

Lancaster County Personal Property Boat Tax Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- **What are the Lancaster County Personal Property boat tax rates?**
 - All Boats and Watercraft are taxed at a rate of \$0.0000000000000001 per \$100 of assessed value. (Essentially "no boat tax")
- **How is the "5 tons or more weight" of each boat determined?**
 - The source for weight is the ABOS Marine Blue Book.
 - For boats not found in ABOS, the NADA (found online) and BUC guides will be used.
- **Do boats with a Certificate of Documentation listing a measurement of 5 net tons or more meet the "weighing 5 tons or more" requirement?**
 - The USCG "net tons" measurement relates to a vessel's volume. This is not the same as weight and thus does not apply for the "no tax rate weight" determination. See USCG web page.
 - USCG documented boats must meet the ABOS weight minimum.
- **Why is weight used instead of length to establish boat tax classes?**
 - The Code of Virginia specifies the separate classes for local taxation at 58.1-3506. Weight is the determinate factor.
- **How does the Commissioner of the Revenue determine that the boats weighing 5 tons or more are assessable in Lancaster County?**
 - The Code of Virginia directs that boats weighing 5 tons or more in Virginia waters for 183 days a year are to be assessed in the jurisdiction where the majority of those 183 days are located.
- **How will the "no tax rate" be administered?**
 - The Commissioner of the Revenue will predetermine which boats meet the qualification for the "no tax rate". The owners of these boats will not receive a tax bill.

NOTE: If a boat owner feels the determination is in error, the right of appeal to the Commissioner of the Revenue is the next avenue to pursue.

Questions? Contact:

George E. "Sonny" Thomas Jr., COR
8311 Mary Ball Road, Rm. 203
Lancaster VA 22503
Phone (804) 462-7920 Email gthomas@lancova.com

get 7-27-15