

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has announced it will conduct safety inspections at various public boat landings throughout the state this weekend, including in Oconee and Pickens counties.

Boat inspections offered during holiday weekend

Safety checks planned for landings around Oconee and Pickens counties

BY GREG OLIVER
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The Fourth of July holiday weekend is a time where many enjoy barbecue, festivals and recreational activities, including swimming and boat rides.

In an effort to ensure that people have a fun, but safe, holiday, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is conducting courtesy safety inspections at various boat landings. The DNR's boating safety and enforcement officers will perform what its website calls "a quick, but thorough inspection for items such as required safety equipment and proper boat and motor registration."

The DNR says those found not in compliance with safety regulations or registration requirements won't be ticketed during the complimentary inspections, but instead, given an opportunity to correct the problem before launching their boat. Officers from the DNR will also be available to answer questions and give boaters tips on how to stay safe on the water.

Today, DNR officials will be at 10 locations that include Oconee and Pickens counties. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. they will be at South Cove County Park on Lake Keowee as well as at Twelve Mile Park on Lake Hartwell.

The DNR will also conduct boat inspections Sunday at 13 sites and resume July 19 and 26 with additional inspections.

Officials with the DNR are also asking the public to help make this holiday weekend safer by reporting any boating violations they see. To report violations, such as reckless operation or an intoxicated boat operator, please call the DNR's toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-800-922-5431.

A copy of boating regulations in the state, as well as information regarding boating safety courses or to obtain a free float plan form, can be obtained by contacting the DNR Boating Safety Office at 1-800-277-4301.

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