

Watercraft Frequently Asked Questions (June 2020)

1. **Have you received my watercraft application and is it being processed?**

Please provide the microfilm number (example 0020 030 2365) printed on the front of the cashed check or money order made payable to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources that was mailed in with your watercraft application. We can locate your paperwork with that number.

Your application has been processed. Please allow two weeks for the printing and mailing of the title, registration card and decals.

2. **I have moved and have not received my title, registration card or decals.**

At this time the paperwork has not been returned to our office by the USPS. Once issued, it takes approximately six weeks for them to be returned. Please refer to the link below to check our postal returns.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/Returned-Registrations.aspx>

Or if you need to apply for a corrected title and registration card along with duplicate decals. Please refer to the instructions below:

Corrected Title:

To add, change or remove a lienholder, correct information or remove an owner.

(adding an owner means application must be completed as a transfer renewal)

Check the Corrected Title box

Complete Sections A, B, C, and E

Surrender the current title properly endorsed; Complete Section F if the title is not available

Fee is \$7.00

Corrected Registration Card:

Check Corrected Registration Card box

Complete Sections A, B, and E

Fee is \$5.00

Duplicate Decals:

To replace those which are lost or destroyed

Check the Duplicate Decals box

Complete Sections A, B, and E

Fee is \$5.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

3. **How can I renew my watercraft registration?**

Renewals can be completed by phone at 866.867.3542 (additional \$4.00 fee)

OR

Renewals can be completed via our website (additional \$2.50 fee)

<https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/vehicle.php?action=vehiclekup>

If you plan to renew by phone or online, you will need the following:

- 1) Illinois registration number and hull identification number. This information can be found on your registration card, title, or on the watercraft.
- 2) Pen and paper to record your confirmation number.
- 3) Forms of payment include VISA, Mastercard, Discover, American Express and E-Check.

4. **I have lost my title; how can I obtain another one?**

Duplicate Title:

To replace one which is lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated (Surrender original title if later recovered)

Check Duplicate Title box

Complete Sections A, B, E, and F

Fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

5. **How can I add a lien holder to my watercraft title? How can I remove an owner from my watercraft title?**

Corrected Title:

To add, change or remove a lienholder, correct information or remove an owner.

(adding an owner means application must be completed as a transfer renewal)

Check the Corrected title box

Complete Sections A, B, C, and E

Surrender the current title properly endorsed Complete Section F if the title is not available
Fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

6. How can I obtain the history of a watercraft I previously owned in order to apply for a Captain's license? How can I find out who owns a boat and if there is a lien holder on record?

Title Search:

To obtain information regarding previous owners, lienholders, etc.
Search is subject to confidentiality limitations as determined by IDNR
Check title Search box
Complete Sections A, B, E, and F
Fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

7. I lost my registration card; how do I obtain a new one?

Duplicate Registration Card:

To replace one which is lost, stolen, destroyed or illegible:
Check the duplicate registration card box
Complete sections, A, B, E
Fee is \$5.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

8. I lost my registration card and have moved; how do I obtain a new card and change my address?

Corrected Registration Card:

Check Corrected Registration Card box
Complete Sections A, B, and E
Fee is \$5.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

9. I lost my decals; how do I obtain another set? I had my boat painted and they had to remove my decals; how can I obtain replacements?

Duplicate Decals:

To replace those which are lost or destroyed
Check the Duplicate Decals box
Complete Sections A, B, and E
Fee is \$5.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

10. My boat has been scrapped, junked or destroyed; what do I need to do?

Boat Scrapped, Junked or Destroyed

The Department of Natural Resources must be notified within 15 days if a watercraft is scrapped, junked or destroyed.
Complete Sections A, B, and E
Surrender current title, NO fee required.

The owner must surrender the title and such boat will not be registered or titled again.

Please visit our website to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

11. How long does it take for my application to be processed?

Due to COVID-19 and minimal staffing, please allow 10 – 12 weeks processing time.

Please keep the temporary permit copy of the watercraft application with you while boating in Illinois. Please visit our website for updates on processing times.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating/Pages/default.aspx>

12. What equipment is required for me to legally operate my watercraft?

Please refer to the Handbook of Illinois Boating Laws and Responsibilities available at the link below.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Documents/BoatDigest.pdf>

13. I have misplaced my watercraft title and wish to sell my boat; what do I need?

Will you be selling the boat to someone who is going to title and register it here in Illinois? If so, you can download the watercraft power of attorney form from our website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

Complete this form and give it to the buyer; it replaces the lost Illinois title.

If you will be selling the boat to someone who will be titling and registering the boat out of state then you will need to order a duplicate title:

Duplicate Title:

To replace one which is lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated

(Surrender original title if later recovered)

Check Duplicate Title box

Complete Sections A, B, E, and F

Fee is \$7.00

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

14. I purchased a brand new boat or a boat that was titled/registered out-of-state. What do I need to title/register the boat my name?

You would need the following in order to obtain a new Illinois watercraft title and registration:

- Watercraft registration application form - mark the **NEW** box and complete sections A thru E
- Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO) - or **if titled to another state, you must surrender the registration card and title (if titled).**
- Fee made payable to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

(Watercraft purchased new or used from manufactures, lending institutions, or dealers are subject to tax. Effective September 1, 2004 tax is owed when a watercraft (Class 2, 3, 4, and personal watercraft [PWC], i.e. jet skis) is acquired by gift, donation, transfer, or non-retail purchase if the watercraft will be used in Illinois).

- Copy of the bill of sale
- Fee made payable to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

If you've already paid your taxes, you must provide proof of taxes paid which would be a copy of the tax form and a copy of the front and back of the cashed check made payable to the Dept. of Revenue.

Tax form:

Rut- 75- Private Party Sales

Rut-25- Out of state dealer or retailer

ST-556 – Illinois dealer or retailer

If you have tax questions, please contact the Illinois Department of Revenue; they can be reached at 800.732.8866

Please visit our website to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

15. I purchased a boat from someone who had it titled/registered in Illinois. How do I transfer it into my name?

You would need the following in order to transfer the IL watercraft title and registration into your name:

- Watercraft registration application form – mark the **Transfer Renewal** box and complete sections A thru E
- The original Illinois title or the Watercraft power of attorney form (if titled)
- Fee made payable to the Department of Natural Resources

(Watercraft purchased new or used from manufacturer's, lending institutions, or dealers are subject to tax. Effective September 1, 2004 tax is owed when a watercraft (Class 2, 3, 4, and personal watercraft [PWC], i.e. jet skis) is acquired by gift, donation, transfer, or non-retail purchase if the watercraft will be used in Illinois) **If you have tax questions, please contact the Illinois Department of Revenue; they can be reached at 800.732.8866**

Tax form:

RUT-75- Private party sale

RUT-25- Out-of-state dealer or retailer

ST-556- Illinois dealer or retailer

- Copy of the bill of sale
- Fee made payable to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

If you've already paid your tax, you must provide proof of taxes paid which would be a copy of the tax form and a copy of the front and back of the cashed check made payable to the Dept. of Revenue.

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Pages/WatercraftApplications.aspx>

16. I purchased a watercraft that was titled in Illinois and one of the owners listed on the title is deceased and the boat was not titled in joint tenancy. What do I need to do to transfer the title/registration into my name?

- Watercraft application form
- Original Illinois Title
- Copy of the death certificate
- A small estate affidavit **OR** letter of office **OR** an attorney's affidavit
- Fee made payable to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Tax paperwork

17. How do I register my USCG documented vessel?

USCG

To register with Illinois, you would need the following:

- Application form
- Copy of the certificate of documentation
- Fee payable to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Rut- 75 if purchased from an individual; if purchased from an out-of-state dealer then you would complete a Rut -25, or the Illinois dealer would complete an ST 556.

- 2 copies of the bill of sale
- Tax fee payable to the Illinois Department of Revenue

18. Where can I obtain a copy of the watercraft application?

Please visit our website in order to download and print a watercraft registration application form. **The mailing address is located on the instruction page beneath the fee table.**

19. What class is my boat?

- Class 1- All powered watercraft less than 16 ft. and all motorized canoes, kayaks and paddleboats regardless of length.
- Class 2 – 16 ft. to less than 26 ft.
- Class 3 – 26 ft. to less than 40 ft.
- Class 4 – 40 ft. and over

20. How much does it cost to title/register my boat?

- Watercraft **under 22 feet in length** applying for registration only will pay the renewal fee.

UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE		
<u>Class</u>	<u>New/Transfer</u>	<u>Renewal</u>
	(With Title)	
Class 1	\$28.00	\$18.00
Class 2	\$60.00	\$50.00
Class 3	\$160.00	\$150.00
Class 4	\$210.00	\$200.00
<u>USCG</u>	<u>New/Transfer/Renewal</u>	
Class 2	\$50.00	
Class 3	\$150.00	
Class 4	\$200.00	

21. What is the fee for a duplicate and/or corrected watercraft titles, registration cards and decals ?

Duplicate and
Corrected Titles
\$7.00

Title Search

\$7.00

Duplicate, and
Corrected Registration
Cards
\$5.00

Duplicate Decals
\$5.00

22. Do I still need to purchase a water usage stamp for my canoe/kayak?

The law that took effect on June 1, 2018 repealed the requirement of the water usage stamp for non-powered watercraft. The water usage stamp is no longer available for purchase.

Unpowered watercraft are not required to be registered in Illinois. Unpowered vessels are sailboats or vessels that are paddled, poled, or rowed. You may choose to register your unpowered watercraft.

Titling is optional for all watercraft under 22 feet in length.

Watercraft registration requirements have not changed. All watercraft powered by machinery (this includes trolling motors) or sail are required to be registered in Illinois.

Please contact the site you will be visiting for their specific rules, regulations and possible additional fees or permits.

23. Can you mail us four packages of watercraft applications?

IDNR will no longer be mailing bulk package carbon copy watercraft applications. Please utilize the PDF fillable online application available at the link below:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Documents/FillWCA.pdf>

24. Can you send me a map of the Mississippi River?

Please contact the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for river maps.

25. I renewed my watercraft registration online or over-the-phone; will I receive a new registration card and decals?

You will receive a new registration card and two IL decals in the mail within three weeks of renewing.

26. Where can I go to purchase my watercraft title, registration card and/or decals over-the-counter?

Watercraft title and registration is not available over-the-counter at any Illinois Department of Natural Resources office. All watercraft applications are processed in the Springfield office.

27. I purchased a boat that has no hull ID number or previous registration. What do I do?

All watercraft having no valid hull ID number or previous registration are required to be inspected prior to applying for title and registration. Please refer to the link below to contact your local Conservation Police Officer.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/LawEnforcement/Documents/DistrictCOPhonesAndEmails.pdf>

28. I made a boat. How do I get it titled/registered?

All homemade watercraft are required to be inspected prior to applying for title and registration. Please refer to the link below to contact your local Conservation Police Officer.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/LawEnforcement/Documents/DistrictCOPhonesAndEmails.pdf>

29. I have not yet received my watercraft title, registration card or decals. Can I still go boating?

Please keep the temporary permit copy of the watercraft application you complete with you while boating in Illinois until your paperwork is processed.

30. I mailed my paperwork to your office last week. Have you received it?

Due to the high volume received in this office, we do not log in mail. It remains in date-received order until processed.

31. I purchased a boat without a title. How can I title the boat in my name?

Please provide the IL registration number for the watercraft along with the seller's name(s). If the boat was previously titled, you are required to surrender the title when applying for registration.

32. Do I have to title my boat?

Titling is optional for watercraft under 22 feet in length. Registration requirements have not changed. All watercraft powered by machinery (this includes trolling motors) or sail are required to be registered in Illinois.

33. I did not record my confirmation number when I renewed my registration; how can I obtain one?

The online and over-the-phone renewal records are only downloaded into our system once a week. Please contact us again next Tuesday morning to verify your registration and receive a confirmation number.

34. I found a boat abandoned at the side of the road and I want to title and register it in my name or obtain a salvage title.

The State of Illinois does not issue salvage watercraft titles. If you find an abandoned boat, please contact your local law enforcement. Please refer to the link below regarding abandoned watercraft and Labor/Storage Liens.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Documents/AbandonedWatercraftStorageLien.pdf>

35. A customer owes me storage and/or repair fee for their boat. What can I do?

Please refer to the link below:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Documents/AbandonedWatercraftStorageLien.pdf>

36. Where do I mail my watercraft application?

The address is located on the instruction page of the application form, beneath the fee schedule.

All paperwork should be mailed together in one envelope to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Watercraft
PO Box 19226
Springfield, IL 62794

37. Where do I mail my tax form?

Your tax form completed for the boat and motor along with the separate payment to the Illinois Dept. of Revenue must be mailed in with your watercraft application to the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.

38. To whom do I make my check payable for my watercraft title/registration?

Please make your check or money order payable to IDNR.