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Maine Revised Statutes  
Title 36: TAXATION  
Part 2: PROPERTY TAXES  
Chapter 112: WATERCRAFT EXCISE TAX  
§1504. Excise tax

**1. Payment schedule.** An excise tax is payable annually by the owner of each watercraft located in this State, except those exempt under subsection 4, within 10 days of operation upon the waters of this State, or prior to obtaining a certificate of number pursuant to Title 12, section 13056, or prior to July 1st, whichever event first occurs, based on the following schedules. For 1984, watercraft subject to the watercraft excise tax that are not required to register under Title 12, former chapter 715, are not required to pay the excise tax until June 30, 1984.

**2. Reduction in tax.** The amount of excise tax payable shall be reduced as follows.

- A. For any commercial vessel, the tax payable shall be 50% of the value due under subsection 1. [1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §9 (NEW).]
- B. For all other watercraft, the tax payable shall be reduced 20% when the watercraft is over 10 years of age and shall be reduced 40% when the watercraft is over 20 years of age.

**3. Payment of tax.** The excise tax shall be paid as follows.

- A. If the watercraft is owned by an individual resident of this State, the excise tax shall be paid to the municipality where the owner resides. The excise tax for watercraft owned by residents of Indian reservations shall be paid to the tribal clerks. [1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §9 (NEW).]
- B. If the watercraft is owned by an individual who is a nonresident of this State or by a partnership or corporation, domestic or foreign, the excise tax shall be paid to the municipality where the watercraft is principally moored, docked or located or has its established base of operations.

- 4. Exemptions.** The following shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this section:
- A. Lifeboats or life rafts customarily carried or required to be carried by a watercraft for purposes of rescuing the occupants of the watercraft in case of danger; [1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §9 (NEW).]
  - B. Watercraft held by registered retailers as demonstrators or stock-in-trade; [1983, c. 862, §84 (AMD).]
  - C. Watercraft which were exempt from taxation under Title 36, chapter 105 on April 1, 1983; [1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §9 (NEW).]
  - D. Commercial vessels without an established base of operations in this State and all other watercraft which are not within this State more than 75 days during the year; and [1983, c. 92, Pt. B, §9 (NEW).]
  - E. Watercraft 20 feet or less in length that are not required to be registered under Title 12, section 13056.