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The 2025 Florida Statutes

[Title XXIV](#)
VESSELS

[Chapter 327](#)
VESSEL SAFETY

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327.4109 Anchoring or mooring prohibited; exceptions; penalties.—

(1)(a) The owner or operator of a vessel or floating structure may not anchor or moor such that the nearest approach of the anchored or moored vessel or floating structure is:

1. Within 150 feet of any public or private marina, boat ramp, boatyard, or other public vessel launching or loading facility;
2. Within 500 feet of a superyacht repair facility. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “superyacht repair facility” means a facility that services or repairs a yacht with a water line of 120 feet or more in length; or
3. Within 300 feet outward from the marked boundary of a public mooring field or a lesser distance if approved by the commission upon request of a local government within which the mooring field is located. The commission may adopt rules to implement this subparagraph.

(b) This subsection does not apply to:

1. A vessel owned or operated by a governmental entity.
2. A construction or dredging vessel on an active job site.
3. A commercial fishing vessel actively engaged in commercial fishing.
4. A vessel actively engaged in recreational fishing if the persons onboard are actively tending hook and line fishing gear or nets.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), an owner or operator of a vessel may anchor or moor within 150 feet of any public or private marina, boat ramp, boatyard, or other public vessel launching or loading facility; within 500 feet of a superyacht repair facility; or within 100 feet outward from the marked boundary of a public mooring field if:

(a) The vessel suffers a mechanical failure that poses an unreasonable risk of harm to the vessel or the persons onboard such vessel. The owner or operator of the vessel may anchor or moor for 5 business days or until the vessel is repaired, whichever occurs first.

(b) Imminent or existing weather conditions in the vicinity of the vessel pose an unreasonable risk of harm to the vessel or the persons onboard such vessel. The owner or operator of the vessel may anchor or moor until weather conditions no longer pose such risk. During a hurricane or tropical storm, weather conditions are deemed to no longer pose an unreasonable risk of harm when the hurricane or tropical storm warning affecting the area has expired.

(3) The owner or operator of a vessel or floating structure may not anchor or moor within the marked boundary of a public mooring field unless the owner or operator has a lawful right to do so by contractual agreement or other business arrangement.

(4) The owner or operator of a vessel or floating structure may not anchor, moor, tie, or otherwise affix or allow the vessel or floating structure to remain anchored, moored, tied, or otherwise affixed to an unpermitted, unauthorized, or otherwise unlawful object that is on or affixed to the bottom of the waters of this state. This subsection does not apply to a private mooring owned by the owner of privately owned submerged lands.

(5) A violation of this section is a noncriminal infraction, punishable as provided in s. [327.73\(1\)\(bb\)](#).

History.—s. 6, ch. 2017-163; s. 2, ch. 2019-54; s. 14, ch. 2021-184; s. 11, ch. 2024-3; s. 3, ch. 2025-39.