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A mooring buoy is a buoy marking the location of a mooring. Usually attached to an anchor by a small pendant and used to assist the boater by marking channels, denoting unsafe areas, directing traffic, controlling speed, protecting resources and other functions.

Once you receive your mooring buoy permit, it will be in effect for the current year only. During that period, you need to renew your permit if one or more of the following occurs:

- When your address or the location of the buoy changes; or
- When your permission from the landowner is revoked.

The Water Patrol takes great care that the buoys are in compliance with the following regulations:

- The permit number must be displayed in 2" numerals on the upper half of the buoy.
- The buoy must be white in color and encircled by a 3" wide blue band.
- The buoy must extend at least 8" above the water line and be no greater than 20" in length.
- The buoy must have at least 15 square inches above the water line and be no greater than 20" in width.
- The buoy area must not exceed 100' from shore, including the swing of the boat moored to it. During low water seasons, the Sheriff's Water Patrol may grant temporary extensions beyond 100' while the low water exists. The mooring is to be moved back within 100' from shore when the water table allows.
- It must not be a navigational hazard or impair other recreational uses.
- Each year on the 15th of December the buoy must be removed so as not to create a hazard for winter recreation or the buoy portion must be put under the surface of the ice.
- If you move your buoy at anytime from its original location, you must inform the Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Unit.
- Water depth at your mooring site should not exceed 1-1/2' more than your watercraft draft.
- Any object used for anchoring your mooring buoy must be clean and non-polluting. All anchoring must be retrievable from the lake. Engine blocks will not be used for anchoring buoys.