



# BOATING & FISHING GUIDELINES

## RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

### PART OF PHASE 3 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE III | EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2020

The Recovery Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes returning people to work, businesses reopening and group gatherings of 10 or fewer. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

**Governor J.B. Pritzker's Stay at Home Order permits Illinois residents to leave their residence to take part in essential activities, including boating and fishing, so long as residents comply with these guidelines. These guidelines apply to recreational boating and fishing on all waters within Illinois, both public and private.**

## BOATING

1. The table on page 2 outlines boating guidelines on topics such as: capacity limits, sanitation, social distancing, face coverings, access to establishments, and hygiene requirements.
2. Boat charters will be permitted in accordance with the guidelines set forth below in the table.
3. Boating also applies to non-motorized boats, kayaks, canoes, and sail boats.
4. Residents are discouraged from traveling long distances to go boating or fishing.
5. Regattas and other competitive boating events with travel to a predetermined location and time are permitted with the restrictions outlined in this guidance, including but not limited to capacity on the boat. Before or after the competition, no gatherings over 10 people.
6. If you are launching a boat and traveling to another jurisdiction, you must be mindful to follow all boating regulations of that jurisdiction.
7. All boat ramp and non-motorized boat launch users shall practice social distancing. Users should allow appropriate space for users of the boat ramp or launch and clear the ramp when user's launch is complete.
8. Users should ensure they are ready to depart quickly from the ramp or dock as soon as their boat is put into the water. Users not actively launching their boat should clear the launch area.
9. Upon return to ramp, users should load their boat as quickly and as safely possible and then clear the launch area.



## FISHING

1. Bank and boat fishing is permitted at sites where social distancing and other health directives are followed and anglers possess the [appropriate licenses](#).
2. Fishing tournaments and other competitive fishing events that obligate anglers to travel, congregate and fish at a specific and predetermined location and time are permitted with the restrictions outlined in this guidance.

## MARINAS/BOAT RENTALS

1. Marinas/boat rentals should operate with the minimum number of workers necessary to open marinas and harbors to boat owners, and for the operation of safe harbors and marinas to provide refuge for boaters when conditions making boating on open water unsafe and operations related to safety services such as fuel, emergency dockage and sanitary pump-out stations and workers providing tender or boat transportation services.
2. If there is a restaurant or other facilities that prepare and serve food, they may operate utilizing the restrictions contained in Section 12(l). This will apply if the restaurants or other facility is located at a lake, pond, or other waterway in the state. Bait shops will also be open for pick-up only as well.
3. Boat rentals are permitted and shall comply with the restrictions contained in the table below. Boat rental businesses shall sanitize the boats after each rental.
4. Additional guidance for state parks and marinas under the jurisdiction of IDNR can be found [here](#).



<b>BOATING GUIDELINES</b>		
	<b>PHASE 3</b>	<b>PHASE 4</b>
<b>Operational Safe Factors</b>	Boat capacity subject to accompanying table below; no boat shall exceed maximum capacity	Boat capacity subject to accompanying table below; no boat shall exceed maximum capacity
<b>Social Distancing</b>	6 ft Social Distancing	6 ft Social Distancing
<b>Gathering Size</b>	Gatherings <10 people (on and off of pier)	Gatherings <10 people (on and off of pier)
<b>Protective Gear</b>	Face Coverings to be worn except for children <2 yo. Harbors will follow all IDPH guidelines regarding PPE and additional best healthy practices	Face Coverings to be worn except for children <2 yo. Harbors will follow all IDPH guidelines regarding PPE and additional best healthy practices
<b>Hygiene Requirements</b>	Harbors increase frequency of sanitizing "touch points", offices, bathrooms and gates. Barriers where needed	Harbors increase frequency of sanitizing "touch points", offices, bathrooms and gates. Barriers where needed.
<b>Access to Establishments</b>	Limited re-opening of marinas, launches and associated support facilities	Limited re-opening of marinas, launches and associated support facilities
<b>Hygiene Standards</b>	Follow guidelines set by CDC	Follow guidelines set by CDC

## BOAT CAPACITY

<b>BOAT LENGTH</b>	<b>MAX OCCUPANTS, INCLUDING KIDS &lt; 17 YO</b>	<b>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ADULTS</b>
< 25 Feet	6	4
26-36 Feet	8	6
>36 Feet	10	8

**If you have questions or need additional support:**  
 Please call our hotline at 1-800-252-2923  
 or e-mail us at [ceo.support@illinois.gov](mailto:ceo.support@illinois.gov)  
 or return to [illinois.gov/businessguidelines](https://illinois.gov/businessguidelines)

\*Subject to the chart above, the occupants of a boat shall not be in excess of the boat manufacturer's recommended occupancy capacity for that boat. If the boat is less than 20', the U.S. Coast Guard sets the maximum capacity, and the capacity may not exceed those limits either.

\*\*Boat length refers to overall length of the boat, not the boat length at the waterline