

Georgetown County, South Carolina, Code of Ordinances – Chapter 6 – BOATS, DOCKS AND WATERWAYS

Chapter 6 – BOATS, DOCKS AND WATERWAYS

Secs. 6-1, 6-2 – Reserved

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Secs. 6-1, 6-2. – Reserved.

Editor’s Note – Ord. No. 2005-76, adopted Dec. 13, 2005, repealed §§ 6-1 and 6-2, which pertained to the creation of the Georgetown Port Advisory Board and its meetings, powers and duties, and derived from §§ 1-3 of an ordinance of Aug. 11, 1981.

Sec. 6-3. – Public boat landing regulations.

- (a) *Findings of facts.* There are presently numerous public boat landings situated in Georgetown County. These boat landings are owned and/or maintained by the county or by the state. Due to the increase in the population of the state, the increase in the number of out-of-state tourists visiting Georgetown County, and the increasing popularity of boating, the use of the public boat landings by the public located in the county has increased substantially in recent years. This increase in use has resulted in overcrowding, increased littering, inadequate parking facilities available at the boat landings, interference with the use of the boat landings for the purpose for which they are intended, and an increase in the hazards of using the boat landings.
- (b) *Purpose of boat landings.* The purpose of the public boat landings located within the county is solely for the launching of watercraft and the retrieval thereof and parking for vehicles used to transport watercraft to and from the boat landings.
- (c) *Legislative Intent.* It is the legislative intent of the Georgetown County Council, the governing body of Georgetown County; to impose reasonable regulations on the use of the public boat landings located within Georgetown County and to proscribe activities and provide penalties for the violation of this section in order to effectively enforce the same.
- (d) *Prohibited Activities.* In order to implement the legislative intent of the county council, based on the above findings of fact, the following activities are prohibited at all county boat landings:
 - (1) Swimming within fifty (50) feet of any public pier, boat ramp, dock or access areas located within Georgetown County,
 - (2) Water skiing, jet skiing, wind surfing, hunting or fishing within fifty (50) feet of any boat landing.
 - (3) The loading or unloading of any cargo or passengers for hire or compensation.
 - (4) Engaging in any commercial, retail or wholesales of goods such as, but not limited to, shrimp, oysters, fish, crabs or other seafood.

- (5) Blocking or obstructing any public pier, dock, wharf or boat launching ramps for a period longer than is necessary to launch or retrieve a watercraft. Any vessel or other object left unattended which obstruct any of the facilities or the access to these facilities may be removed entirely at the risk and expense of the owner.
- (6) Discharging of any firearm at any public boat landing.

(e) *Penalty for violation.* Any violation of this section shall be punishable in the magistrate courts of the county by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment in the county jail for a term of up to thirty (30) days.

(Ord. No. 91-30, §§ 1-6, 9-10-91; Ord. No. 2004-52, 6-22-04)

Sec. 6-4. – Watercraft regulations.

- (a) *Careless operation of watercraft.* It shall be unlawful for any person in Georgetown County to operate any watercraft without care and caution and full regard for the safety of persons and property.
- (b) *Cooperation of watercraft operator, crew and passengers.* The operator of any watercraft operating in the water of Georgetown County is required to heave to a vessel displaying a flashing blue light or when signaled or hailed, and allow boarding by law enforcement officers. The operator, crew and passengers of any watercraft are required to cooperate with law enforcement officers.
- (c) *Watercraft equipment required.* No person shall operate a watercraft, personal watercraft (jet ski) or other specialty prop craft while upon the waters of Georgetown County unless each person is equipped with a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (Type I, Type II, Type III, Type V). No person shall operate a Class A motor boat (less than sixteen (16) feet) while upon the waters of Georgetown County unless each person under the age of twelve (12) aboard the Class A motorboat is wearing a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (Type I, Type II, Type III, Type V). Each personal flotation device must be worn properly, in good and serviceable condition and the proper size for the person wearing the PFD. Personal watercraft (jet ski) must be equipped with a lanyard cut off switch attached to the personal watercraft and the operators clothing or personal flotation device, and a self-circling device.
- (d) *Lawful hours of operation for personal watercraft.* Personal watercraft (jet ski) may only be operated from sunrise to sunset.
- (e) *Penalty for violation.* Any violation of this section shall be punishable in the magistrate courts of the county by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment in the county jail for a term of up to thirty (30) days.

(Ord. No. 2004-50, 6-22-04)

Sec. 6-5. – Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex (CACMC) daily operations procedures.

- (a) Georgetown County, at all times, will keep perforated pass cards at the entrance kiosk of the CACMC.
- (b) Each pass will contain information advising and warning each facility user of the potential for commercial barge traffic in the area around the landing and also provide basic information on how to navigate safely when a barge is in the area. The pass will provide each user with information for a twenty-four (24) hours/seven (7) days a week telephone number to the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and telephone numbers, to be provided by the Sheriff's Office, for local towing companies.
- (c) Each user of the facility will be required to fill out one (1) pass, daily, with the date, user's name and signature. The user will be required to remove the perforated portion of the pass and place it in a pass box at the entrance kiosk.
- (d) The remaining pass, at all times while at the facility, must be displayed on the dash or mirror of each vehicle utilizing the facility on that day.
- (e) An individual that has successfully passed a boater education program that is to be established by the Georgetown County Recreation and Community Services Department with participation from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Five Rivers Coalition and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, will be eligible to acquire a one-year pass for the CACMC. Possession and display of the one-year pass pursuant to this section exempts the user from obtaining a daily user pass.
- (f) Failure to display the daily user pass or one-year pass constitutes a violation of this section that is enforceable by the Georgetown County Sheriff and punishable to the extent described herein:
 - (1) Each violation: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).
- (g) After three (3) violations of this section by an individual user registered with the Georgetown County Sheriff in the same calendar year, the user in violation shall automatically lose their privilege to personally utilize the launch and parking facilities of the CACMC for a period of one (1) year, beginning on the date of the fourth violation and running for three hundred sixty-five (365) days. This provision pertains and is specific to the user as an individual.
- (h) Prior to usage and distribution of a pass pursuant to this section, the United States Army Corp of Engineers must review and approve the pass as to its form and content.

(Ord. No. 2009-08, 2-24-09)