



Guidelines for Licensing a Recreational Mooring Buoy or Boatlift on State-Owned Aquatic Lands

If you already have or plan to install a mooring buoy or boatlift on state-owned aquatic lands*, you will need authorization from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In addition, you may also need to obtain permits from other agencies, depending on the location of your project.

All the applications are available online at one location under the **Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA)**. A complete DNR application must also include **Attachment E** of the JARPA. (Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jarpa-wa>)

► The following guidelines will help you in preparing the main JARPA form:

Under question 6b “Describe the purpose of the project and why you want or need to perform it,” include the following:

1. The point of access, parking, and dinghy storage locations.
2. Depth of water at buoy or boatlift location at mean lower low water (MLLW).
3. Length of vessel(s).
4. Vessel(s) registration number.
5. Describe in detail your plan for operating and maintaining the mooring buoy or boatlift and anchoring system. (See pages 2-3 of these guidelines for more information.)

BOATLIFT application only—include the following information:

1. What the boatlift is secured to (ex. recreational dock, bulkhead, buoy, anchor, freestanding, or other).
2. What the boatlift is made of (ex. steel, aluminum, polyethylene, wood, or other).
3. Whether or not the boatlift will remain in place year round. If not, identify the dates in which you will remove it from state-owned aquatic land.

* DNR is steward of 2.6 million acres of **state-owned aquatic lands**. On behalf of the people of Washington, we manage the resources attached to or embedded in aquatic lands (ex. seaweed, shellfish, sand, minerals and oil), as well as the man-made structures in the water and air space above these lands.

Attach an 8-1/2 x 11-inch vicinity map that clearly shows:

1. The proposed or existing GPS position of the buoy or boatlift.
2. The position of the buoy or boatlift in relation to its anchor—if not directly below.
3. The extent of the swing of the vessel using a full circle (buoy only). This circle must be free from all obstacles including buoys, docks, or other hazards (e.g., other vessel swing circles).
4. The nearest upland parcel and distance to the ordinary high water mark (line of vegetation).
5. The distance from the appropriate line of state ownership (e.g., mean high tide, extreme low tide, the line of ordinary high water, or the line of navigability—freshwater).
6. The distance from other mooring anchors, structures and/or any hazards or obstructions in the vicinity.
7. The distance to and location of navigation channels.
8. The tidal correction and the depth to the anchor of the buoy or boatlift and how you determined it.

If you have any questions about the information requested in the JARPA, contact the DNR's Mooring Buoy Program in Olympia, Washington, at buoy@dnr.wa.gov or 360-902-1074.

► DNR requirements: Plan of operations

You must meet all the requirements outlined in the appropriate plan of operations below before DNR will authorize your new or existing mooring buoy or boatlift.

MOORING BUOY: Plan of Operations and Maintenance

1. Mooring buoys must be anchored where the water will be deeper than 7 feet at Extreme Low Tide or 11.5 feet at Mean Lower Low Water.
2. The buoy must meet or exceed all United States Coast Guard regulations.
3. For visibility and identification:
 - a. The buoy must float at least 18 inches above the surface of the water.
 - b. The buoy must be reflective white with a blue stripe.
 - c. Mark the buoy with the DNR license numbers so that they are visible from 20 feet.
4. For anchor design:
 - a. The anchor must be sufficient to hold the vessel in all weather.
 - b. The licensee is responsible to ensure the anchor does not move.
 - c. If the anchor moves offsite, DNR may terminate this license and require removal of the buoy and anchor.
 - d. Use an anchor system that prevents vessel and line dragging and minimizes impacts to the bottom. DNR prefers embedded anchors unless not feasible due to substrate or other site-specific conditions.
 - e. DNR does not allow a midline weight used as part of the anchoring system.
5. For buoy design:
 - a. All buoys shall have a mid-line float system installed.
 - b. The mid-line float must hold the tether line off the bottom at all tides.
 - c. Locate the mid-line float at a distance from the anchor that is equal to 1/3 of the water depth at mean high water (MHW).

BOAT LIFT: Plan of Operations and Maintenance

1. Boatlifts used for boat moorage must be anchored where the water will be deeper than 7 feet at the Extreme Low Tide or 11.5 feet at Mean Lower Low Water.
2. The licensee/owner shall inspect the boatlift and anchor annually and maintain them in good working condition. The lifts may not be used:
 - To house vessels during refueling.
 - For vessel maintenance of any kind including washing.
 - To store fuels or oils that may enter onto state-owned aquatic lands.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may apply for a **no-fee mooring buoy registration** under the following conditions:

- You own the property that abuts State-owned Aquatic Lands and that property is developed with a residence, AND
- Your boat is **NOT** more than 60-feet long, AND
- You use your boat only for recreational purposes.
- Mail your no-fee mooring buoy registration application to DNR Aquatic Resources districts

For a map of DNR Aquatic Resources districts: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/aquatic-districts-and-land-managers-map>

For a no-fee mooring buoy registration, you will not be required to pay the \$25 non-refundable application-processing fee. Please see [RCW 79.105.430](#) for additional details on no-fee mooring buoy registration.

You must apply for a **license** (with an annual fee based on vessel length) if:

- You do not own the abutting residential property, OR
- Your boat is more than 60-feet long, OR
- You plan to install a boatlift.

Completing the JARPA and Attachment E

To submit your **license** application to DNR, send the JARPA, Attachment E, vicinity maps, and a \$25 non-refundable application-processing fee to the below address. (Agencies, political subdivisions, or municipal corporations of this state or the United States are exempt from the application fee per WAC 332-10-190).

Department of Natural Resources
Aquatic Resources Division
1111 Washington St. SE
MS 47027
Olympia, WA 98504-7027