

Town of Nantucket
Harbor Regulations
Chapter 231

§ 231-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ANCHORING - To temporarily hold a vessel in place by lowering a weighted object into the water by cable, chain, line or other method, on end of which is attached to the vessel.

NANTUCKET WATERWAYS or WATERWAYS — Includes all of the navigable waters within the boundaries of the Town, which shall include all harbors, rivers, bays or ponds, including waterways which, from time to time, may be temporarily nonnavigable by reason of low tides, drought or seasonal weather and water conditions.

NO ANCHORING AREAS – Those areas in Nantucket waterways or waterways which are designated by the Harbor Master as areas within which anchoring is prohibited.

PERSONS — Includes individuals, corporations, societies, associations, partnerships and trusts.

STRAY VESSEL - A vessel which is abandoned, in a deteriorated or unseaworthy condition, or sunken or likely to sink, or aground, or adrift and likely to damage piers, wharves, floats or other vessels, or, in the opinion of the Harbor Master, constitutes a menace to navigation, or secured to a mooring or pier without proper authorization, or in violation of these regulations, or awash is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be considered a stray vessel.

VESSEL - *Includes* ships and boats of all kinds, barges, sailing vessels, watercraft and powerboats of any type or kind by whatever means propelled, every structure designed, adapted or capable of being navigated, towed or operated on water from place to place for the transportation of merchandise, people, or for any other purpose.

§ 231.2 Harbor Regulations.

A. The Harbor Master shall authorize the anchoring of vessels within Nantucket water or waterways.

B. Vessels will be anchored in areas where the placement of vessels will minimize adverse impact to any resources including but not limited to eel grass beds, productive shellfish habitat areas, or areas susceptible to poor holding ground that would cause, in the opinion of the Harbor Master, property or environmental damage.

C. There will be no anchoring of any vessels (except as provided for in paragraph D) greater than 30 feet in length in the area east of an imaginary line drawn from the tip of First Point to Pimnys Point, unless prior permission is obtained from the Harbormaster.

D. Overnight anchoring will be allowed in the area described in paragraph C. for vessels no greater than 30 feet in length for recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, sailboat race committee vessels, fishing, shell fishing, and picnicking.

E. There shall be no anchoring of vessels in the area known as Hussey Shoal.

F. Any areas that are designated as “no anchoring areas” will be clearly marked as such and maintained by the Nantucket Marine and Coastal Resources Department.

G. All stray vessels shall be delivered to the possession of the Harbor Master until claimed by the owner or disposed of according to law. The Harbor Master may order the owner of any stray vessel to properly moor or remove any such vessel from Nantucket water or waterways and failure to do so shall be a violation. The owner shall pay all expenses incurred in connection therewith including charges for raising, storing and/or disposing of same.

H. Any stray vessel removed by the Harbor Master from Nantucket water or waterways shall be without liability to the Town, its officers, agents or employees.

I. For purposes of this section, notice to the registered owner or title holder, and any person commanding a vessel at the time just prior to it becoming a "stray vessel" shall be presumed to be the proper owner of said vessel.