

Portland Riverside Marina

New to boating on the Connecticut River? Here is some information that you might find helpful

The Connecticut river is navigable from Old Saybrook (where it empties into Long Island Sound) to Hartford. Portland Riverside is 33 miles north of Old Saybrook and 20 miles south of Hartford.



There are no dams on this portion of the river and the channel is clearly marked. The depths normally exceed 15 feet and in many places in mid-channel are 25 feet or more. The tidal current can exceed 3 knots at some narrow spots and perhaps more after a big rainstorm. At cruising speed, it is wise to stay within the channel markers.



The summer speed limit on the river is 30 mph during the day and obviously much slower - and safer - at night.

There are numerous places in the river to stop and beach your boat and you can tube just about anywhere provided you keep a good look out. As you'd expect, the boat and jet-ski traffic on the river increases on weekends. There are coves and small rivers from Haddam south that are ideal for anchoring.

Fuel is available in Old Saybrook, Essex, Chester, Haddam and here in Portland. Going north from Portland, there is fuel in South Glastonbury, which is about half way to Hartford.

There is excellent cellphone coverage along the entire river from Hartford to Old Saybrook. Most of the marinas along the river can also be contacted by VHF marine radio. Towing assistance is available through SeaTow in Old Saybrook.

