

## State Registration or Documentation?

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### Links to applicable regulations

[46 CFR 67.7](#)

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### Important information

Vessels greater than 5 net tons are required to be registered with the Coast Guard Documentation Center and not registered and issued state numbers.

It is important to note that tonnage is a measurement of a vessels volume. Vessels that are greater than 30 feet or so may measure out to be greater than 5 net tons.

You can use this simplified tonnage calculation to get an idea of your vessels tonnage by going this [interactive form](#). (You do not have to send in this form; just fill in questions 3 thru 6 on the form). The tonnage calculation for your vessel will be displayed in the **upper right hand corner of the form** once the four questions have been entered.

If the Net Tonnage (NRT) is **less than 5** your vessel can be registered with the state.

Vessels **5 or more net tons** must be documented with the Coast Guard Document Center

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**OPTIONAL TONNAGE MEASUREMENT:** A vessel that measures greater than 5 net tons using the simplified tonnage method can opt to have its tonnage calculated using the regulatory tonnage convention rules by an organization such as the American Bureau of Shipping or other Classification Societies and must be issued a Tonnage Certificate.

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**FOREIGN BUILT** vessels cannot be documented for commercial fishing in the United States. Foreign built vessels can be state registered but only if the

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vessel measures less than 5 net tons. Coast Guard Boarding Officers and Coast Guard Dockside Examiners will check any vessel that is state registered and 30 feet or more in length to ensure it measures under 5 net tons.

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National Documentation Center: 1-800-799-8362

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