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Ike Kai
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A Curriculum on Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) Rules
Boating Rules
- Education
- Registration
- Use Permits
- Day Moorings
- Boating equipment requirements

Special Water Activities
- Thrill Craft
- Skiing
- Diving

Commercial Activities
- Commercial use permit
- Commercial instructor/operator permit
- Surf lessons

Respecting Marine Life
- Coral and live rock
- Marine mammals
- Turtles
- Manta Rays

Ocean Recreation Management Areas

Photo credit: Diana Groves
Boating Rules

Photo credit: grzswe
Boaters must carry proof of certification at all times.
Online classroom and home study courses are available.

State Rules
All individuals who operate a motorized vessel in Hawaii’s State waters must have taken a boating safety course and carry proof of certification.

For information about mandatory boating safety visit: http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dobor/mandatory-boating-safety-education-qa
Boaters may register at any DOBOR District Office

Boaters may renew online: vessel.ehawaii.gov

State Rules

Some vessels in the State of Hawaii are issued “HA” numbers, which indicates their boat is registered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The HA number should be displayed:
- on the forward half of the boat,
- in colors contrasting with the hull,
- in plain typeface,
- at a minimum of three inches high.

Vessels may also be Federally documented and will have a boat name, and port of call.
State Rules

There are two types of use permits:
1. Commercial use permit – for commercial operators, have limits on number of users per facility;
2. Recreational use permit – needed for certain activities at small boat harbors including mooring, staying aboard, use of a boat as a vacation site, houseboats, storing boats (live abords only allowed in Keehi and Ala Wai).

• More information on use permits available on DOBOR website
Buoy locations can be seen on the DOBOR website.

Buoys may only be used for 2.5 hours if another vessel is waiting.

State Rules

A vessel can use day use moorings for up to 2.5 hours when another vessel is waiting to use the buoy.

Overnight mooring is prohibited.

No anchoring is allowed within 100 yards of any day use mooring.
BOATING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS
There are several types of life jackets. Choose yours based on your boating activity:

- **Children under 13 must wear a life jacket at ALL TIMES.**

**Type 1 – offshore**
For extended survival in rough, open water

**Type 2 – nearshore**
For inland, calm water

**Type 3 – floatation aid**
For water sports and boating activities

**Type 4 – throwable**
Can be used anywhere, also includes cushions, buoys

**Type 5 – special use**
Includes deck suits, work vests, etc.

Federal Rules:

All recreational vessels must carry one wearable life jacket for each person on board. Any boat 16 feet and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also carry one throwable (Type 4) cushion or buoy;

Children under 13 must wear life jackets while the boat is docked, launching, underway, drifting, grounded, and anchored offshore;

Children are not required to wear a life jacket while they are below deck or in an enclosed cabin;

Not all inflatable PFDs will be counted toward carriage requirements unless they are worn.
Special Water Activities
SURFING

- Tow-in surfing
- Windsurfing
- Kite surfing
- Surf lessons

Photo Credit: Diane Groves
State Rules

Only thrill craft (jet ski) can be used;
All thrill craft must be recorded with DLNR using appropriate forms;
Tow-in surfing decals must be displayed on front half of vessel;
Thrill craft operators and tow-in-surfers must complete the thrill craft certification course;
Certain equipment is required, please refer to DOBOR website;

Practice areas for tow-in surfing exist. You don’t need a high surf warning but you need to be certified and have a Marine Event Permit (Marine/Ocean Waters Event or MOWE Permit).
There are two practice areas in waters off Oahu.
Practice is also allowed in waters off Kauai and Maui but there are no defined areas.
Permits applications need to be turned in 30 days in advance because the USCG needs to review and sign off on all MOWE.
WINDSURFING

State Rules

Ingress/egress to the shoreline must be the most direct route; Maneuvering must adhere to same ‘rules of the road’ as a sailing vessel; May not be closer than 200 feet from a dive flag.

• Certain areas are designated for windsurfing, see DOBOR website
State Rules

Certain areas are closed to kite surfing activity for safety reasons (for example airport landing airspace). See DOBOR website.

• There are several ‘best practices’ for safe kite surfing maneuvering

Photo Credit: Pablo Soriano
SURF LESSONS

State Rules
CONTROLLED OCEAN SPORTS

- Thrill craft
- Parasailing
- Water sledding
- High speed boating

Photo Credit: Onur Mumcu
State Rules

Must be 15 years old to operate;
No thrill craft within Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) or Natural Area Reserves (NARs);
Must take and pass the required thrill craft operator course and carry certificate;
Thrill craft may operate in designated zones w/in Ocean Recreation Management Areas; and beyond 500 feet from shore or outer edge of the fringing reef in a non-designated ORMA, out to a distance of two miles off of Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii;
Commercial thrill craft operations need a Commercial Operating Area Use permit.
(see DOBOR website for additional commercial rules)
State Rules

Commercial parasailing operators must have a Commercial Operating Area Use Permit;  
Only one parasail may be in use at a time per vessel;  
Parasailing vessels may not operate within 300 feet of the shoreline;  
Parasailing may be restricted in certain areas and/or at certain times such as humpback whale season;  
Additional rules apply, see DOBOR website.
State Rules

Must have a Commercial Operating Area Use permit in a designated commercial water sledding operation area;
A commercial use permit is also required for State-owned harbor or boat launching facilities;
Commercial Operating Areas Use permits are specifically assigned to each company for a set location;
May have specific restrictions in certain areas, see DOBOR website;
Any public citizen can go water sledding, tubing, and skiing non-commercially sunrise to sunset. If they use a thrill craft for this type of activity however this must comply with thrill craft rules.
OTHER ACTIVITIES

• Skiing
• Diving

Photo Credit: Nicole Kotschate
**State Rules**

- Required to have a sober and competent boat driver and observer (or driver can employ a rear-view mirror to monitor the person being towed);
- No skiing at night (sunset to sunrise);
- Boat must have a ladder and a lifesaving device;
- No water-skiing while intoxicated;
- Use hand signals while water-skiing activities.
State Rules

These activities require use of a dive flag. Diver must mark position with a dive flag while diving and may not surface more than 100 ft from dive flag (except in emergency).

- Divers in water (12” x 12” Red and white).
- Vessels < 16’ (12” x 12” Red and white).
- Vessels > 16’ (12” x 24” Red and white + Blue and White ALFA).
Commercial Operators may register at any DOBOR District Office.

State Rules

Any company or individual conducting commercial activity must contact the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) to get a commercial activity permit; Commercial activities include surf and stand-up paddle boarding schools, kayaking companies, snorkeling and scuba diving tours and any type of commercial recreational activity happening in state waters.
RESPECTING MARINE LIFE

Photo Credit: Keoki Stender
### State Rules

Unlawful to take, break, damage, or sell corals (dead or alive). Damage includes: sediments, pollutants, and vessel groundings.
Live Rock

Any hard rock with marine life visibly attached

- Marine life can include small invertebrates, algae, Crustose Coralline Algae (CCA), sponges

Prohibited to take

Unlawful to take, break, damage, or sell live rocks, Damage includes: sediments, pollutants, and vessel groundings.
State Rules

Federally protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) where it is listed as threatened;
No open season in state waters.

- Very commonly seen on reefs and basking on beaches
- Sometimes seen with Fibropapilloma tumors

Photo credit: Keoki Stender
### Koholā

- Commonly seen in certain areas during winter months (Nov – Mar)
- Often seen at surface splashing, breaching

### State Rules

No take under State rules;
Protected by Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA);
Must remain at least 100 yds away within all waters.

### Humpback whale

- Short, blunt dorsal fin

### Megaptera novaeangliae

- Large, distinct fluke fin

Photo: The Dolphin Institute
NMFS permit #1071-1779-00

Photo credit: Keoki Stender
State Rules

Illegal to molest, kill, capture, or possess at any time. Protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

• Only seal species in Hawaii
• Rare to see resting on beaches or swimming close to shore
• Roughly 1,200 individuals remaining

'i lio-holo-i-ka-ua ua Hawaiian Monk Seal Monachus schauinslandi

Photo credit: Keoki Stender

Photo credit: James Watt
Found in calm, sandy bays during the day and open water at night
Often seen “spinning” at surface

Prohibited
No take under state rules; protected by Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
• **Commonly seen resting in caverns and caves during day**

**Manō lālākea** | **Whitetip Reef Shark/Nemuribuka** | **Trienodon obesus**

- White tip on fin

**Manō** | **Tiger shark/Itachizame** | **Galeocerdo cuvier**

- Dark stripes on side

- Rare to see
- Potentially dangerous to humans
- Can grow to at least 24 ft

**Manō kihikihi** | **Scalloped Hammerhead Shark** | **Sphyra lewini**

- Rarely seen in murky bays, harbors
- Hammer-shaped head

**Manō Paele** | **Blacktip Reef Shark** | **Carcharhinus melanopterus**

- Common on certain shallow reefs
- Shy species rare to approach humans

- Black tip on fin

**State Rules**

Illegal to feed in state waters, Illegal to possess, sell, or trade shark (any species) fins.

**West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area (FMA)**

Illegal to take, kill, possess, sell, or offer for sale, ANY specimen of blacktip reef shark, whitetip reef shark, tiger shark.

Photo credit: Keoki Stender
Hāhālua

- Common in certain coastal areas
- Feed at night on plankton
- Typical size can range from 6 – 12 ft

Manta Ray

State Rules

Illegal to capture or kill.

Manta alfredi

Photo credit: Keoki Stender
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hihimanu/lupe/pe'a</th>
<th>Spotted Eagle Ray</th>
<th>Aetobatus ocellatus</th>
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- Can be large, up to 6ft wide
- Rare to see, usually in sandy or rubble areas

Illegal to take, kill, possess, sell, or offer for sale.

Photo credit: Keoki Stender
OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS

Photo: Chris Cook
State Rules

1. SLOW-NO WAKE WITHIN 500 FT OF SHORELINE, INGRESS/EGRESS ZONE, DESIGNATED MOORING AREA OR ON HANALEI RIVER
2. NO MOTORBOAT 300 FT OF DIVER FLAG OR DESIGNATED SWIM AREAS (FISHING VESSEL < 30 FT IS EXEMPT)
3. NO ANCHORING OR MOORING EXCEPT DESIGNATED MOORING AREA
4. NO FISHING VESSEL > 30FT MAY FISH EXCEPT POLE AND LINE IN HANALEI BAY OCEAN WATERS
5. NO COMMERCIAL VESSEL LOAD OR UNLOAD PASSENGERS W/OUT DOBOR PERMIT AND APPROVAL OF COUNTY (AUTHORIZED VESSELS USE INGRESS/EGRESS ZONE)
6. FIVE (5) COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS FOR SELF-PROPELLED VESSELS TO LOAD AND UNLOAD PASSENGERS AT BAY PERMITS LIMITED TO PASSENGER VESSELS CERTIFIED BY COAST GUARD TO CARRY 25 OR FEWER PASSENGERS AND EACH PERMIT SHALL AUTHORIZE CARRYING OF NO MORE THAN 30 PASSENGERS DAILY
State Rules

7. TWO (2) COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS FOR HANALEI LAUNCH RAMP FOR KAYAK TOURS. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF KAYAKS PER TRIP PER PERMITS SHALL NOT EXCEED 8, AND NO MORE THAN 30 PASSENGERS’ SHALL BE ALLOWED PER DAY 1 KAYAK GUIDE REQUIRED FOR EACH GROUP OF 8

8. NO COMMERCIAL WATER SPORTS OR TOURS MAY BE CONDUCTED W/OUT DOBOR PERMIT AND APPROVAL BY COUNTY DOBOR MAY ISSUE A TOTAL OF 8 PERMITS FOR COMMERCIAL WATER SPORTS INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING SURFING AND SUP EACH PERMIT AUTHORIZES 1 INSTRUCTOR PER DAY TO CONDUCT INSTRUCTION, AND NO MORE THAN 4 STUDENTS AT ANY GIVEN TIME DOBOR MAY DESIGNATE SITE OF INSTRUCTION AND HOURS OF OPERATION, AND MAY CHANGE SITE WHENEVER SUCH CHANGES IS FOUND TO BE NECESSARY COMMERCIAL WATER SPORTS INSTRUCTION INCLUDE COMMERCIAL KAYAK TOURS, CANOE RIDES, DIVING, SNORKELING, PARASAILING, SURFING, SAILBOARDING AND OTHER WATER-RELATED RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
DESIGNATED FOR BATHING AND SWIMMING
NO PERSON SHALL OPERATE OR MOOR A VESSEL, SAILBOARD, OR ANY OTHER RECREATION DEVICE WITHIN ZONE
THIS RESTRICTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO
A) VESSELS ENGAGED IN SMALL-SCALE SURROUND NET FISHING W/OUT THE USE OF MOTORS OR FISHING AND CRABBING FROM SHORE
B) HAWAIIAN DESIGN OUTRIGGER CANOES
HANALEI BAY OCEAN WATERS

State Rules - Mooring Zone

THE DESIGNATED MOORING AREA FOR THE MOORING OR ANCHORING OF VESSELS, RAFTS, BARGES, PLATFORMS AND OTHER WATERCRAFT IS THE AREA ENCOMPASSED BY THE BOUNDARIES

1. ALL VESSELS, RAFTS, BARGES, PLATFORMS, AND OTHER WATERCRAFT WITHIN HANALEI BAY OCEAN WATERS SHALL BE MOORED OR ANCHORED SOLELY WITHIN DESIGNATED AREA
2. NO PERSON SHALL ANCHOR, MOOR OR STAY ABOARD A VESSEL EXCEPT THOSE EQUIPPED WITH AN APPROVED MARINE SANITATION DEVICE IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION
3. NO PERMANENT MOORING SHALL BE INSTALLED WITHIN THE DESIGNATED MOORING AREA EXCEPT BY PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT
VESSELS SHALL ACCESS THE BEACH AND SHALL BE ACCESSED FROM THE BEACH SOLELY THROUGH THE FOLLOWING INGRESS/EGRESS ZONES.
ZONE NUMBER ONE BEGINS COUNTY PARK PAVILLION PARCEL AND Extends southwest along shoreline a distance of 300 ft, and seaward to designated mooring area.
ZONE NUMBER TWO BEGINS AT THE NORTH BANK OF HANALEI RIVER AND Extends southward across the Hanalei River mouth to the northern boundary of Black Pot Park, and seaward to designated mooring area.