

Padding Season is Here

The ice and snow are almost gone, and paddling enthusiasts are eager to get outside and enjoy the outdoors once again. Whether you paddle flatwater, whitewater or surf ocean waves, make sure your canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard are labeled with your name and contact information. Paddle craft are often left on racks, shores or docks when not in use and spring storms or floods carry these unattended vessels into waterways. Affixing the "If Found" sticker on board your paddle craft will help emergency responders determine if a true emergency exists if your boat is found.



The image shows an orange rectangular sticker with a black border. In the top left corner is the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection logo. The text on the sticker reads: "Vessel Identification Sticker" in bold, "IF FOUND - CONTACT" in large bold letters, followed by three lines for contact information: "Name: _____", "Phone: _____", and "Phone: _____". Below these lines is the instruction "Use waterproof marker-Place in a visible, weather protected area." and at the bottom, "To report a boating emergency in Connecticut, use VHF Channel 16 or call (860) 424-3333."

The "If Found" sticker for human-propelled (kayaks, canoes, SUPs) and other non-registered boats is designed to help save lives, recover missing property, and reduce the time, effort and resources expended on non-emergency search and rescues.

The waterproof stickers provide space for your name and two phone numbers. It's important to list two phone numbers because if you fall overboard, your cell phone may end up in the water with you and no longer work. It's also important to use waterproof and UV resistant marker on the label. Place the sticker in your canoe or kayak cockpit or on the side of your SUP.

"If Found" stickers are available free of charge by calling CT DEEP Boating Division at deep.boating@ct.gov 860-434-8638.