

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has implemented enhanced security procedures for small boat arrivals and inspection of associated crew and passengers. These procedures require physical reporting to a designated local CBP office or using OARS (Outlying Area Reporting Station) unless enrolled in an **Alternative Inspection Services Program** that would allow arrival reporting by phone.

Affected individuals are encouraged to participate in any of the Alternative Inspection Service Programs described in this document to expedite reporting of arrival and clearance into the United States.

***Participation in any of the Alternative Inspection Service Programs does not preclude the requirement for a physical inspection upon request by CBP.***

***Enrollment in these programs does not guarantee entry into the United States.***

#### **Who Reports:**

All U.S. Citizens and aliens seeking entry to the United States MUST REPORT their arrival.

#### **When Reporting Is Required:**

Masters must report their arrival to CBP if they have engaged in any of the below activities:

- After having been at any foreign port or place;
- After having had contact with any hovering vessel;
- After having conducted any activity in foreign waters other than for simple navigation to points in the U.S.

#### **Reporting procedures:**

The master or designee may go ashore only to report the arrival to CBP either in person, via OARS, or if participating in the I-68 program, by phone. No other person may leave or board the boat and no baggage or merchandise may be removed or loaded until the report of arrival is made and release granted by a CBP officer.

***Each crewmember and passenger must also be in possession of an I-68 to qualify for phone-in reporting. Travelers already in possession of a NEXUS or SENTRI card may use them in lieu of the I-68 or OARS programs for telephonic reporting.***

#### **Where to Report:**

Masters, crew and passengers participating in the I-68 program may utilize the following number for phone-in arrivals:

**1-888-523-BOAT(2628)**

Physical in-person reporting may be done at the Ports of Entry at Erie, PA, Cleveland, OH, Ashtabula, OH, Toledo, Oh or the Sandusky, OH Station during normal duty hours. The boat must be made available for inspection and boarding by CBP officers.

Reporting may also be accomplished using the **CBP Outlying Area Reporting Station (OARS) system.**

Travelers choosing not to participate in the I-68 program or who do not physically report may utilize the OARS system. OARS sites are located at 12 locations along the south shore of Lake Erie:

<b>Put-in-Bay</b>	<b>Bass Island, OH</b>
<b>Cedar Point Marina</b>	<b>Cedar Point, OH</b>
<b>Brand's Marina</b>	<b>Port Clinton, OH</b>
<b>East 55<sup>th</sup> Street</b>	<b>Cleveland, OH</b>
<b>Lagoons Marina</b>	<b>Mentor, OH</b>
<b>Chagrin Yacht Club</b>	<b>Eastlake, OH</b>
<b>Grand River Marina</b>	<b>Fairport, OH</b>
<b>Ashtabula Public Dock</b>	<b>Ashtabula, OH</b>
<b>Presque Isle</b>	<b>Erie, PA</b>
<b>Dobbins Landing</b>	<b>Erie, PA</b>
<b>Perry's Landing</b>	<b>Erie, PA</b>
<b>Lampe Marina</b>	<b>Erie, PA</b>

***Telephone reporting may be made 24 hours a day 7 days/week. A CBP officer will provide further instructions regarding reporting and entry processing.***

#### **Failure to Report:**

Failure to report can result in civil penalties as defined in Title 19, United States Code, Section 1436 to include a penalty of \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation with the conveyance subject to seizure and forfeiture. In addition to being liable for a civil penalty, any master who intentionally commits a violation under subsection (a) of the above stated section upon conviction, is liable for a fine of not

more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for 1 year or both.

#### **Fees:**

All documented or registered vessels 30 feet in length or greater are required to pay an annual processing (user fee) of \$25.00 in U.S. dollars if crossing the international border.

Payment is required for the vessel at or before the time of the first arrival of each calendar year. If you report your arrival in person or by telephone and a fee is applicable, you may charge the fee to your American Express, Discover, Visa or Master Card. A non-transferable decal will be issued upon payment and mailed to your address of record. CBP will not grant a clearance if outstanding fees are due.

Decals may also be purchased via the Internet at:

<https://tradelinks4.mellon.com/cbp/Dispatcher>.

If you purchased your decal through the Mellon Bank, Pittsburg, PA, the CBP user fee administrator will handle your annual decal mailings/reminders at the Mellon Bank. Please carry a copy of the decal application for verification if you have submitted payment to Mellon Bank and have not received your decal.

#### **ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION SYSTEMS PROGRAMS:**

##### **I-68 Program:**

Under the I-68 program, applicants for admission into the United States by small pleasure boats are pre-registered and issued a single boating permit for the entire boating season. The I-68 permit allows boaters to report their arrival to CBP for further inspection by placing a phone call. *I-68 holders are still subject for a physical inspection upon request by CBP.*

- To enroll in the program, each applicant must appear in person for an interview and a law enforcement background check. Proof of citizenship is required at interview.

- Fees are \$16 U.S. dollars for an individual or a total of \$32 U.S. dollars for a family. The names and dates of birth of children less than 14 years of age may be listed on one or both parents' I-68, however it is recommended that each child have a separate I-68 form.
- An I-68 is issued for 12 months and must be renewed in person at a CBP office.
- CBP reserves the right to deny any applicant for an I-68 for just cause.

**Eligibility:**

U.S. Citizens (USCs) or lawful permanent residents, Canadian Citizens, or landed immigrants of Canada who are nationals of Visa Waiver Program countries are eligible to apply for seasonal boating permits. When the I-68 is used by a person who is not a USC or lawful permanent resident of the United States, admission shall be for no more than 72 hours and only if they will remain in nearby shopping areas, nearby residential neighborhoods; or other similar areas, adjacent to the immediate shore areas of the United States.

Applications for I-68 permits must be made in person at the following ports of entry between 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Appointments must be made in advance.

Erie, PA PH# 814-833-1355  
 Cleveland, OH PH# 216-267-3600  
 Sandusky, OH PH# 419-625-0022  
 Toledo, OH PH# 419-259-6424

**OARS**

The OARS program utilizes videophone technology that allows both audio and video communication with a CBP officer at a port of entry. OARS is used to facilitate the reporting of travelers who arrive to the U.S. at very remote locations away from any CBP inspectional facilities. Use of the system is free to the traveler and requires no pre-enrollment. OARS employs the same eligibility requirements as the I-68 program.

**NEXUS:**

The NEXUS alternative inspection program allows pre-screened, low-risk travelers to be processed with little or no delay by U.S. and Canadian border officials. Approved applicants are issued a photo-identification/proximity card, which is valid for 5 years. Participants cross the border in a dedicated lane where they present their membership identification and proximity card for expedited processing unless selected for a more intensive examination. Small boat operators in possession of a NEXUS member card may report their arrival via phone.

- To enroll in the program, each applicant must fill out an application and mail it to Canada Customs.
- Include a check for \$50.00 (US Currency) per person for individuals 18 years of age and over
- Appear in person for interview, and various law enforcement checks.

**SENTRI:**

The SENTRI program is a Southern Border facilitated traveler program. SENTRI participants need not apply for a NEXUS card to qualify for the small boat phone-in program.

*Currently, there are no NEXUS application processing in Ohio or Pennsylvania. However, travelers already in possession of a NEXUS or SENTRI card may use the card in lieu of the I-68 or OARS programs for telephonic reporting. These programs will allow the holder to report their arrival from any location on Lake Erie to 1-888-523-BOAT(2628), all others must go to an OARS location or a reporting station.*

**REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES:**

Please report any suspicious activities observed by calling **1-800-505-8381**.

**HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE BOATING SEASON!**

**U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**

**NOTICE TO PLEASURE BOAT OPERATORS**



**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PRIVATE BOAT OPERATORS ON LAKE ERIE**