



BOATING & FISHING GUIDELINES

RESTORE ILLINOIS

A Public Health Approach To Safely Reopen Our State

PART OF PHASE 4 OF RESTORE ILLINOIS PLAN

APPLICABLE TO EACH REGION UPON TRANSITION TO PHASE IV | UPDATED JULY 8, 2020

The Revitalization Phase of the Restore Illinois public health approach to reopening the Illinois economy includes larger gathering sizes, additional businesses reopening and increased capacities. We must all continue to social distance, frequently wash our hands and cover our faces to maintain progress in overcoming COVID-19.

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: sanitation, social distancing, face coverings, access to establishments, and hygiene requirements.
2. Boat charters will be permitted in accordance with these guidelines
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. Before or after the competition, no gatherings over 50 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 users 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 as safely possible and then clear the launch area.
10. If there is a restaurant at the marina, it can be open subject to the restaurant and bar [guidance](#)
11. Boats cannot be tied together to permit boating groups to combine different boating groups together.



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 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.
2. 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](#).



BOATING GUIDELINES

	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
Operational Safe Factors	Boat capacity subject to accompanying table below; no boat shall exceed maximum capacity	Boat capacity subject to the manufacturer's capacity for the boat and U.S. Coast guard regulations
Social Distancing	6 ft Social Distancing	6 ft Social Distancing
Gathering Size	Gatherings <10 people (on and off of pier)	Gatherings on the boat are limited to the boat capacity limits and US Coast guard regulations and the ability to observe social distancing. The full legal load/ capacity of the boat underway and moored/touching shore may be utilized if appropriate social distancing of 6' can be observed. Gatherings off boat <50 people
Protective Gear	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
Hygiene Requirements	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.
Access to Establishments	Limited re-opening of marinas, launches and associated support facilities	Limited re-opening of marinas, launches and associated support facilities
Hygiene Standards	Follow guidelines set by CDC	Follow guidelines set by CDC

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
 or return to illinois.gov/businessguidelines