



Idaho Lake Protection Act

Buoys

A permit from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is required for all encroachments, including buoys, on navigable waterways in Idaho.

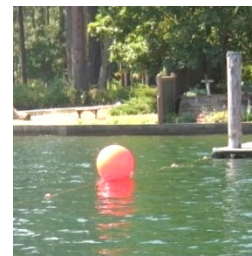
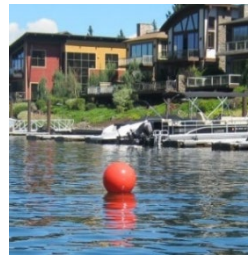
People who place buoys in a navigable waterway without a permit are in violation of the Lake Protection Act and are subject to civil penalties up to \$2,500 plus expenses incurred by the state in enforcing the law.

State law regarding buoys is found in Idaho Code Title 58, Chapter 13 and IDAPA 20.03.04.

Navigational Hazards

Navigational buoys, like street signs, provide information to help boaters navigate safely. State and federal standards ensure buoys have consistent meaning whether located in Idaho or anywhere else in the country.

Unpermitted buoys and buoys that do not conform to state and federal standards, like the ones pictured below, pose navigational hazards and distract from the aesthetic beauty of the waterway.



Buoy Requirements

Two main categories of buoys are: those providing moorage and those aiding navigation.

Mooring Buoys

- Each littoral owner is allowed one (1) mooring buoy.
- Mooring buoys may not be installed closer than 30 feet away from littoral right lines of adjacent littoral owners.
- Mooring buoys may not be installed beyond the line of navigability.



Buoys as aids to navigation

- Navigational buoys must conform to the United States Aid to Navigation System administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Applications for these types of buoys may only be filed by municipalities, counties, state, federal, or other entities authorized to make such improvements.

Contact us

For more information, visit the [IDL Encroachments webpage](https://www.idl.idaho.gov/lakes-rivers/encroachments/).
(<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/lakes-rivers/encroachments/>) Or scan the QR code.

