

**CITY OF STAMFORD  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

**REGULATIONS<sup>1</sup> FOR MOORING AND ANCHORING VESSELS  
IN THE STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT AREA <sup>2</sup>**

1. Mooring Committee:

Pursuant to Sec. 6-63 of the Stamford Code, a Mooring Committee shall be established consisting of, at the very least, the Chairman of the Stamford Harbor Management Commission (“SHMC”), the Stamford Harbor Master (“Harbor Master”), and a third member who shall be a member of the SHMC.

2. Mooring Permits Required:

(a) In order to provide for adequate access for vessels, for the safety of persons and property, for the protection of coastal resources, and for the optimum use of the Stamford Harbor Management Area (“SHMA<sup>2</sup>”), the Harbor Master must approve the location and use of all moorings<sup>3</sup> within the SHMA, including: (1) "individual-private" moorings; and (2) "commercial" moorings as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and requiring authorizations from those agencies. A permit issued by the Harbor Master shall be required for the use of each approved mooring location.

(b) No provision contained in these Regulations shall limit the authority of the Harbor Master to station and remove vessels as provided in applicable sections of the Connecticut General Statutes.

(c) Mooring permits shall be issued by the Harbor Master only to those applicants: (1) owning, leasing or chartering a vessel properly registered in accordance with applicable laws and regulations or; (2) owning or representing a duly established water dependent business and/or recreational facility, such as, but not limited to, a private boating club.

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<sup>1</sup> These Regulations are established pursuant to Sections 6-63 and 6-64 of the Stamford Code to implement mooring and anchoring-related provisions of the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* adopted by the Stamford Board of Representatives and approved in accordance with Sec. 22a-113m of the Connecticut General Statutes.

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, the SHMA is the jurisdiction of the SHMC as defined in Sec. 6-59 of the Stamford Code and the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*. The SHMA includes Stamford Harbor and all of the other navigable waters and intertidal areas of the City of Stamford waterward of the mean high water line within Stamford's territorial limits, bounded on the south by a line defined in the Plan.

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, a "mooring" shall mean the hardware to which a vessel or other floating object, including but not limited to a floating dock, can be made fast by means so that, when attachment is terminated, some portion remains in the water and is not under the control of the vessel or other floating object.

(d) Use of any mooring location for commercial purposes requires approval by the DEEP and the USACE in addition to approval by the Harbor Master. No permit for use of a commercial mooring location shall be issued by the Harbor Master until such time as the SHMC has determined that the proposed commercial mooring location is consistent with the Plan, and the DEEP and USACE have issued commercial mooring permits for that location.

3. Mooring Records:

(a) The Harbor Master, with assistance from the Mooring Committee, shall keep a detailed record of each approved mooring location and vessel permitted to use that location. Such record shall include pertinent information concerning the mooring permit holder, as may be determined by the SHMC.

(b) All mooring permit holders shall be responsible for promptly notifying the Harbor Master, of any changes to the information provided on their mooring permit applications. All persons on any mooring waiting list that may be maintained by the Harbor Master shall also be responsible for notifying the Harbor Master of any changes to the information provided on their applications.

4. Mooring Plans:

The SHMC in consultation with the Harbor Master may prepare a comprehensive mooring plan or plans to guide the allocation of all moorings in the SHMA and to identify each assigned mooring location. The plan or plans may designate specific mooring "zones" within the SHMA for the purpose of mooring vessels of a particular size, draft, type and use.

5. Assignment of Mooring Locations:

(a) In assigning mooring locations, first priority shall be given to those persons applying for the renewal of permits granted to them in the preceding year; second priority shall be given to requests by mooring permit holders for transfer to a different location in the order such requests may be received; and third priority shall be given to persons on the mooring waiting list.

(b) In the interest of ensuring safe, efficient, and equitable use of the SHMA, no one individual shall be assigned more than one mooring location.

(c) In assigning mooring locations and issuing mooring permits, the Harbor Master shall, to the extent practical and to the extent consistent with all other applicable sections of these Regulations, assign priority for mooring locations to littoral property owners who apply for permits to utilize mooring locations offshore of their properties. A mooring location assigned to a littoral property owner is intended to be used for mooring a vessel owned by that property owner; the assigned mooring space shall not to be rented to another person or used to moor another person's vessel.

(d) In allocating mooring locations, the Harbor Master shall give consideration to size, draft, type, and use of vessels to be moored.

6. Assignment of Mooring Locations for Commercial Fishermen:

- (a) In assigning mooring locations and issuing mooring permits, the Harbor Master shall, to the extent possible, give special consideration to providing mooring locations for vessels used for licensed commercial fishing purposes.
- (b) To apply for a permit or to renew a permit for a mooring location for a commercial fishing vessel, the applicant must meet the following additional requirements: (1) possess a current and valid State of Connecticut commercial fishing license; and (2) possess a vessel licensed for commercial fishing purposes and equipped principally for commercial fishing purposes.
- (c) Assignment and use of a mooring location for a commercial fishing vessel must be consistent with all other applicable mooring provisions established in the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*, these Regulations and with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

7. Navigation Fairways:

In allocating and assigning mooring locations, the Harbor Master shall maintain, as necessary, appropriate navigation fairways for recreational and commercial vessels navigating to, from, and through assigned mooring locations and areas. Fairways shall be designated by the SHMC and shall be of an appropriate width, consistent with the size, draft, and type of moored vessels.

8. Application for Mooring Space and Permit:

- (a) For the purpose of processing mooring permit applications and managing mooring records in an efficient and cost-effective manner, the SHMC uses an online mooring system for mooring permit application and administration.
- (b) The current online mooring system provider is “Online Mooring” (<http://permits.onlinemooring.com/StamfordCT/home.aspx>) (the “Online System”).
- (c) Applicants apply for new or renewal permits online at which time all required information must be input directly by the applicant. Unless the Harbor Master determines that such requirement would create an undue hardship for a particular applicant, the SHMC requires that applicable mooring fees be paid through the Online System.
- (d) The Harbor Master shall be responsible for operation and maintenance of the Online System. The Mooring Committee may assist the Harbor Master with operation and maintenance of the Online System, as necessary.
- (e) Any person, association, corporation, or other group may apply for a mooring permit through the Online System. In the case of a corporation, association, or other group, however organized, and upon the Harbor Master’s request, disclosure of the principals and evidence of corporate organization must be submitted.

- (f) All applicants for mooring permits shall maintain liability insurance with respect to the vessel identified in any mooring permit in an amount of at least Five hundred thousand Dollars \$500,000 and shall certify that such coverage will remain in full force and effect as long as the applicant holds the permit.
- (g) All applicants shall indemnify and hold harmless the City of Stamford, its officers, commissioners, agencies, designees, and employees, including the Stamford Harbor Management Commission and its members, consultants and employees and the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master for any and all claims, damages, or losses of any kind, including legal fees and costs arising out of the use of any mooring location that may be assigned to such applicant.
- (h) A complete application for a mooring permit shall be made online and shall include: the proper application form completed in full; a copy of the applicant's boat registration; proof of the applicant's vessel liability insurance in the required amount; payment of the required mooring permit fee online (unless excused by the Harbor Master); and any other pertinent materials as determined by the Harbor Master. All documentation must be uploaded via the Online System, emailed to the Harbor Master at [Harbormaster@StamfordCT.gov](mailto:Harbormaster@StamfordCT.gov) or mailed to the Harbor Master care of the SHMC at the address shown on the SHMC's website. **Please note that physical mailing of documents will result in a delay in processing an application.**
- (i) In the case of a new application for a mooring permit as distinguished from an application for renewal, a complete application shall also include documentation, provided by a mooring inspection service acceptable to the SHMC and Harbor Master that the mooring tackle complies with the Minimum Mooring Tackle Specifications for the SHMA established by the SHMC and published on the web site of the SHMC (the "Minimum Specifications").
- (j) The SHMC may require a non-refundable initial application fee, established by the City of Stamford, from all applicants placed on any mooring waiting list. This fee shall be credited against the first year annual mooring permit fee specified in Section 10 of these Regulations, and shall be collected and deposited in the same manner as the annual mooring permit fee.
9. Renewal of Mooring Permit:
- (a) All mooring permits shall be valid only for the year in which they are issued and may be renewed in accordance with these Regulations.
- (b) All mooring permits shall expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications for renewal must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year following expiration of the permit.
- (c) Failure to renew a mooring permit on time may result in denial of the application and reassignment of the mooring location previously assigned.
- (d) If, for any reason, a mooring permit is not renewed, the former permit holder is responsible for promptly removing the mooring.

10. Annual Mooring Permit Fee:

- (a) Any person, association, corporation, or other group receiving a permit for a mooring location in the SHMA shall pay an annual mooring permit fee (not to exceed the maximum amount authorized by State law) established by the City of Stamford as authorized by Sec. 22a-113s of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sec. 6-65 of the Stamford Code.
- (b) The current annual fee for an individual private mooring permit is \$65.
- (c) Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as amended from time to time, shall be charged an annual fee of \$65.00 for the first permitted mooring and a reduced annual fee of \$5.00 for each additional permitted mooring for up to a total of six mooring locations. All vessels attached to such moorings must be registered with the State of Connecticut under Chap. 68, Sec. 15-144b of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (d) The current annual fee for a commercial mooring permit is \$200.
- (e) All mooring fees shall be collected using the Online System or if approved by the Harbor Master by the Office of Cashiering and Permitting and shall be deposited as authorized by Section 22a-113s of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sec. 6-65 of the Stamford Code, into the City of Stamford Harbor Management Fund, an account used exclusively for purposes directly associated with management and improvement of the SHMA.

11. Transferal of Mooring Permits, Vessels, and Locations:

- (a) Mooring permits shall be non-transferable except that the Harbor Master may approve the transfer of a mooring permit between a deceased mooring permit holder and a surviving immediate family member. Whenever the holder of a mooring permit transfers the title or interest in or otherwise parts with possession of the vessel identified in the mooring permit to another person by any arrangement whatsoever, the mooring permit shall expire. The new possessor, transferee or owner shall have no vested right to use the mooring location covered by the mooring permit. Whenever the holder of a mooring permit enters into a partnership agreement for the use of that permit, continuation of the permit is subject to review and approval by the Harbor Master.
- (b) The holder of a mooring permit may, upon written application to and approval by the Harbor Master, retain the current mooring location assigned under the mooring permit for a replacement vessel provided that vessel is owned by the holder of the permit and is moved onto the mooring within one year. If the replacement vessel is significantly smaller, larger, or of different draft or type than the previously moored vessel, the Harbor Master shall have the right to relocate the replacement vessel to another, more suitable mooring location.
- (c) As long as corporations possessing a valid mooring permit remains in existence, the mooring permit remains valid, regardless of whether or not any minority portion of the corporation's interest is conveyed through sale or transfer of stock. However, should the controlling interest in the

corporation change through such a sale or transfer of stock, the corporation will immediately notify the Harbor Master and its mooring permit shall terminate.

12. Mooring Location and Placement:

- (a) All mooring permits granted by the Harbor Master shall be consistent with all applicable provisions of the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*.
- (b) Mooring permit holders may, at any time, be directed by the Harbor Master to move their vessels to a different mooring location in the SHMA for the purposes of maintaining public safety and the most efficient use of available mooring space.
- (c) Any mooring tackle not properly authorized is subject to removal by order of the Harbor Master and the owner of such mooring shall be responsible for its prompt removal and any costs associated therewith.

13. Abandonment of Mooring Location or Tackle:

Any assigned and permitted mooring not used during the calendar year shall be considered abandoned and subject to reassignment.

14. Secure Mooring and Anchoring of Vessels:

- (a) All mooring tackle placed in the SHMA shall comply with the Minimum Specifications.
- (b) The owner of any vessel moored or anchored within the SHMA shall be responsible for causing such vessel to be tied, secured, or anchored with proper care and equipment and in such manner as may be required to prevent such vessel from breaking loose and causing damage to any other vessel, persons, or property. The Harbor Master may order any vessel that may have broken loose from its mooring tackle or anchor, or any vessel that, in the judgment of the Harbor Master, is at risk of breaking loose, to be properly reattached or otherwise secured. Any costs incurred shall be the responsibility of the Owner of such vessel.
- (c) Each person mooring a vessel in the SHMA shall be responsible for any damage to his or her own vessel or to any other vessel or property that may be caused by failure to secure that vessel to its mooring with proper care and equipment in such a manner to prevent that vessel from breaking loose and causing damage to any other vessel, persons, or property.

15. Identification of Approved Mooring Locations and Permitted Vessels:

The SHMC may, from time to time, establish and amend reasonable standards for the marking of mooring buoys or provide marking tags to be attached to all approved moorings. Notice of such standards will be provided to all approved mooring permit holders as part of the Minimum Specifications. Such standards shall be in compliance with any State or Federal requirements for marking mooring buoys.

16. Mooring Inspection:

- (a) In order to determine the soundness of the tackles condition and its compliance with the Minimum Specifications, no mooring tackle shall be placed in the SHMA without inspection and approval by a mooring inspection service acceptable to the SHMC and Harbor Master. .
- (b) All mooring tackle permitted by the Harbor Master shall be inspected for soundness of condition at least once every two (2) calendar years by a mooring inspection service acceptable to the SHMC and Harbor Master. An inspection form shall be available on the Online System which shall be completed and certified by such mooring inspection service. If, as a result of such inspection, it is determined that the mooring tackle has become unsafe or otherwise inadequate, that tackle shall be replaced. Failure of the mooring owner to make such replacement shall be grounds for revocation of the mooring permit by the Harbor Master.

17. Revocation of Mooring Permit:

The Harbor Master shall have the authority to revoke a mooring permit if the permit holder fails to maintain the moored vessel in a seaworthy condition or fails to comply with any permit conditions or provisions of these Regulations, including but not limited to:

- (i) failure to maintain a properly registered, documented, or insured vessel;
- (ii) failure to secure a vessel to its mooring with proper care and equipment;
- (iii) failure to use the assigned mooring location.

18. Transient Moorings for private use:

A mooring owned by water dependent business and/or a recreational facility may be established outside of a designated mooring area<sup>4</sup>, provided the mooring location meets all other requirements of the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan*, as well as State and Federal requirements. In the interest of ensuring safe, efficient and equitable use of the SHMA, the SHMC may place a limit on the number of mooring permits that may be issued to a water dependent business or private recreational facility.

19. Vessels Making Fast:

- (a) At no time shall any person make fast or secure an unattended vessel to any individual-private mooring assigned to another vessel or occupied by another vessel, or to a vessel already attached to that mooring, without the permission of the mooring owner. No person, with or without the permission of the mooring owner, shall make fast or secure an unattended vessel overnight to any individual private mooring already occupied by another vessel, or to the vessel already attached to that mooring

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<sup>4</sup> For the purpose of these Regulations, a designated mooring area shall mean: a) a geographic area within the SHMA with boundaries specifically designated in State and Federal mooring permits and within which vessels may be moored in accordance with the terms and conditions of those permits and the provisions of the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan; and/or b) a geographic area within the SHMA with boundaries specifically designated in the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan and within which vessels may be moored in accordance with all applicable State and Federal requirements and the provisions of the City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan.

(b) At no time shall any person make fast or secure an unattended vessel to any commercial mooring already occupied by another vessel, or to a vessel already attached to that mooring, unless permitted to do so by the State and Federal permits issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the use of that mooring. If so permitted, the securing of any unattended vessel shall be in compliance with any conditions set forth in the permits.

20. Review of Decisions:

(a) Any party aggrieved by any decision pertaining to the application of these Regulations may request a review by the SHMC. .

(b) It is recognized that State law requires the State appointed Stamford Harbor Master to act in a manner consistent with the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* and that City ordinances and regulations cannot alter the Harbor Master's duties and powers established in the Connecticut General Statutes. As a result, the SHMC may not over-rule mooring assignments of the Harbor Master that are consistent with the *City of Stamford Harbor Management Plan* and these Regulations.

21. Violations:

(a) Any penalties imposed for violations of these Regulations shall be as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes and Stamford Code of Ordinances.

(b) Any person who obstructs, resists, or willfully refuses to obey the order of the Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master for the stationing of a vessel in accordance with these Regulations shall be subject to the fines and penalties set forth in Sec. 15-8 and other applicable sections of the Connecticut General Statutes, enforceable by any duly authorized police officer of the City of Stamford.

22. Removal of Unpermitted Vessels:

Pursuant to Sec. 15-8 and Sec. 15-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Harbor Master may remove any vessel moored in the SHMA in violation of these Regulations. Any costs incurred shall be the responsibility of the Owner of such vessel.

23. Enforcement:

The duly appointed Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master and all uniformed police officers of the Stamford Police Department certified for marine duty shall have authority to enforce the provisions of these Regulations.

Amended 10/20/09  
Amended 2/22/10  
Amended 2/17/15