

Boaters Access to the Water

1. Do I need a mooring permit? **Yes.** *All vessels berthed for two consecutive weeks or more on the waters of Chatham (including fresh water ponds) shall obtain a mooring permit or Third Party authorization from the Harbormaster. Additionally, other objects, including, but not limited to, floats or rafts attached to ground tackle shall obtain an independent permit for mooring(s).*
2. How do I get a mooring? *A person requesting an assignment of a new mooring location and issuance of a new mooring permit shall complete and submit a “Town of Chatham Mooring Application” provided by the Office of the Harbormaster and pay the appropriate fee. If there is no berth available in the area requested, the applicant may request to be placed on the “waiting list” for the desired mooring location and pay the appropriate fee. Mooring permit and waiting list applications are available at the Harbormaster Office and on the Harbormaster website at <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/harbormaster/pages/misc-applications-etc>*
3. Do I need a Waterway’s User Permit? **Yes.** *A Waterways User Permit shall apply to all vessels on moorings, slips, docks, rack storage, piers, floats or using public launching ramps in the Town including under two week transient vessels on private or commercial moorings or slips. For vessels attached to a current mooring permit, the Waterways User Permit will be included within the mooring permit with no additional decal issued. Waterways User Permits are available for purchase at the Office of the Harbormaster and at the Permit Office located at the Town Annex.*
4. Can I rent a mooring or slip? **Yes,** *from a boatyard or marina with rental moorings and/or slips. The Town of Chatham has no rental moorings or slips.*
5. Does the town have transient moorings? **Yes.** *The town has transient moorings available by reservation only and subject to a per night fee as follows: Resident/Non-resident taxpayer no charge. Non-resident current mooring permit holder \$10.00 per night. Non-resident transient \$50.00 per night. *A Waterways User Permit is not required for Town Transient moorings.* To make a reservation for a Town Transient mooring, call the Harbormaster Office at 508-945-5185.*
6. Is there a daily ramp pass? **No.** *You must obtain a Waterways User Permit for ramp use. Waterways User Permits are calendar year permits and expire on December 31st of each year. See #3 above for Waterways User Permit application process.*

7. Where can I launch my boat? **Resident and Non-resident tax payers with a mooring permit or waterways user permit may launch from any town boat ramp. Non-residents may launch from Ryder's Cove or Barnhill. Non-residents with smaller vessels may also use the small boat ramp located on Bridge Street. Vehicles must display a current Waterways User Permit placard from the rearview mirror or a current Chatham mooring permit on the vehicle's dashboard for the vessel in use.**
8. Where can I park? **Resident and Non-resident tax payers may park at any Town Landing with appropriate parking decals. Non-residents using Ryder's Cove may park along Old Combers Road except where no parking signs are posted. Non-residents using Barnhill may park along the road except where no parking signs are posted. Non-residents using the small ramp at Bridge Street may park along the street except where no parking signs are posted.**
9. How long will it take for me to get a mooring? **Mooring waits vary depending on a variety of factors including but not limited to, mooring area or zone, access and vessel size.**
10. What happens if I don't use my mooring? **While there is no use it or lose it policy, moorings are to be utilized for their intended use. If a mooring permit holder is suspected of non-use of their mooring, the permit may be subject to review by the Harbormaster. If non-use is determined by the Harbormaster the permit is subject to the two year rule. See §1016 of Waterways Regulations. <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/harbormaster/pages/water-related-regulations>**
11. Can someone else use my mooring? **See #24 below 3rd party use and §1017 of Waterways Regulations. <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/harbormaster/pages/water-related-regulations>**
12. What if I sell my boat? **See #25 below 2 year rule and §1016 of Waterways Regulations. <https://www.chatham-ma.gov/harbormaster/pages/water-related-regulations>**
13. Can I rent my mooring? **No person shall rent or lease a mooring unless authorized by the Harbormaster. However, boatyards and marinas with commercial (rental) moorings shall have a "commercial mooring permit" issued by the Office of the Harbormaster and are authorized to rent those moorings and slips. To inquire on the availability of rental slips or moorings contact the boatyard directly.**
14. How do I get a float permit? **You must be a current mooring permit holder and complete a float dock wait list application and pay the appropriate fee.**
15. How many waitlist can I be on? **As many as you would like although a person shall not list more than two vessels for a given waiting list area.**

16. What is a mooring area? ***A mooring area denotes a body of water where moorings are located. These areas are named and are considered waiting list areas.***
17. What is a mooring zone? ***Moorings zones are sub categories of mooring areas. Specific mooring zones may be requested on the waitlist application.***
18. What is public access? ***Public access is an area within a mooring area or zone in which the general public has access to the water.***
19. What is private access? ***Private access areas are mooring areas or zones in which there are no public access points to the water.***
20. When is my mooring permit renewal due? ***Moorings permits are due by December 31st of each year and are mailed out in November.***
21. When is my waiting list renewal due? ***Waiting list renewals are due by December 31st of each year and are mailed out in November.***
22. What size tackle do I need for my mooring? ***Tackle size will vary based on mooring area and size of the permitted vessel.***
23. Can I move my mooring? ***Moorings shall not be moved from an approved location without the prior approval of the Harbormaster. If approved it is the responsibility of the mooring permit holder to arrange the relocation of the tackle to the new approved location.***
24. What is 3rd party use? ***At times when a mooring is not used by the mooring permit holder/owner, or when a mooring permit holder/owner has discontinued use of a mooring as determined by the Harbormaster, or no longer owns the vessel described in the permit, the mooring may be used by another vessel, provided prior approval is obtained by both the permit holder/owner of the mooring and the third party user from the Harbormaster.***
25. What is the 2 year rule? ***In a waiting list area, when a permit holder/owner no longer owns the vessel or discontinues the use of a mooring, as determined by the Harbormaster, for the vessel described in the mooring permit, the permit holder/owner may retain the mooring location for a period not to exceed two (2) years, and the mooring may be used by another vessel. If, after two (2) years the permit holder/owner does not own a vessel requiring the mooring or has not continued to use the mooring the permit holder shall forfeit the mooring and remove their mooring tackle within 30 days.***
26. Can I transfer my mooring to someone else? ***Moorings permits may be transferred to members of the immediate family with approval from the Harbormaster.***
27. Can I permit someone else's boat to my mooring in lieu of owning my own boat? ***No. The mooring permit holder must be listed on the registration, title or documentation of the vessel.***

28. How often does my mooring need to be inspected? ***At least every two years.***
29. Does a mooring permit constitute ownership of a mooring? ***As a permit holder, you own the tackle and hardware associated with the mooring. However, you do not own the location of the mooring or the permit. All moorings are located within the waters of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and are temporary permits regulated and issued by the Harbormaster in accordance with MGL ch. 102, 91 sec 10A and 310 CMR 9.07.***