

# Education & Certification

## Boats other than Personal Watercraft

Residents of Connecticut, persons owning real property in Connecticut, or persons with vessels registered in Connecticut must have either a Safe Boating Certificate or a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to legally operate any boat with a motor, or a sailboat 19 1/2 feet in length or longer.

### Exceptions:

- On inland bodies of water with a 10 horsepower limit and between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, no certificate is required for a person operating an electric motor (rated at 106 lbs. of thrust or less). However, the vessel must be registered.
- A person who has a valid operator's license issued by the United States Coast Guard does not require a Safe Boating Certificate to operate a vessel other than a personal watercraft. They must have the original license on board the recreational vessel on which they are operating.

## PWC only

Any person operating a personal watercraft must possess either a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation issued by Connecticut or a certificate issued by a state with a reciprocal agreement by Connecticut. Connecticut recognizes certificates from New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for use upon our waters (see page 14, Reciprocity).

## Safe Waterskiing Endorsement

Boaters wishing to operate a vessel while towing a skier (or person on a tube), after October 1, 2015, must: (1) be at least age 16, (2) possess a valid boating certificate from Connecticut, a reciprocal state (see list on page 14), or a US Coast Guard Vessel Operators license, and (3) possess a CT Safe Waterskiing Endorsement (only if you have obtained a certificate listed above after October 1, 2015).





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Sponsored by the United States Power Squadrons of Darien, Fairfield (Penfield), Greenwich, Hartford, Lake Candlewood, Manchester, Meriden, Middletown, Milford, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Norwich, Saybrook, Stamford and Waterbury.



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## Student Ambassador Program

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection-Boating Division is happy to announce that the Student Ambassador program will be continuing for the 2015-2016 school year. The Student Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for high and middle school students needing to complete a senior year or school community projects, while delivering important boating safety messages to students throughout their school.

Becoming a Student Ambassador is a simple process. Participating schools appoint a maximum of three students to be a DEEP Student Ambassador for their school, submit their name(s) to the Boating Division, and the Boating Division provides support to the student to successfully complete a boating safety project. Once projects are completed, the Student Ambassador's work is displayed at their school, and the student receives a certificate from the Commissioner of the DEEP for their work. Launched in 2015, the Student Ambassador's projects were also on display at the Legislature Office Building. Students walk away with a sense of pride for being selected, providing information to their peers and will acquire a valuable distinction for their resumes.

For more information and how to participate, contact Jerry Desmond at 860-447-4350 or email to [jerry.desmond@ct.gov](mailto:jerry.desmond@ct.gov).

## Non-Resident Certificate Requirements

- Connecticut recognizes a valid Safe Boating Certificate or **Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation** issued by a reciprocal state (NY, MA, RI or NH) for a non-resident even if they



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# Rex Marine Center & Rex Boating Club

## BOATING ON THE SOUND

*1936-2016: Celebrating 80 years of service to the Boating Community!*



Heavily involved with the boating community for nearly 80 years, the Gardella family has profound understanding of the needs and desires of boating enthusiasts. With a strong commitment to their clients, Rex provides an extensive variety of services from their impressive location on Long Island Sound.

Rex Marine Center (RexMarine.com) is the all-encompassing boating resource for the seasoned boater as well as beginners new to the water. Rex truly has "Everything for Boating" Offering new boats by Formula as well as pre-owned boats, Factory-trained technicians for expert servicing of all boats up to 50', indoor and outdoor winter storage, summer dockage, and Valet Rack Service. Rex also has the areas best Marine supplies store and Parts Dept, the latest electronics, and a large selection of Mercury and Zodiac Inflatable Boats. Rex is also a dealer for Mercury and Yamaha Outboard Motors, and for Formula Boats & Yachts. You will not find a more helpful, friendly, knowledgeable crew anywhere.

The Rex Boating Club (RexBoatingClub.com) is the Ownership Alternative that offers you the opportunity to have a fleet of top quality 23' to 27' bowrider and center-console boats at your disposal. The boats are always clean and fueled; waiting for you to turn-the-key and hit the water. At a fraction of the cost of ownership, RBC membership includes a Safe Boating class and private on-water orientation with a licensed Captain. Established in 2005, the Club enables you to enjoy the best of boating, and is especially helpful if you are considering buying a boat and want on-water experience to help you make the best choice.

When you are ready to buy that boat, your friends at Rex will make it easy.

Located at 144 Water Street in South Norwalk, CT, Rex Marine Center and the Rex Boating Club are dedicated to giving you the best boating experience on beautiful Long Island Sound. With decades of know-how and a passion for helping you enjoy your times on the water, Rex Marine Center and the Rex Boating Club truly are your friends in the boating business. We help you connect with those you care about!

For more Rex Marine Center information, call 203-866-5555. The Rex Boating Club can be reached by contacting Founder and managing member Bill Gardella at 203-984-1278.

## Rex Boating Club LLC

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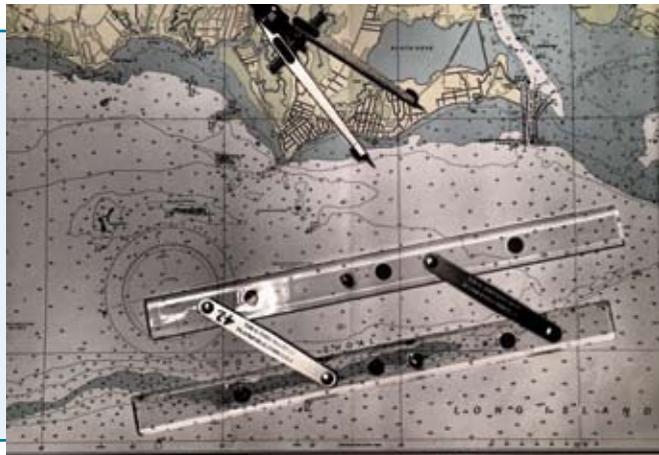
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## CONNECTICUT COASTAL BOATER ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM

Boaters may obtain a Coastal Boater Endorsement for their Safe Boating or Personal Watercraft Certificate by completing a course in coastal navigation. This class is above and beyond what is taught in a basic boating course which provides an introduction to boating safety.

A navigation course is especially critical for coastal boaters. Some topics include Longitude/Latitude, time, distance, speed calculations, chart plotting, GPS and more. After successful completion the endorsement will be printed on your certificate. For such classes, select "Certification and Registration" on our website, and click on the Connecticut Coastal Boater Endorsement Program.



own real property in Connecticut or have a vessel registered in Connecticut waters (because the vessel is in CT waters more than 60 days in a year). Personal watercraft operators MUST have a recognized Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation to operate legally.

### Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation

A **Safe Boating Certificate (SBC)** will allow an individual to operate any recreational vessel, except a personal watercraft on Connecticut's waters. In order to meet the requirements for a Safe Boating Certificate (SBC), an individual must:

- Pass an approved basic boating course; or
- Pass the DEEP's Equivalency Examination.

Note: Save the diploma from the course/exam. You will need it to apply for your Safe Boating Certificate in person.

A **Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO)** allows an individual to operate any recreational vessel including a personal watercraft. In order to meet the requirements for a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO), an individual must:

- Pass an approved combination basic boating/personal watercraft course; or
- Pass an approved basic boating course and an approved 2 1/2 hour personal watercraft course; or
- Pass the DEEP's Equivalency Examination.

Any person possessing a Safe Boating Certificate (SBC) or a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO) needs to have the certificate on board at all times while operating a vessel. A certificate is valid for the life of the person to whom it is issued and may be issued regardless of age. (See page

26, Age Restrictions for operating boats with engines greater than 10 horsepower and personal watercraft). The certificate may be suspended upon conviction of operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### Obtaining a Boating Certificate (SBC or CPWO)

- Take an approved boating safety course. You will need to provide your instructor/course provider with your Conservation ID number, name (as it was entered when registering for a Conservation ID), and birth date.
- About a week after successfully completing your course, log back onto the Online Sportsmen Licensing System and follow the instructions to purchase your certificate. Currently there is a one-time fee of \$50 for a boating certificate.
- Print your certificate, which is your official document.
- After signing it, you must carry it whenever you operate your vessel.
- You can reprint your certificate at any time by logging back into the system or by visiting a participating license vendor.

### Obtaining A Safe Waterskiing Endorsement

- Boaters who obtained the certificate from DEEP after October 1, 2015, will automatically receive a Safe Waterskiing Endorsement on their SBC or CPWO.
- Boaters who obtain a certificate or license from a reciprocal state or the US Coast Guard after October 1, 2015, will be able to obtain a Safe Waterskiing Endorsement through an online course and the Sportsmen's Database.
- Boaters who obtained a SBC or CPWO prior to October 1, 2015, will be grandfathered and will not be required to have the endorsement. These boaters have the opportunity to access the

online education, if desired.

Visit [www.ct.gov/deep/boating](http://www.ct.gov/deep/boating) for additional information regarding the Safe Waterskiing Endorsement and the online course.

## Equivalency Examination

The DEEP's Equivalency Examination is a multiple choice test that is designed for the experienced boater to qualify for a Safe Boating Certificate or a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation. The DEEP recommends, however, that all boaters take a class to ensure they are up-to-date with current boating laws.

**How do I apply?** Examinations are offered only by the DEEP. Applications to register for the examination are available on the DEEP website or by calling the DEEP Boating Division. The examination fee is \$75.00. It may only be attempted once.

## Duplicate Certificate

You can print a duplicate certificate at any time by logging onto <https://www.ct.wildlifelicenses.com/internetsales> (online

Sportsman Licensing system). Log in using your Date of Birth and Conservation ID number. Select "Click here to reprint your license" This is free of charge. If you cannot find yourself, please contact the Boating Division at 860-434-8638

## Temporary Certificate

If you purchase and register a new or used boat other than a personal watercraft in your name, and do not have a Safe Boating Certificate, you may apply for a Temporary Safe Boating Certificate. It is valid for three months from the date of vessel registration. Within that time, you must qualify for and obtain a permanent Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation.

If you purchase and register a new or used personal watercraft in your name and do not qualify for a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, you may apply for a Temporary Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation after you have taken an approved 2 1/2 hour personal watercraft course. The temporary certificate is valid for three months from the date of vessel registration. Within that time, you must qualify for and obtain a permanent Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation.

## Are you looking to boost your skills and confidence to make the most out of your boating experience?

US Powerboating is an affiliate of US Sailing, the National Governing Body for the sport of sailing in the United States. We offer the nation's most comprehensive hands-on boating courses. US Powerboating's on-the-water courses blend classroom theory with practical skills application. In other words, we get you out of the classroom and onto the water!

Safe Powerboat Handling is a two-day, 16-hour course that makes up the backbone of our training program. This course is designed for boaters of all ages and ability levels. Students learn a wide array of skills such as high-speed maneuvers, docking, basic engine maintenance and more, all in a safe, fun and exciting environment. No prior experience is required!

Safe Powerboat Handling is NASBLA approved and qualifies participants to receive their State of Connecticut Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation and Safe Waterskiing Endorsement.

For more information or to find a course near you, please visit [www.uspowerboating.com](http://www.uspowerboating.com).

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## Get out of the classroom and onto the water!

US Powerboating's hands-on boating courses put you on the water and behind the wheel. Our knowledgeable and professional instructors will help you learn the skills and confidence you need to make the most out of your boating experience.

[www.uspowerboating.com](http://www.uspowerboating.com)



**Where do I apply?** Apply in person at any DEEP Processing Office.

**What do I bring?** For the Temporary Safe Boating Certificate bring your original registration (in your name because the Temporary Certificate is issued to the person whose name is on the registration), a photo ID and a \$50.00 fee. For the Temporary Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation, you additionally need proof of successful completion of an approved 2 1/2 hour personal watercraft course

**NOTE: No person shall be issued more than one Temporary Certificate during his or her lifetime.**

## Reciprocity

The Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate and the Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation are accepted in many states. Connecticut recognizes on our waters certificates from New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire **and is expanding our reciprocity with other states (check our website)**. If you are boating in another state, check with that state first. Adherence to Connecticut state law remains the responsibility of the boater.

A new resident issued a certificate by a state having an agreement of reciprocity must, within 90 days of becoming a Connecticut resident, present evidence of the certificate for the issuance of a Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate or Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation.

## Approved Boating Courses

There are three types of basic boating courses that are offered throughout the state:

1. Combined basic boating and personal watercraft class. This eight-hour class qualifies you for a CPWO.
2. Personal watercraft course. This 2 1/2 hour class along with the basic boating class, qualifies you for a CPWO. By

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## DEEP Processing Offices

DEEP Licensing & Revenue,

79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106-5127

860-424-3105 M–F, 9–4 pm

DEEP Marine Headquarters,

333 Ferry Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371

860-434-8638 M–F, 8–4 pm

Western District Headquarters,

230 Plymouth Rd., Harwinton, CT 06791

(Western District: certificates processed Monday, Thursday and Friday) 860-485-0226

8:30–4 pm (call after Oct. 1 for winter hours)

Eastern District Headquarters,

209 Hebron Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447

(Eastern District: certificates processed Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday) 860-295-9523 8:30–4 pm



itself, the class may qualify you for a temporary CPWO.

3. Single eight-hour class sessions are taught by approved Private Providers for a fee. There are a number of approved out-of-state basic boating courses that may qualify you for an SBC or CPWO. Call the Boating Division at 860-434-8638 for details.

Most community colleges in Connecticut are now offering the DEEP eight-hour combined basic boating and personal watercraft course. For information concerning the date and time of the classes, you should visit our website:

**[www.ct.gov/deep/boatingclass](http://www.ct.gov/deep/boatingclass)**.