

PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTIONS 29.20 THROUGH 29.25 OF ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 29 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CODE; SETTING FORTH GENERAL RULES FOR COUNTY BOAT RAMPS, GENERAL USE REGULATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND OTHER ACTIONS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the County Commission finds it to be in the public interest to adopt, consolidate and codify the rules and procedures relating to Waterways and Boat Ramps and associated facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Sections 29.20 through 29.25 of Article II of Chapter 29 of the Putnam County Code are hereby amended to read in their entirety as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto.

Section 2. The provisions hereof shall supersede any provisions covering the same subject previously adopted by the County Commission.

Section 3. A certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners and shall take effect upon receipt of official acknowledgement from the Department of State that this Ordinance has been filed.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of February, 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY: _____
Chairman

ATTEST:

Tim Smith
Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

ARTICLE II: WATERWAYS AND BOAT RAMPS

Sec. 29.20. Purpose.

Boat Ramp or Launch Facilities are not considered appropriate for uses such as picnicking or social games. These facilities are strictly to be used for launching and landing of boats and trailer parking.

Sec. 29.21. Definitions.

As used in this Article II:

Motorboat shall mean any Vessel which is propelled or powered by machinery and which is capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Vessel is synonymous with "boat" as referenced in section 1(b), Article VII, of the Florida Constitution, and includes every description of watercraft, barge, and air boat, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Boat Ramp or Launch shall mean the entire property owned, leased or used by the County in connection with its operation or possession of a ramp or area for the launching or landing of Motorboats in public waters.

Sec. 29.22. Regulation of Hours.

Boat Ramps, Boat Launches, docks, piers and the parking facilities thereof owned, leased or operated by the County (collectively, "Boat Ramp Facilities") shall be closed from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M., except that Boat Ramp Facilities (other than those at Georges Lake) may be used at any time for lawful fishing, shrimping or pleasure boating and the launching/loading of boats in connection therewith. The Boat Ramp Facilities at Georges Lake shall be closed for all purposes from 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The BOCC may on a temporary basis change the times or locations set out herein by Resolution.

Sec. 29.23. Rules and Regulations for Boat Ramps.

- (a) All Vessels are required to comply with established Coast Guard and other applicable safety regulations.
- (b) All persons navigating or operating a Vessel shall comply with all established speed, navigation and other regulations.
- (c) Boat Ramp Facilities must be kept clear of all equipment or gear.

Sec. 29.24. Prohibited Activities.

The following activities are hereby prohibited at Boat Ramp Facilities:

- (a) Overnight parking for purposes other than launching or landing a vessel.
- (b) Camping.
- (c) Consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- (d) Building or maintaining any type of fire.

Swimming or wading at, or within fifty (50) feet of, Boat Ramp Facilities, except in connection with the launching/loading of boats.

- (e) Group recreation activities such as games, picnicking or social activities.
- (f) Use of docking and mooring space for an unreasonable amount of time to the exclusion of others. Docking and mooring space shall be used for loading and unloading only, unless otherwise authorized by the Director.
- (g) Overnight living on boats docked or moored to Boat Ramp Facilities.
- (h) Commercial fishing or the buying or selling of fish caught from Boat Ramp Facilities.
- (i) Any other activity at or around the Boat Ramp Facilities that is detrimental to the health, safety or welfare of the citizens of Putnam County.

Sec. 29.25. Fishing tournaments.

- (a) A group may use a Boat Ramp to hold a fishing tournament if it has received a permit from the Department.
- (b) Tournament organizers must post notice of the tournament and the Boat Ramp sites being used at least one week prior to the tournament in a local newspaper and at the affected Boat Ramps.
- (c) The Department may limit the number of tournaments or the number of boats participating in a tournament.