

tation 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 person, other than a lien holder, having the property in or title to a vessel. The term includes a person entitled to the use or possession of a 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.

5.

(a) Every vessel, except those manually propelled, found upon the waters of Maryland shall be numbered for identification in accordance with this article and any regulations supplementary thereto except:

(1) A vessel which has a valid document issued by the Bureau of Customs of the United States or any federal agency successor thereto;

(2) A vessel with a valid number awarded to it pursuant to federal law or a federally approved numbering system of another state, provided that such boat shall not have been in Maryland in excess of ninety days and the number so awarded is displayed in accordance with the requirements of that system and the certificate of number is available for inspection whenever the vessel is in use;

(3) A vessel from a country other than the United States temporarily using the waters of Maryland;

(4) A vessel which is owned by the United States government, another state, or any political subdivision thereof, used in service of the public;

(5) A ship's lifeboat **[**, or a dinghy which must carry the same number as the vessel to which it is attached**]**;

(6) A vessel under twenty-five (25) feet in length propelled only by sail;

(7) A vessel equipped with propelling machinery of seven and one-half horsepower or under.

(8) *The Commission may, by regulation from time to time and for such periods as they prescribe, exempt any vessel or class of vessels from the numbering provisions of this Act; provided, that any such vessel or class of vessels has been exempted from the numbering requirements by federal statute or regulations.*