



Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

8461C Fort Smallwood Road • Pasadena, MD 21122

Phone: 410-255-5535 • Fax: 410-255-1552

Email: fishmssa@aol.com • Website: www.mssa.net

Press Release - June 10, 2008

Trailing Laws and Safety

With the recreational fishing and boating seasons beginning to pick up the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) would like to remind our members to please make sure all of their trailers and equipment are safe for travel this summer.

While most of us have been transporting boats and hauling trailers for many years, the cost of an accident is too great to ignore and assume your trailer and equipment are working fine. With the busy season ahead and thousands of travelers on the road the MSSA would like to encourage anyone hauling a boat this season to thoroughly inspect their equipment.

Below is a list of recommended inspections you should go through before heading out on the road:

- Coupler, hitch and hitch ball are of the same size
- Coupler and safety chains are safely secured to hitch of tow vehicle
- All fasteners are properly tightened
- Boat is securely tied down to trailer (winch line is not a tie down)
- Wheel lug nuts are properly tightened
- Wheel bearings are properly adjusted and maintained
- Load is within maximum load carrying capacity
- Tires are properly inflated
- All trailer lighting is working properly
- Trailer brakes are properly adjusted and working (if trailer is so equipped)

Along with safety issues, state trailing laws are equally as important if one plans on hauling a boat this season. Make sure you check with your Boating Law Administrator for any laws specific to your state. Below you will find a regional state-by-state list of general trailing laws.

	MD	DE	VA	PA
Boating Law Administrator	410-974-5623	302-739-3440	804-367-0939	717-657-4538
Max. Speed Limit (mph)	65	55	55	55
Max. Dimensions for Trailer	8'W x 13'6"H	40'L x 8'6"W x 13'6"H	8'6"W x 13'6"H	53'L x 8'6"W x 13'6"H
Max. Length with Trailer	55'	60'	60'	60'
Min. Wt. Req. Trailer Brakes	3,000 lbs.	4,000 lbs.	3,000 lbs.	3,000 lbs.
Safety Chains	Y	Y	Y	Y
Brake Lights	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tailights	Y	Y	Y	Y
Clearance Lights	Y	Y	Y	Y
License Light	Y	Y	Y	Y
Turn Signals	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reflectors	Y	Y	Y	Y
Flares	N/A	Y	Y	N/A
Breakaway Brakes	Y	N/A	Y	Y
Tie-Downs	Y	Y	Y	Y
Two Trailers	Y	Y	N	N
Insurance	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wide Trailer Permit Ph#	410-582-5712	302-744-2700	804-786-2787	717-787-5367

For more information on trailing laws, please visit the following website: <http://www.boatus.com/trailerclub/laws.asp>