



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

Displaced Boat Procedure

860-447-4343

dep.boating.division@ct.gov

In the wake of Hurricane Irene, it is possible that boats will break free from their moorings and be set adrift or be deposited on land miles away. As a courtesy to marinas and homeowners, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Boating Division will maintain a list of displaced boats to help get displaced boats back to their owners. DEEP will not assist with the removal of or take custody of displaced boats.

All persons, including harbormasters, police and professional marine salvagers, are asked to report the existence and recovery of vessels with unknown owners to the DEEP at the phone number or email address given above.

This fact sheet is intended to help you if you have lost a boat or if you have found a boat.

If a vessel is deposited on your property (“Hello, I need to report a boat washed up on my property...”):

1. Record the registration number (the “CT” number on the front of the boat). If it is a large boat it may be documented and may not have a registration number. In that case try to get the name of the boat and the hailing port on the back of the boat. Contact your local police using the non-emergency number. Explain that you have a boat deposited on your property and that you need them to contact the owner to remove the boat. They can contact the DMV to get the ownership information, and they can contact the owner. (If the police will not or cannot take your report, go to step 2.) Also,
2. Call the number or email the address on this fact sheet. DEEP will keep a list of all “found” boats so that anyone who has lost a vessel can call in and has a chance of locating their boat.

If you have lost your vessel (“Hello, I need to report a missing boat...”):

1. Call the non-emergency number of your local police department to report the loss. Have your vessel registration number or documentation information and description of the vessel ready. Also,
2. Call the number or email the address on this fact sheet. Be prepared to report the registration number/documentation information and the last location of the boat.

If you see a vessel sunk, aground or drifting:

1. Call the non-emergency number of your local police department. Also,

2. Call the US Coast Guard if the boat is in the Long Island Sound shoreline area, the lower Thames River, the lower Connecticut River, or the lower Housatonic River at (203) 468-4401. Also,
3. Call the DEEP Environmental Conservation Police Dispatch at (860) 424-3333. Also,
4. Be prepared to report as much of the following information as possible: description of boat (size, type, color, registration number), location of boat (in relation to a known shore point like a road, marina or a restaurant). Also,
5. Please call the number or email the address given on this fact sheet.

Under Connecticut law, you cannot leave your vessel on another person's property without their permission. You will be held responsible for the retrieval of your vessel, or any costs associated with the retrieval.

The law says that any vessel that is left on the property of another without the property owner's permission for more than 24 hours may be considered abandoned (CGS Section 15-140c), but it is NOT "Finders Keepers". In the event the owner of an abandoned boat cannot be located, there is an established process that takes about sixty days that allows the homeowner to deal with an abandoned vessel.

For instructions on this process, see the link to "abandoned boats" on the DEP Boating website (go to www.ct.gov/dep, then go to the "outdoor recreation" page and then to the "boating" page) or the DMV website under "Watercraft", or call the number given in this fact sheet.