



**Interoffice Memorandum**

March 16, 2020

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
Board of County Commissioners

THRU: Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Director  
Community and Family Services Department

*4 Busan for  
Lonnie*

FROM: Matt Suedmeyer, Manager  
Parks and Recreation Division  
(407) 836-6202

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing – March 24, 2020**  
Public Boat Ramp Ordinance continued from March 10, 2020  
for Decision Only

On March 10, 2020, staff presented an ordinance to the Board proposing to regulate the commercial use of public boat ramps in Orange County. The presentation was a follow-up to previous work sessions regarding businesses operating out of public boat ramps.

Staff presented recommendations for an ordinance regulating the use of public boat ramps and their associated recreational areas and facilities. Also included in the presentation were recommended operational guidelines for the permitted business uses allowed at each of the 11 boat ramps throughout the County. The ordinance and operational guidelines will help the Division regulate the use of County boat ramps by private businesses.

At the Public Hearing, the Board directed staff to revise the Operational Guidelines to (1) provide for a discounted permit fee for boat tour operators with a brick-and-mortar business address in Orange County; (2) limit the number of boat tour permits at the Highway 50 Boat Ramp to a maximum of ten (10); and (3) clarify that unpermitted businesses may not subcontract with permitted businesses to operate out of the County's boat ramps. The Board also requested that staff require that commercial fishermen be subject to the County's permitting requirements in order to operate out of public boat ramps. The Board voted to continue the public hearing until March 24, 2020 for decision only.

Public Hearing – March 24, 2020

Public Boat Ramp Ordinance Continued from March 10, 2020 for Decision Only  
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Pursuant to the Board's direction during the March 10, 2020 Public Hearing, staff prepared a redlined draft of the Operational Guidelines for the Board's consideration and approval. Staff requests approval of the Public Boat Ramp Ordinance and the Parks and Recreation Division Operational Guidelines.

If you have questions prior to the Board meeting, please contact Matt Suedmeyer.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Approve the Public Boat Ramp Ordinance and Parks and Recreation Division Operational Guidelines. All Districts.**

MS:jam

Attachment

c: Randy Singh, Deputy County Administrator  
Kate Latorre, Assistant County Attorney, County Attorney's Office

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2 AN ORDINANCE AFFECTING PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS IN  
4 ORANGE COUNTY; ENACTING A NEW SECTION 29-58  
6 OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ENTITLED "USE OF PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS AND  
ASSOCIATED RECREATIONAL AREAS AND  
FACILITIES;" PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

8 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 1(g) of the Florida Constitution provides that the  
County may enact ordinances not inconsistent with general law; and

10 WHEREAS, Orange County currently owns and operates numerous public boats ramps  
and associated recreational areas and facilities throughout the County; and

12 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires to adopt the general use  
14 provisions set forth herein in order to provide clear and consistent standards regarding the  
County's public boat ramps and related recreational areas and facilities.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE  
16 COUNTY, FLORIDA.

*Section 1. Enactment of New Section 29-58, Use of Public Boat Ramps and  
18 Associated Recreational Areas and Facilities.* Section 29-58, Orange County Code, is hereby  
enacted to read as follows:

20 CHAPTER 29. PARKS AND RECREATION

\* \* \*

22 ARTICLE III. CONDUCT IN COUNTY RECREATION  
AREAS

24 \* \* \*

26 **Sec. 29-58. – Use of public boat ramps and associated  
recreational areas and facilities.**

28 (a) *Definitions.* When used in this section, the following terms  
shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly  
indicates otherwise:

30 (1) *Public boat ramp* shall mean those facilities owned and/or  
32 operated by the county containing structures or clearings  
34 extending to or waterward of the normal high water  
36 elevation, or structures or clearings upon which trailerable  
watercraft can be launched or retrieved, as well as the  
associated recreational areas and facilities appurtenant to  
the boat ramp.

38 (2) *Commercial activity* shall mean the sale, service or  
40 solicitation of any item for a set fee or donation, tangible or  
intangible, including, but not limited to, the charging of  
admission; the charging of fees for any service,  
entertainment or amusement, food, and/or beverages.

42 (b) *Use provisions and prohibitions.*

44 (1) The hours of operation for all public boat ramps shall be set  
46 forth in the Parks and Recreation Division Rules and  
Regulations approved by the board of county  
commissioners, as may be amended.

48 (2) No person shall enter or remain on the premises of any  
50 public boat ramp outside of the established hours of  
52 operation, or for any commercial purpose contrary to the  
intended use of the public boat ramp as set forth in the  
Parks and Recreation Public Boat Ramp Commercial  
Operations Guidelines attached hereto as **Exhibit "A,"**  
incorporated herein by this reference.

54 (3) No person shall dock, anchor or in any way secure a  
56 watercraft to any public boat ramp for more than 15  
58 minutes, unless the watercraft is inoperable and cannot be  
removed under its own power, or the owner of the  
watercraft has an emergency situation.

60 (4) No person shall use the premises of any public boat ramp  
62 for commercial activity of any type unless otherwise  
authorized by subsection (c) herein. Commercial activity  
prohibited by this section includes, but is not limited to, the  
following:

64 i. Picking up or dropping off passengers;

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ii. Soliciting or advertising commercial activity for hire at a public boat ramp, including, but not limited to, the display of any sign, placard, notice, or commercial announcement of any kind upon a vehicle, boat, or vessel;

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iii. Designating the physical address of a public boat ramp as the physical address of a commercial business or the meeting location for commercial activity;

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iv. Collecting, receiving or attempting to collect or receive compensation for any service, including, but not limited to, renting, hiring, or operating for a charge or donation, any kind of boat or watercraft, whether powered or not. Nor shall any boat or watercraft operating for hire or carrying passengers for compensation, land or receive such passengers at any public boat ramp;

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v. Organizing or launching of a tournament or other group function for which a fee or membership is charged.

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(5) No person shall replenish or fill, or attempt to replenish or fill, any type of watercraft, with a petroleum product of any type while said watercraft is located on the premises of any public boat ramp.

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(6) No person shall engage in draining, cleaning, or washing activities, nor shall any person discharge bilge pumps or drain plugs, at any public boat ramp.

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(c) *Exemptions.*

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(1) Licensed commercial fishing guides may pick up and drop off passengers at public boat ramps.

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(2) Persons or entities with a valid permit issued by the County pursuant to the Parks and Recreation Public Boat Ramp Commercial Operations Guidelines set forth in **Exhibit "A"** may conduct commercial activities at public boat

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100 ramps pursuant to the terms and conditions of the permit  
and any agreement related thereto.

102 (d) *Enforcement.* Provisions of this section may be enforced by  
any person having the authority to enforce county ordinances.  
104 Nothing in this section shall prohibit the county sheriff from  
exercising the authority set forth in section 30.07, Florida  
106 Statutes, to appoint individuals as deputies for the purpose of  
enforcing this section.

108 (e) *Penalties.* Violations of this section shall be as provided in  
section 1-9 of this Code. This section may be enforced by  
110 alternate means, including, but not limited to, criminal action;  
civil action, including petitions to enjoin persons from  
violating this section; or by any other means available by law.

112 **Section 2. Effective date.** This ordinance shall take effect pursuant to general law.

ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

114 ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
By: Board of County Commissioners

116  
118 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry L. Demings  
Orange County Mayor

120  
122 ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

124 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

**ORANGE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**Division Operational Guidelines**

**NUMBER: 1.6.1**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: April 24, 2020**

**UPDATED: N/A**

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC BOAT RAMP COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS GUIDELINE**

**PURPOSE:** This guideline outlines protocol for the operation of private commercial businesses out of public boat ramps owned and/or operated by the Orange County Parks and Recreation Division.

**BACKGROUND:** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ and this Division Operational Guideline 1.6.1 on March 24, 2020 regarding the use of Orange County public boat ramps and associated recreational areas and facilities.

**PROCEDURES:** Procedures and requirements for each type of commercial operation permitted at public boat ramps can be found below:

- **Boat Tours**

- R.D. Keene Park & Highway 50 Boat Ramp: All interested and eligible boat tour businesses must obtain a Parks Business Permit from Orange County. Permits are authorized only after proof of eligibility is verified (*see Eligibility Requirements, below*) and an annual permit fee in the amount of \$3,000.00 has been received. The permit fee for a business with a brick-and-mortar business address in Orange County shall be \$2,500.00. No more than ten (10) permits shall be issued for boat tour businesses operating out of the Highway 50 Boat Ramp.

Eligibility Requirements:

- At public boat ramps where boat tours are permitted, all businesses must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible to operate:
  - The business must be a registered business entity with the Florida Division of Corporations.
  - Business must meet and/or exceed all indemnification, liability and insurance requirements set forth by Orange County Risk Management Division.
  - Park-specific limits may be set on the number of tour boats per business permitted to operate and/or the number of vehicles per business parked at sites with reduced public parking availability.
  - Employees must provide proof, annually, that they have passed an FDLE (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) background screening.
  - Unpermitted businesses are prohibited from operating out of the County's public boat ramps and may not subcontract with a permitted boat tour operator to do so.

Vessels

All vessels must comply with Florida State Statutes, Chapters 327 and 328, as applicable. In addition, the following will be required for all businesses:

- Provide photographs with complete manufacturer's specifications for all vessels to be utilized. Include copies of license and registrations for all vessels. List any modifications or changes to the manufacturer's specifications (i.e. seating capacity, floatation, etc.)
- All vessels shall conform with the below listed minimum requirements:
  - All airboats operating from a public boat ramp shall have the approved business name clearly marked on both sides of the rudder, or on the upper one-third (1/3) of the cage area of the vessel, so as to be plainly visible from the port or starboard side of the vessel; with no less than four inch (4") high block lettering of contrasting color;
  - Mufflers and carbon fiber ground adjustable propellers shall be installed on each airboat to reduce noise levels. The maximum noise level of the commercial airboat operations is ninety (90) decibels, measured fifty (50) feet from the vessel; and,
  - If it is determined by the County that the commercial airboat operation is exceeding the maximum noise level decibels, then all operations on the boat ramp will cease until the noise level is reduced to an acceptable level of below ninety (90) decibels.

Licenses, Registrations, Permits

- Proof of a current valid United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Charter boat Captain's License, where applicable (Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels or Master License), dependent upon number of passengers and vessel tonnage.
- Proof of additional licenses, permits, or required registrations to provide services from the boat ramp facility, including but not limited to: State Commercial Vessel License and Commercial Vessel Registration.

● **Fishing Tournaments**

- Tournaments are only permitted at the sites listed in the chart, page four.
- Tournament organizers must follow all Parks Division guidelines for Facility Use Agreements and should make contact with venues at least one month in advance of tournament.
- Tournament participants are asked to manage their weigh-ins to allow for the least impact to park patrons or programs.
- Limit tournaments to one (1) per month per ramp.

● **Fishing Guides and Commercial Fishermen**

- Each Fishing Guide and Commercial Fisherman must:
  - Purchase an annual pass, good for one year at all Orange County Boat Ramps
  - Sign the *Business Annual Pass Agreement Application*
  - Any fishing guides or commercial fishermen using their own vessel will meet all insurance requirements as specified on page three and provide proof of insurance at the time of annual pass purchase.



- **Rentals**
  - Powerboat and Jet Ski rentals are prohibited at all public boat ramps and waterfronts.
  
- **Paddle Sports**
  - A Parks Business Permit for one paddle sports business will be permitted at approved sites. In the event more than one business is interested per park, Orange County Parks and Recreation will initiate the Term Contract process for these sites, only.
  - For information on Term Contracts, visit <http://apps.ocfl.net/OrangeBids/Termcontracts/listtermcontract.asp>

Required Insurance Coverage for Public Boat Ramp Operations

Businesses selected or permitted to operate their businesses from Orange County public boat ramps must, prior to execution of any agreement and commencement of any operations/services, provide Orange County with current certificates of insurance evidencing all required coverage. In addition to the certificate(s) of insurance, the operator shall also provide endorsements for each policy as specified below. All specific policy endorsements shall be in the name of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

**REQUIRED CERTIFICATE(S) OF INSURANCE**

<b>Type of Operation</b>	<b>Commercial General Liability</b>	<b>Vessel Protection and Liability Coverage</b>	<b>Auto Liability</b>	<b>Workers' Compensation</b>
<b>Boat Tours</b>	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	Statutory
<b>Fishing Tournaments</b>	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	None
<b>Fishing Guides &amp; Commercial Fishermen</b>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	None
<b>Paddle Sports</b>	\$500,000	None	None	None

- Required Endorsements for Commercial General Liability:
  - Additional Insured- CG 20 26 or CG 20 10/CG 20 37 or their equivalents
  - Waiver of Transfer of Rights of Recovery- CG 24 04 or its equivalent
  
- Required Endorsements:
  - Waiver of Subrogation- WC 00 03 13 or its equivalent

Note: If blanket endorsements are being submitted, please include the entire endorsement and the applicable policy number.

**ORANGE COUNTY BOAT RAMP COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS CHART**

<b>Ramp/Park Name</b>	<b>Boat Tours</b>	<b>Fishing Tournaments</b>	<b>Fishing Guides &amp; Commercial Fishermen</b>	<b>Rentals</b>	<b>Paddle Sports</b>
<b>Barnett Park</b>	Not Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted
<b>Bywater Boat Ramp</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Camp Joy</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Ferncreek Boat Ramp</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Highway 50 Boat Ramp</b>	Permitted (Maximum 10 businesses)	Not Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Lake Down Boat Ramp</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Magnolia Park</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted
<b>Moss Park</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted
<b>R.D. Keene Park</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Randolph Street Boat Ramp</b>	Not Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Trimble Park</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted
<b>Warren Park</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
<b>Woodsmere Boat Ramp</b>	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

Boat Tours and Paddle Sports require a Parks Business Permit.

*S:\New Share Drive Plan\SOP\DOGS\Boat Ramp Operations*