

**TITLE 47 – MARITIME  
CHAPTER 9 - DOMESTIC WATER CRAFTS**



Republic of the Marshall Islands  
*Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan*

**DOMESTIC WATER CRAFTS ACT 1992**

**Arrangement of Sections**

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**DOMESTIC WATER CRAFTS ACT 1992**

**AN ACT** to provide for a comprehensive modernization of the maritime laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. [This Chapter 9 contains Parts I and II of the old Title 34 MIRC 6 as amended by the Domestic Watercraft (Amendment) Act, P.L 2000-7, governing the regulation, registration, inspection, and licensing of domestic commercial and pleasure watercrafts operating within the waters of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.]

<i>Commencement:</i>	<i>September 30, 1992</i>
<i>Source:</i>	<i>P.L. 1992-26</i>
<i>Amended By:</i>	<i>P.L. 2000-7      P.L. 2001-27</i>

**PART I - PURPOSE AND APPLICATION**

**§901. Short Title.**

This Chapter may be cited as the Domestic Water Crafts Act, 1992. [P.L. 1992-26, §1]

**§902. Purpose.**

The Nitijela believes that it is in the best interest of the Republic to encourage and promote the safe operation of commercial and pleasure watercraft operated within the Republic; to preserve and protect the marine environment of the Republic affected by the operation of commercial and pleasure watercraft within its waters; and to regulate the orderly growth and development of a uniform national program of maritime safety, inspection and documentation of vessels operated within the territorial waters and exclusive economic zone of the Republic. [P.L. 2001-27, §901. New domestic watercraft chapter.]

**§903. Application; definition.**

- (1) This Chapter shall apply to any vessel operating exclusively within the waters of the Republic which is not duly and properly documented or registered elsewhere.
- (2) The general provisions of Chapter 2, Parts I and II, and Chapter 3 of this Title may be applied, as deemed appropriate, to registrations under this Chapter.
- (3) Vessels registered pursuant to this Chapter shall be known as Domestic Watercraft.
- (4) For purposes of this Chapter, the term:
  - (i) **“Minister”** means the Minister to whom the subject of Transportation and Communications has been assigned by the President, unless otherwise expressly stated;
  - (ii) **“Maritime Administrator”** means the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator appointed by Cabinet under Chapter 1 of the Title; and
  - (iii) **“Waters of the Republic”** shall mean the Internal Waters, Territorial Waters, and Exclusive Economic Zone as defined in the *Marine Zones (Declaration) Act 1984*. [P.L. 2001-27, §902.]

**§904. Restrictions.**

- (1) Registration under this Chapter is valid only within the waters of the Republic. Anytime a vessel intends to leave the waters of the Republic, it must surrender all registration documents issued under this Chapter, and if applicable, re-register under the appropriate provisions of Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of this Title.
- (2) All registration documents issued shall clearly state that they are valid only within the waters of the Republic.
- (3) The Minister may, when necessary, issue a written waiver of the restrictions imposed by this Section. [P.L. 2001-27, §903.]

**§905. Administration; regulations.**

- (1) The Minister shall carry out the provisions of this Chapter and those of any other applicable Chapter of this Title if the provisions therein relate specifically to Domestic Watercraft.