**MP Water Tourism Permission Procedure – 2025**

**Preamble**

With the enactment of Inland Vessel Act 2021(IV Act) by Inland Waterway Authority of India under Ministry of Port, Shipping and Waterways, a set of rules have been framed for uniform application on all inland vessels across the nation.

Sec.5 of IV Act mandates the states to frame their own rules in conformity to IV Act rules for regulating the operation of all inland vessels in the state and that the existing regulatory authorities may continue to be the designated authority for exercising their duties within their respective jurisdiction, and whereas MP Tourism Board has been authorised to grant permission for establishing water tourism activities in the State’s water bodies notified for tourism purpose, the following procedure for granting water-tourism permission is hereby notified as approved by the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) under Chairmanship of Chief Secretary as per Section 13 of MP Tourism Policy 2025.

1. **Application and Scope: -** These procedural regulations shall apply to all inland vessels which are plying in the notified water bodies of the state where boat clubs are operated or permitted by Tourism Department and are engaged in conducting water tourism activities within the purview of Tourism Projects of *Water Sports*, *Cruise Tourism*, *Houseboat*, *Seaplane*, and *Amphibian Tourist Vehicle* as defined *under* MP Tourism Policy 2025.
2. **Definitions**
   1. **Inland Waters** refer to any canal, river, lake, or other navigable water within the territorial jurisdiction of the State.
   2. **Notified Water Bodies** are inland water bodies that have been approved and notified for the purpose of water tourism by the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC).
   3. **Boat Club** is a jetty terminal complex established on the shore of a water body providing Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC) with public amenities. Shoreside Facilities include slipways, bollards for docking/mooring cruise boats, houseboats, and other tourism vessels, along with floating jetties for safe embarkation and disembarkation of passenger-tourists.
   4. **Carrying Capacity** signifies the maximum allowable water-tourism activities that can be conducted safely and without overcrowding in a tourist-friendly manner from a given boat club.
   5. **Vessel** includes every type of watercraft used or capable of being used in inland waters. This includes ships, boats, sailing vessels, tugs, barges, amphibian vehicles, seaplanes, ferries, roll-on/roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessels, and floating pontoons used for transport, storage, or accommodation.
   6. **Decked Vessel** is defined as a vessel that has a continuous watertight weather deck with positive freeboard in all loading conditions.
   7. **Open Vessel** refers to a vessel that is not a decked vessel and must have a positive clear height at the side.
   8. **Inland Vessel** includes any motorized (mechanically propelled) or non-motorized (non-mechanically propelled) vessel registered and operating in inland waters.
   9. **Cruise Boat** is a decked inland passenger vessel used for cruise tourism, carrying more than 12 tourists and offering experiences such as onboard stay, food, entertainment, and cultural programs.
   10. **Houseboat** is a decked inland accommodation vessel used for tourism, which may be anchored or slowly cruising, offering onboard dwelling, food, entertainment, cultural programs, and shopping experiences.
   11. **Motorized Boat** is a non-decked open inland vessel propelled mechanically, used for water tourism activities like para-sailing, skate-boarding, jet-skiing, water-scooter, speed boating, and inflatable tow rides (banana, bumper, etc.).
   12. **Non-Motorized Boat** is a vessel propelled non-mechanically, used for water tourism activities such as angling, rafting, paddle boating, sailing, rowing, canoeing, or kayaking.
   13. **Recognized Certifying Agency** refers to an agency recognized/ approved by the State, including maritime boards such as Gujrat Maritime Board (GMB), Maharashtra Maritime Board, Kerala Maritime Board (KMB), etc., IWT directorates such as Assam IWT Directorate, West Bengal IWT Directorate, etc. or members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) such as the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), Bureau Veritas, DNV, etc.
   14. **Letter of Acceptance (LoA)** is the formal acceptance issued by MP Tourism Board in response to a private investor’s proposal for conducting water tourism activities.
   15. **Permission to Operate (PoA)** is the formal permission approved by MP Tourism Board in connection with operation of water tourism activities.
   16. **Water Tourism Operator** refers to the private investor who has applied for and obtained permission to operate water tourism activities.
3. **Standard Operating Procedure for Granting Permission to operate water-tourism activities.**
   1. **Application for intention to invest in water-body: -** Private investors may apply online via the MP Tourism Board website or offline by submitting the project proposal/DPR in the prescribed format at the Board office.
   2. **Evaluation of Proposal:-** Within 30 days of receiving the application, the Board shall examine the proposal to assess feasibility of proposed water-tourism activities based on available navigable channel, need for hydrographic survey, nature of bottom for anchoring, presence of crocodiles, and other marine bio-diversity species, requirement of EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) study, availability of waterfront land for boat-club & road-connectivity.
   3. **Issuance of LoA(Letter of Acceptance):** If proposal is found feasible, the Board shall upon payment of a prescribed application fee as per proposed activity, issue a **Letter of Acceptance (LoA)** specifying a time-line for completion of the project as tabulated below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S. No.** | **Type of Activity** | **Application Fee** | **Project Timeline** |
| 1 | Cruise Boat / Houseboat | ₹5,000 + GST | 3 years |
| 2 | Motorized Boat | ₹2,500 + GST | 1 year |
| 3 | Non-Motorized Boat | ₹2,000 + GST | 6 months |

1. **Survey of vessel:** Upon launching of vessel in the water-body, a survey of the vessel shall be carried out by a certifying agency authorized by MP Tourism Board to certify the sea-worthiness of the vessel.
2. **Permission to Operate (PoA):** The applicant shall deposit a prescribed fees to MPTB account either online or through a Demand Draft so that a permission to operate the proposed water-tourism activities can be provided as tabulated below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S. No. | Type of Activity | Permission Fee | Duration | Extension |
| 1 | Cruise Boat / Houseboat | ₹5,00,000 + GST | 10 years | Extendable by 10 years or as recommended by certifying agency depending upon life of the vessel. |
| 2 | Motorized Boat | ₹1,00,000 + GST | 10 years | Extendable as recommended by certifying agency depending upon life of the vessel. |
| 3 | Non-Motorized Boat | ₹50,000 + GST | 1. years | Extendable as recommended by certifying agency depending upon life of the vessel. |

***Note: - The permission granted to the Water Tourism Activity operator shall be contingent to having all mandatory compliances in place as stipulated in Section 6. The permission will automatically become null & void if the statutory certificates of the vessel are not kept valid***

1. **Mandatory Compliances:** The vessel operator shall be required to be in possession of valid mandatory documents relating to proof of ownership like Builder’s Certificate / management agreement, relevant approved vessel plans, public liability insurance certificate, certificate of survey, registration & crew training certificates. Arrangements for Sewage-Garbage treatment & disposal, Pollution Prevention, Safety, Security, Fire-fighting, Disaster-management, dam-safety, berthing, docking, safe embarkation, rescue and salvage shall be ensured as applicable.
2. **State Inland Waterway Authority:** The State Government is in the process of framing the **State Inland Vessel Rules** in accordance with the **Inland Vessels Act, 2021**. Once notified, these rules shall be applicable for registration, survey and regulation of inland vessel operations within the State.