



Town of Fairhaven

Massachusetts

Office of the Harbormaster

40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

FAQ's

Where do I get a mooring application?

You can find them online or you can get them at the Selectmen's Office Mon.-Fri. 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. They must be filled out completely as same as last year is unacceptable. It's important that you verify the coordinates as ice may have moved the mooring.

Where to I turn in my mooring application?

Your application must be turned into the Selectmen's Office Mon.- Fri. 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM completely filled out. Once received and verified if your application is for an existing mooring you will be issued a current year mooring sticker at no cost. If your application is for a new mooring it will be forwarded to the Harbormaster for review and approval or denial. In either case you will be contacted.

If for any reason you can't get to the Selectmen's Office you may mail it in for approval with a self addressed stamped envelope and we will send out the sticker to you.

What is the Waterway User's Fee?

Fairhaven has a Waterway User's Fee imposed on all vessels over 16 ft. in length that stay in Fairhaven waters for more than 14 days in during the year. This applies to both recreational and commercial vessels. Exceptions are Government vessels, vessel in Fairhaven for repairs, and vessels on trailers launched each time they are used. Rates are \$1.00 per foot for residents and \$4.00 per foot for non-residents. This cost is used for the betterment and of the resources Fairhaven offers including Fire and Police protection and the services offered by the department of Natural Resources. In addition some of the revenue is used for waterway resources themselves.

This is a mandatory fee and citations and fines will be issued for non-payment in the amount of 120% of the total Waterway users Fee due. Once the fine is paid the fee will be considered paid.

Can we anchor in Fairhaven overnight?

Fairhaven **does not allow** overnight anchorage for transit boater within Fairhaven waters. The exception is for emergency and with notification of such to the Harbormaster. Boats being allowed to anchor must have someone onboard and have an operating VHF radio on channel 9.

Storm anchorage is allowed only with Harbormaster approval north of the Fairhaven Bridge. This is only applicable when the Coast Guard issues Port Storm Status ratings. Vessels anchoring will be required to notify the Police and or the Harbormaster and provide a contact number. Vessels are required to anchor with appropriate lines for storm conditions.

If a mooring is requested Fairhaven suggest you call the new Bedford Harbor Development Commission as they may have some available. Or vessels may seek accommodations at any of the local marinas and shipyards.

Can we Jet Ski in Fairhaven waters?

Yes you can, if you use care and follow all applicable Commonwealth of Mass Laws. The Comm. Of Mass has specific age restrictions and requirements for PWC's. Fairhaven enforces safe boating rules and regulations aggressively for the protection of all people using our waters.

How do we know if the Hurricane Barrier is going close?

The New Bedford Hurricane Barrier is owned and under the control of the Army Corp. of Engineers. For more information please call them at 978 318-8500.

Does Fairhaven have any moorings for lease or rent?

Fairhaven does not have any moorings under its control to rent or lease.

Where can we launch our boat from?

Fairhaven has 3 public access boat ramps. You can launch nearly any size vessel up to 50 ft. at them. They are located at the following locations: At the foot of Ocean Ave. known as Sea View Ramp, on Middle St. Known as Pease Park and at Hoppy's Landing on West Island. All have parking facilities. Pease Park and Sea View are \$7.00 per day with Hoppy's at \$10.00 per day. Parking is enforced with citations issued for non-payment of fees.

Can anyone Shellfish?

You can Shellfish in authorized Shellfish areas with a license issued by the town. Fairhaven has resident, non-resident, senior, commercial and dredge boat licenses available. Contact the Shellfish Warden for more details.

Where do I get a Shellfish License?

Shellfish Licenses are issued by the Selectmen's Office Mon.-Fri. 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA