

Vessel Type Classification (*Working Prototype*)

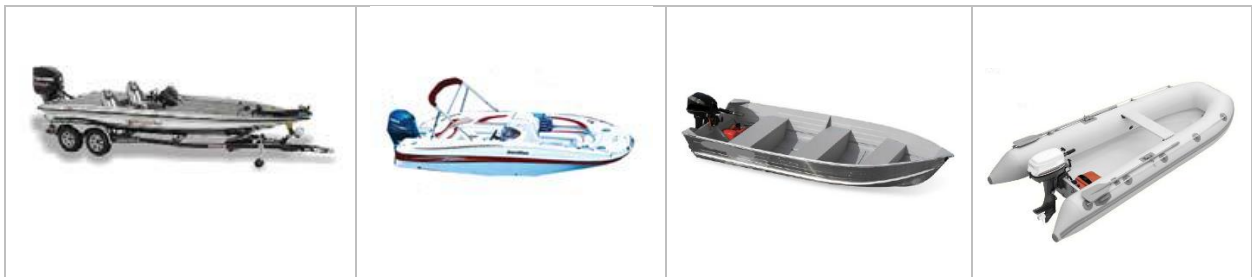
Following is a guide to assist you in determining and recording the most appropriate vessel type classification for a given vessel. Recording this information in a consistent manner enables boating safety professionals and law enforcement to identify vessels more efficiently and effectively, which is important for boating incident evaluations, vessel identification, and search & rescue.

Currently, twelve (12) vessel types have been set in federal regulation. To help with your selection, the types have been broken into two groups below – vessels with motors and non-motorized vessels propelled solely by their occupants or the wind. If none of these types apply, you may record the vessel's type as “**Other**”, but this should only be done on rare occasions.

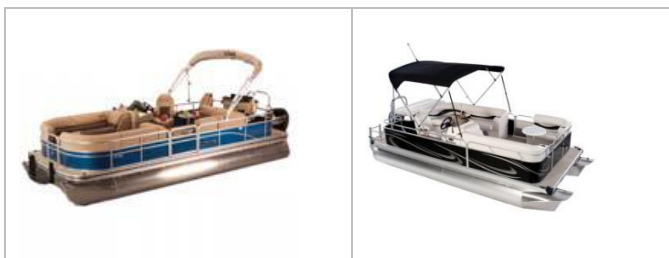
The vessel types – using their CFR authorized labels – are **boldfaced**. Their official definitions, per 33 CFR § 174.3, are in *italics*. Other descriptions and illustrations are not part of the official vessel type definitions. They are provided only to help clarify their application.

Motorized Vessels

Open motorboat – *a vessel equipped with propulsion machinery and having an open load carrying area that does not have a continuous deck to protect it from the entry of water.* These vessels typically have little, if any, enclosed space to protect occupants from the outside environment. They are the most common type of vessel and include freshwater and saltwater fishing boats, Jon boats, skiffs, utility boats, runabouts, and ski boats, among others. Important: Vessels such as paddlecraft (canoes/kayaks/paddleboards), inflatable boats, and rowboats that can be propelled by paddles, oars, and other manual means, but have been equipped with mechanical propulsion, should be classified as the **Open motorboat** vessel type.



Pontoon boat – *a vessel with a broad, flat deck that is affixed on top of closed cylinders which are used for buoyancy, the basic design of which is usually implemented with two rows of floats as a catamaran or with three rows of floats as a trimaran.* This is a motorized vessel where occupants ride on top of pontoon hulls and are usually surrounded by protective railings. Most pontoon boats are constructed from aluminum, though fiberglass and polyethylene (plastic) are gaining in popularity.




Cabin motorboat – *a vessel propelled by propulsion machinery and providing enclosed spaces inside its structure.* Vessels with enclosed spaces large enough to protect occupants from the outside environment for an extended period. They are generally larger than 23 feet and include cabin cruisers, trawlers, cuddy-cabin cruisers, large offshore fishing boats, and yachts.

		Trawler (need pic)
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Houseboat – *a motorized vessel that is usually non-planing and designed primarily for multi-purpose accommodation spaces with low freeboard and little or no foredeck or cockpit.* This is a vessel that is often stationary but has its own means of propulsion. These vessels usually have relatively large living accommodations and sometimes look like floating houses or RVs.



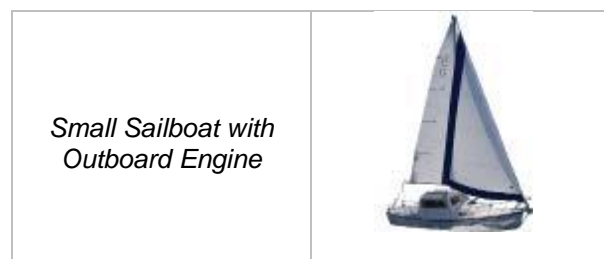
Personal Watercraft – *a vessel propelled by a water-jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motive power and designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than sitting or standing within the vessel's hull.* These vessels are typically under 15 feet in length and sometimes referred to as jet skis or wave runners.

	Motorized surfboard / E-foils (TBD)
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Airboat – *a vessel that is typically flat-bottomed and propelled by an aircraft-type propeller powered by an engine.* These vessels are most often used in swamplands. The propeller pushes air rather than water.



Auxiliary sail – *a vessel with sail as its primary method of propulsion and mechanical propulsion as its secondary method.*



Non-Motorized Vessels: Vessel propelled solely by their occupants or wind. Most states do not register non-motorized vessels.

Paddlecraft – *a vessel powered only by its occupants, using a single or double-bladed paddle as a lever without the aid of a fulcrum provided by oarlocks, thole pins, crutches, or similar arrangements.* This includes non-motorized canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards. Important: Paddlecraft that have been equipped with mechanical propulsion should be classified as the **Open motorboat** vessel type.



Rowboat – *an open vessel manually propelled by oars*. Unlike paddlecraft, rowboats have at least two oars, permanently or temporarily attached to the vessel. Important: A rowboat that has been equipped with mechanical propulsion should be classified as the **Open motorboat** type.



Inflatable boat – *a vessel that uses air-filled flexible fabric for buoyancy*. Important: An inflatable boat that has been equipped with mechanical propulsion should be classified as the **Open motorboat** type.



Sail only – *a vessel propelled only by sails*.

