

(a) "VESSEL" means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane or a boat under ~~twenty five (25)~~ **FIFTEEN (15)** TWENTY-FIVE (25) feet in length propelled only by sail, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water or on ice, it being the intent that ice boats shall be regarded as watercraft for the purposes of this Article;

(b) "MOTORBOAT" means any vessel equipped with propelling machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion;

(c) "WATERS OF MARYLAND" means all waters within the jurisdiction of this State, the marginal sea adjacent to this State, and the high seas when navigated as a part of a ride or journey to or from the shore of this State;

(d) "OPERATE" means to navigate or otherwise use a vessel;

(e) "OWNER" means a person, other than a lien holder, having the property in or title to a ~~motorboat~~ VESSEL. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a ~~motorboat~~ VESSEL subject to an interest in another person, reserved or created by agreement and securing payment of performance of an obligation, but the term excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security;

(f) "OPERATOR" means the person who operates or has charge of the navigation or use of a vessel.

2. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Within the limitations hereinafter set forth, the Department of Tidewater Fisheries is the primary agency for the administration of this Article.

(b) The Department of Game and Inland Fish is designated to administer this Article upon the non-tidal waters of Maryland, and is also authorized to accept any additional jurisdictional authority which may be delegated to it by the Department of Tidewater Fisheries and which is granted under this Article.

3. POLICY

It is hereby declared to be the intent of this Article to achieve, so far as practicable, uniformity of regulations, requirements, procedures and methods with respect to the numbering, operation, and equipment for the safety of life and property of all vessels subject to this Article and which may be within the jurisdiction of either the Department of Tidewater Fisheries or the Department of Game and Inland Fish; that the highest degree of cooperation shall exist between these two agencies; and that, to the fullest extent practicable, these agencies shall foster the development, use and enjoyment of all the waters of Maryland. It is further declared to be the intent of this Article that there shall be the fullest possible cooperation with neighboring States and the Federal government in connection with assistance and rescue operations and in the enforcement of laws and regulations relating to recreational boating safety.

4. PROCEDURES AND PURPOSES

(a) For the purposes of orderly administration, especially in official contacts with other States and the federal government, all reports