



## MOORING BUOY FAQ

### **I don't qualify for a no-fee mooring buoy and don't own waterfront property, does DNR have a list of locations where I can propose installing a new buoy?**

DNR actively manages mooring buoy fields in Quartermaster Harbor and Boston Harbor. You may contact [buoy@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:buoy@dnr.wa.gov) if you are interested in a mooring in these areas. We do not have a list of pre-determined suitable locations outside of our managed fields. You may work directly our program staff to propose a location. Keep in mind that you will need to demonstrate public access to your proposed location as well as not interfere with rights of other landowners, geoduck tracts, navigation or valuable habitat. Early tribal consultation on your proposed project location is highly recommended.

### **Can I rent out my buoy?**

No. Renting out recreational buoys is not allowed unless authorized under a commercial lease agreement. Renting out a recreational no fee buoy is in violation of RCW 79.105.430 and renting out a recreationally licensed buoy may result in revocation of the license by DNR. Please report violations by submitting a compliant form using the complaint form link on this page.

### **Can I let a friend or relative moor to my buoy?**

The law does not state that the boat moored to the no-fee buoy must be owned by the abutting landowner. However, the buoy must be maintained by the abutting residential owner and it cannot be sold or leased separately from the abutting property.

For licensed buoys, vessels not associated with license may be tagged by DNR during compliance efforts and asked to move within thirty (30) days.

Note: Buoy owners may risk revocation of permission to maintain their mooring buoy on state owned aquatic lands if a moored vessel poses a risk to state owned aquatic lands or public health and safety.

### **I received my no-fee registration letter from DNR, does that mean I can install my buoy?**

A registration letter is confirmation that your proposed or existing mooring buoy has been recorded by DNR. You must obtain all local, state and federal permits before installing your mooring.



### **What do I do if an unknown vessel is tied to my buoy and someone is living on the vessel?**

This is a case of trespass on private property and should be handled through your local law enforcement office. For your safety, please allow trained professionals to address the issue.

### **What do I do if an unknown vessel has been abandoned or sinks on my mooring buoy?**

See [Disposing of an Abandoned or Derelict Boat](#) for more information on the options available to you. Vessels of concern can also be reported using the [Derelict Vessel Reporting Form](#).

### **Can I put a swim float or boat lift on my mooring buoy?**

You may put a swim float or boat lift on your mooring only if you apply for and receive a swim float or boat lift license. The fee to use and maintain a swim float or boat lift on state owned aquatic lands is \$175/year.

### **I suspect a mooring buoy, swim float or boat lift does not have DNR authorization and/or regulatory permits.**

If you believe a buoy, swim float or boat lift does not have proper authorization, you may report it anonymously using the complaint form on this page. Please be as detailed as possible in your report. Suspected permit violations can be reported through permitting entities which may include the US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or your local jurisdiction.

Note: DNR prioritizes compliance and enforcement on a bay-wide scale or as resources allow on case-by-case basis.

### **Do I qualify for a no-fee mooring buoy if I own tidelands in common as part of a HOA?**

No. Generally speaking, tidelands owned in-common by a HOA are not developed as residential parcels and therefore do not meet conditions under RCW 79.105.430 for a free mooring buoy.

### **Can my LLC receive a mooring buoy registration?**

Yes. If the residential parcel owner is listed as an LLC then the LLC can qualify for a registration as the abutting property owner under RCW 79.105.430 as long as the buoy is used for recreational and not business purposes.