

Article IV CONDUCT AT TOWN BEACH

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article IV Conduct at Town Beach

[Adopted 12-3-1991 TM; amended 4-4-2017 TM; 5-10-2017 TM]

§ 190-18 Glass containers.

The use of glass containers at the Town Beach is hereby prohibited.

§ 190-19 Launching of Vessels; Inspections.

A.

As used in this Article IV, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated. Note, the starred definitions are taken from the 2024 State of Connecticut Boating Safety Enforcement Manual to be consistent with the state definitions as taught in State Boat Certification (SBC) and Certificate of Personal Watercraft (CPWO) courses.

TOWN

The Town of Columbia, CT.

LAKE

Columbia Lake the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

TOWN BEACH

The beach area with a boat launch gate at 2 Lake Road, Columbia, CT

BOAT LAUNCH

The boat launch owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Columbia at the lake which is located at 2 Lake Road. For purposes of this section, "boat launch," in addition to the designated launch ramp, shall also include the launch of any vessel from any other location at the Town beach located at 2 Lake Road.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Such procedures shall be as established by the Board of Selectmen regarding the inspection of vessels for nonnative aquatic species, required CT Boating Regulations vessel safety items and all approved town ordinances relating to vessels. The Inspection Procedures shall be published on the Town's website and otherwise available in printed format free of charge at the Town Hall or from a Town inspector authorized pursuant to Subsection D.

LAKE WATERSHED

That area of the Town included in the Columbia Lake Watershed Protection Overlay Zones LAR, LBR and/or LCR pursuant to Section 21.4 of the Town's Zoning Regulations, as from time to time amended.

NONNATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

Aquatic flora and fauna having the potential for rapid growth, dispersion, and displacement of native species within water bodies of the State of Connecticut, as identified from time to time by the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or in the Inspection Procedures. "Nonnative aquatic species" shall also include any aquatic flora or fauna suspected to be such in the absence of a positive identification.

VESSEL*

Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

MOTORBOAT*

Any vessel, not more than sixty-five feet in length and propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)*

Any inboard powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length that has an internal combustion engine powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motor propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

SAILBOAT*

Any vessel propelled by sail alone.

SAILBOARD*

Any sailboat whose unsupported mast is connected by a swivel or a flexible universal joint to a hull similar to the hull of a surfboard.

MARINE PATROL OFFICER:

A Marine Patrol Officer is a person appointed pursuant to Columbia Town Ordinances, Town Ordinance Article III. Section 190-16.

TRAILER:

Any motor vehicle, trailer or other equipment used to transport and launch a vessel, all, or any portion of which is immersed in a water body during the course of such launching.

B.

Use of launch ramp. Vessels which require a powered vehicle to be launched at the Town Beach must be launched and removed only from the designated launch ramp.

C.

Inspection of vessels is required at any location at which such vessel is launched. On and after the effective date of this article, no person shall launch any vessel into the lake unless the following conditions are met:

(1)

Motorboats with trailers launched from the boat launch shall be inspected at the boat launch pursuant to the Inspection Procedures.

(2)

Any person otherwise allowed to launch a vessel into the lake from any location other than the boat launch shall only launch such vessel after making a self-inspection of such vessel and any trailer in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.

(3)

If nonnative aquatic species are discovered on a vessel or trailer during any inspection, the inspector will advise the vessel owner they cannot launch the vessel. The vessel and trailer must be removed from the launch area and utilizing the U.S. Fishery and Wildlife Clean, Drain, Dry 5-day procedures to kill the invasive species before returning for another inspection.

D.

Designation of inspection officials; inspection schedule and fees. The Town's Board of Selectmen shall designate one or more Town employees to administer the inspection program and procedures described in Subsection **C** of this section. All such employees shall be under the supervision of the Town's Marine Patrol and shall receive such reasonably appropriate training as is necessary for the identification of, and potential locations on vessels and/or trailers of, nonnative aquatic species. Fees for such inspections as may be set by the Town's Board of Selectmen shall be specified in the Inspection Procedures.

E.

Penalties for noncompliance. Any person who places a vessel into the lake without complying with all applicable provisions of this article shall be subject to:

(1)

The fine imposed pursuant to § 15-180 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as from time to time amended, as enforced by the Town's resident state trooper, Connecticut State Police, or Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Conservation Officer; and

(2)

Any additional fine or other penalty specific to this section as may be imposed by § **190-22** of this article.

§ 190-20 Additional requirements for launching vessels at the Town Beach.

No person may launch a motorboat at the Town Beach without first determining if the designated launch area is vacant. Vehicles are not allowed to park or stand in the designated launch area for longer than it takes to launch a boat.

§ 190-21 Connecticut Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances.

At Inspection, every vessel owner will be provided a copy of the Connecticut Boater's Guide, issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and copies of the Town of Columbia's vessel and water safety ordinances.

§ 190-22 Alcoholic beverages.

The consumption or possession of alcoholic liquors or beverages by any person at the Town-owned public beach is not permitted at any time.

§ 190-23 Penalties for offenses.

Any person or vessel that violates any provision of this article shall if applicable terminate the current voyage at the request of a Marine Patrol Officer and may be fined \$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation each time it occurs. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a new occurrence. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are deemed to be evidence of reckless disregard of an applicable provision of this ordinance, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator from operating the vessel or any similar vessel on the lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.