19, State Parks has taken the following temporary safety measures to date: closed some parks fully, meaning all vehicular access, trails and	<p>CA Div. of Boating & Waterways: http://www.dbw.ca.gov/</p>

		<p>restrooms within these parks are closed; closed vehicular access at all parks, including for off-highway vehicles and recreational boats. April 27, 2020.</p> <p>Restrictions vary by jurisdiction. For example:</p> <p>San Diego: Pursuant to the County of San Diego’s modified public health order (effective April 27, 2020), all public waterways in San Diego County, including the entirety of San Diego Bay, remain closed to recreational motorized vessels and sailboats by order of the Port of San Diego. Beginning at sunrise on Monday, April 27, 2020, kayaking, paddle boarding, and swimming on and in public waterways will be permitted; however, parks, piers, and boat launches (and adjacent parking lots) will remain closed.</p> <p>San Francisco Bay: currently no law restricting recreational boating on SF Bay; however each county has issued guidelines supporting the governor’s shelter-in-place directive. Organized marine events and gatherings (e.g. sailing regattas) are prohibited, and Marine Event permits for such events are being re-evaluated and/or voided by USCG Sector San Francisco to ensure compliance with local Department of Health Orders. In media interviews, the USCG Sausalito Coast Guard Station base commander has requested all “non essential” boating activities be suspended, and USCG anecdotally appears to be actively discouraging boating.</p>	<p>List of Closures: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30350</p> <p>San Diego County: https://www.portofsandiego.org/covid-19-port-san-diegos-response https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/HealthOfficerOrderCOVID19.pdf</p> <p>SF Bay Area: https://www.latitude38.com/lectronic/is-san-francisco-bay-closed-sailing/ http://yra.org/2020/04/09/sailing-during-the-covid-19-crisis/</p> <p>Select county-by-county guidelines: Executive Order N-33-20: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-attested-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER.pdf Marin County: https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/ Alameda County: http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx Contra Costa County: https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/ San Francisco County: https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.aspx San Mateo County: https://www.smcgov.org/ Santa Clara County:</p>
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Oregon	No	The Marine Board asks that you use your good judgment and if you venture out to go boating to be fluid and adaptable to rapidly changing situations. April 27, 2020.	Oregon State Marine Board: https://www.oregon.gov/osmb/info/Pages/COVID-19.aspx
Washington	Yes	<p>Currently, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee’s proclamation requires everyone except <u>essential workers</u> to stay home until May 4th. Following the Governor’s proclamation, all Washington State Parks campgrounds, boat launches, water-access sites, wildlife areas, and day-use recreation areas are closed until May 4th.</p> <p>The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) today announced its decision to temporarily close recreational fishing and shellfishing statewide in the wake of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee’s</p>	Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife: https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates

		<p>order directing Washingtonians to stay home and stay healthy to limit the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19.</p> <p>The closures will begin at midnight Wednesday, March 25, and last until at least 5 p.m. on April 8, 2020. WDFW will re-evaluate on April 6, whether the closure may need to be extended. April 27, 2020.</p>	
Alaska	No	<p>You are not prohibited from recreating with others outside your family, but you must stay six feet away from non-household members and must stay in your community. You also must not be in a group larger than nine. When engaging in outdoor recreation, you must comply with social distancing requirements, including maintaining at least six feet distance from people who do not live in your immediate household. April 27, 2020.</p>	<p>Alaska Health Mandate 12: SOA March 27 COVID-19 Health Mandate 12 FAQ: http://dot.alaska.gov/covid19info/SOA-Covid-19-Mandate-12-FAQ.shtml</p>
Hawaii	No	<p>To inhibit the spread of Covid-19, the following preventive measures have been put in place, effective immediately, and will remain in effect until further notice:</p> <p>All inter-island travel is prohibited. All DOBOR District and Harbor offices across the state are closed. All Commercial Operator Permits (CUPs) are suspended. All Marine Event Permits are canceled.</p> <p>Per Governor Ige's Fifth Supplemental Proclamation to his emergency rules (issued April 17, 2020), no more than two persons are permitted on any boat in state waters for recreational purposes unless they are part of a single residential or family unit sharing the same address. Both persons in the boat are required to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet from one another, as is reasonably possible. All boats shall maintain a distance of 20 feet from other boats. Effective through April 30, 2020.</p> <p>All visitors to Hawaii must self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. This includes all visiting yachts arriving from the mainland or foreign jurisdictions and does not include time at sea. April 27, 2020.</p>	<p>The public may call the appropriate district and harbor offices with questions and monitor the DOBOR web site at https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dobor/ for updates.</p> <p>Governor's Fifth Supplementary Proclamation:</p> <p>https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2004088-ATG_Fifth-Supplementary-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed.pdf</p>

Great Lakes

Ohio	No	As per the Director of the Ohio Department of Health’s Amended Stay At Home Order (effective 11:59 p.m. on 4/6/2020 until 11:59 p.m. on 5/1/2020), all outdoor activity is considered an “essential activity,” provided social distancing requirements are maintained, with no other restrictions for recreational boating. April 24, 2020.	<p>Ohio Department of Health Amended Director’s Stay At Home Order: https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/Directors-Stay-At-Home-Order-Amended-04-02-20.pdf</p>
Michigan	No— but see comments	Governor Whitmer’s “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order 2020-42, which came into effect on 4/9/2020 at 11:59 p.m., and the FAQs interpreting same, prohibited using a motorboat, jet ski or other similar watercraft. This order was amended by Executive Order 2020-59, which came into effect immediately after issuance on 4/24/2020 at 11:00.a.m, and confirmed that individuals may now leave their home or place of residence and travel as necessary to engage in outdoor recreational activity, <u>including boating</u> , consistent with remaining at least six feet from people outside the individual’s household. April 27, 2020.	<p>Executive Orders: https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705-525182--,00.html https://www.michigan.gov/documents/whitmer/EO_2020-59_Signed_688350_7.pdf</p> <p>Michigan.gov Executive Order 2020-42 FAQs: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-525278--,00.html</p>
Wisconsin	No – but see comments	Although Wisconsin is under a statewide modified “Safer at Home” Order through 5/26/2020 at 8:00 a.m., this order places no restrictions on motorized boating. Previously, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reminded Wisconsin boaters using the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters that these waters are governed by a joint agreement between MI and WI and that Wisconsin boaters in Michigan waters, were required to stop their motor while MI remains under the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order. This guidance is now moot in light of Michigan’s removal of its prohibition on recreational boating. April 27, 2020.	<p>DNR Press Release: https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=5098</p>
Minnesota	See Comments	Governor Walz’s Emergency Executive Order 20-38, which came into effect on 4/18/2020 at 5:00 a.m., permits boating and other outdoor recreational activity provided that at least six feet of separation are maintained between participants from different households. Groups within a single household may engage in outdoor activities that do not allow for social distancing but should not engage in such activities with members of other households. Public and private	<p>Executive Order: https://www.leg.state.mn.us/archive/execorders/20-38.pdf</p>

		marinas and docks may reopen. The Order is currently in effect through 5/3/20 at 11:59 p.m. April 24, 2020.	
Indiana	See Comments	Governor Holcomb’s Executive Order 20-22 Extension, which is effective from 4/20/2020 at 11:59 p.m. until 5/1/2020 at 11:59 p.m., permits individuals to use shared or outdoor spaces provided they maintain social distancing of at least six feet from any other person, except family or household members. Outdoor activity is permitted, and individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. The FAQs interpreting this Order confirm that boating is permitted as long as social distancing is practiced by remaining 6 feet away from other people. April 24, 2020.	<p>Executive Order: https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive%20Order%2020-22%20Extension%20of%20Stay%20at%20Home.pdf</p> <p>IN.gov Indiana Stay-At-Home Order FAQ: https://www.in.gov/gov/3232.htm</p>
Illinois	Yes	<p>Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2020-10 (extended by order 2020-18) ordered a statewide “stay at home” except for “essential activities.” An Essential Business FAQ issued by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity clarified that as boating is a recreational activity in which groups of people are gathered in small places, this is not an essential activity under the Executive Order, and only “minimum basic operations” would be permitted at boatyards and marinas.</p> <p>On 4/23/2020, Governor Pritzker announced that he would be extending a “modified” stay-at-home Order statewide through 5/30/2020, to take effect on May 1. Although the modified Executive Order has not yet been signed as of 4/24/20 and the text is not yet available, the governor has stated that a phased-in reopening of state parks will be implemented by the state’s Department of Natural Resources to allow for boating with no more than two people. Social distancing must be maintained in all activities. April 24, 2020.</p>	<p>Executive Order 2020-10: https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-10.aspx</p> <p>Essential Business FAQ: https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Documents/Essential%20Business%20FAQ.pdf</p> <p>Transcript of Governor’s Announcement Extending Stay-At-Home Order: https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/read-pritzkers-full-announcement-extending-illinois-stay-at-home-order-into-may/2260790/</p>
<p>*Please note that the treatment of recreational boating with regards to COVID-19 is specific to each state and/or local government. The restrictions noted in this table are subject to frequent changes and local resources should be consulted to verify the current status of regulations in any given jurisdiction. The date of the research conducted has been included in each state’s comment section.</p>			

This chart was prepared by the following members of the Young Lawyers Committee of the Maritime Law Association on behalf of the Recreational Boating Committee, (Todd Lochner, Chairman: tlochner@boatinglaw.com. 443-716-4400)

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