



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



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DIRECTOR

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Dear Lake Association(s):

This letter was generated to help raise awareness regarding the growing problem of illegal buoys being placed on the surface of the water. The only objects allowed on the surface of a public body of water without a permit are as follows:

1. A mooring buoy that meets the uniform system of marking and is solely used to anchor a vessel.
2. An anchored raft that is not causing a navigational hazard.

We cannot permit distance buoys or markers because they do not fall under the U.S. Aids to Navigation System. To better understand the U.S. Aids to Navigation System (ATON), lateral and non-lateral markers, please reference:

The Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities Handbook Pgs. 12-15.

- Buoys or beacons placed in the waters of this state without a permit are considered illegally placed.

Please feel free to contact with further questions.

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