



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

WINTER 2009

925 L Street • Suite 220
Sacramento CA 95814

www.rbooc.org

BOATER BRIEF

Current Key Issues

► Preservation of the Independent Cal Boating

RBOC is working to prevent the adoption of Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to eliminate the independent Cal Boating and to merge its functions into Department of State Parks and Recreation.

The Governor's proposal to eliminate the independent Cal Boating could still be pursued as a *formal reorganization proposal*. This would trigger a three-month period for the Little Hoover Commission and the Legislature to review the proposal. Cal Boating would be gone unless the Legislature rejects the proposal within that time period.

RBOC asks boaters to immediately contact the Governor and their legislators to oppose the proposed elimination of Cal Boating. For the latest developments – and how you can help with emails and letters – visit www.rbooc.org.

► Boater-generated Fees and Taxes

RBOC is advocating the protection of boater-generated fees and taxes for programs and services benefitting boaters, and is lobbying to prevent the erosion of programs and services financed by these funds.

The recently-enacted state budget deal loans \$29 million in boater funds to assist with the state budget. The budget for Cal Boating is reduced for the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

► Alternative Fuel Initiative and Boating Impact

RBOC awaits the results of the recent state workshop and a pending alternative fuels report to determine the impact on boating. These efforts follow the passage of AB 118 [Nunez] of 2007. Boat registration fees partially support this program.

► Anti-fouling Paint Alternatives

RBOC seek decisions on alternatives to copper-based anti-fouling paint that are based upon good science and that are affordable and effective for California boaters.

► Aquatic Invasive Species

RBOC is monitoring emerging new boat inspection requirements at some lakes and waterways that are designed to stop the spread of quagga / zebra mussels. RBOC is also monitoring the newly-formed California Invasive Species Council that will be providing policy level direction and planning for the mitigation of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the state and for the prevention of other introductions.

► Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

RBOC will be supporting AB 166 [Lieu]. The bill would create a state boat surrender program to help rid our waterways of abandoned vessels and hazards to navigation.

► Boating Access

RBOC continues to review and monitor proposals state-wide that might limit boating access.

RBOC has...

1. Successfully supported 2008 legislation so that the USEPA was not required to adopt regulations requiring all recreational boaters to obtain a permit to operate their boats. ***Otherwise, boaters as of September 2008 would be paying hundreds of dollars for a permit.***

2. Defeated several proposals from 1982 through 2005 to increase state boat registration fees. ***Otherwise, boat registration fees would be more than \$100 a year, rather than the current \$15 every two years.***

What is RBOC?

RBOC—Recreational Boaters of California—is celebrating its 40th Anniversary as a statewide government advocacy organization which since 1968 has continued its commitment to promoting the enjoyment, protection and responsible use of our waterways.

It is led by 19 volunteer boating officers and directors from all over the state. These directors, along with Jerry Desmond Jr., professional lobbyist in the Capitol, work to promote recreational boaters' interests, protect boaters from restrictive or adverse laws, and enhance boating opportunities.

RBOC reviews all proposed regulations and proposed legislation that affect boaters and tries to keep the government from taking boaters' tax dollars for non-boating reasons.

Go to website: rbooc.org for the latest info on these boating issues.