

Registration and Titling

No person may operate, and no owner may give permission for the operation of any boat unless the boat is covered by a valid certificate of number issued by the Wisconsin DNR.

Federally documented boats must be registered in the State of Wisconsin unless they are exempted by law. They shall also display the registration year decal but shall not display a Wisconsin registration number unless the decal is not displayed by the documented name. Then the number and decal shall be displayed as required in [Display of Identification Number and Decals](#).

Exemptions from Registration

1. Sailboats 12 feet and under without a motor.
2. Manually propelled boats **not equipped** with a motor or sail.
3. Any boat covered by a valid certificate from another state or federal government that has been in this state not more than 60 consecutive days **or if this state is not the state of principal use**.
4. Licensed documented fishing vessels.
5. Sailboards.

A boat present in this state is exempt from registration for a period of 10 days for the express purpose of competing in a race sanctioned by a governmental subdivision.