



BOATER TOWN HALL

JUNE 28, 2023

WELCOME



TONIGHT'S PRESENTERS:

- Debrenia Madison Smith – RBOC President, Treasure Island
- Anne Sacks, RBOC Past President, San Diego
- Themis Glatman, RBOC Director, Santa Monica
- Winston Bumpus, RBOC Past President, Redwood City
- Morris Lum, RBOC Director, Sacramento
- David Kennedy, BoatUS Government Affairs
- Jerry Desmond, RBOC Advocate

TONIGHT'S KEY ISSUES:

- Boat Registration Fee Increase
- Speed Limits, Abandoned Vessels, Delta Conveyance, Offshore Wind Energy & More

TONIGHT'S FORMAT:

- 45-minute presentation
- 15-minute Q&A
- Post questions using Q&A feature
- Recording will be posted at rboc.org



WHO WE ARE



RECREATIONAL BOATERS OF CALIFORNIA [RBOC]

- Has been protecting your boating interests since 1968.
- A nonprofit advocacy organization that works to protect the interests of the state's recreational boaters before state and local government.
- Engages in advocacy efforts on legislation and regulations,
- Supporting proposals that would enhance recreational boating.
- Opposing proposals that would have a detrimental impact on the state's 3 million boating enthusiasts.

BoatU.S. – OUR NATIONAL ADVOCACY PARTNER

- Is the nation's largest recreational boating advocacy, services, and safety group making boating better for America's recreational boaters.
- Provides a range of benefits and services, representation for boaters' rights, and offers many savings opportunities to more than 700,000 Members.
- Works with its nonprofit BoatUS Foundation to educate new boaters, keep boaters safe and our waters clean through our Boating Safety and Education programs.



WHAT WE'VE DONE



BOATING ACCESS

- Oppose proposals that would restrict recreational boating and fishing on California's coast, the Delta, its lakes and waterways
- Mitigate legislative and environmental restrictions.

BOATER EDUCATION

- Advocates for operator safety education and testing, with lifetime certification rather than licensing.

COPPER ANTI-FOULING PAINT

- Preserve and enhance water quality with the application of sound science.
- Participates proactively on local, state and national committees as part of our direct involvement in proposed legislation and regulations.

DEPARTMENT OF BOATING & WATERWAYS [DBW] - A DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

- Ensure boaters' fuel tax dollars and registration fees are dedicated to programs and services that benefit boaters including:
 - Boating safety and education programs
 - Infrastructure financing programs
 - Law enforcement financing programs
- Maintains the intrinsic value of the DBW Commission.



WHAT WE'VE DONE



THE ENVIRONMENT

- Involved in all legislative attempts to restrict recreational boating.
- Lobbying to ensure the application of sound science.
- Advocating for clean, healthy waterways.

INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

- Identifying cooperative approaches to prevent and eradicate invasive species infestations.

MARINAS & PERMITS

- Mitigating restrictive measures
- Supporting boater access improvements and DBW infrastructure financing.

WHAT WE'VE DONE



SAFETY

- Supporting boater safety, education.
- Supporting development of life-saving standards.

FOLLOWING THE MONEY \$\$\$

- Opposing unreasonable attempts to increase fees and taxes on boating and boaters.
- Insuring increases are justified and necessary.
- Preserved boat registration fees at reasonable levels
- Insuring boater fuel taxes are being used for services, programs and facilities of direct benefit to boaters

ABANDONED VESSELS

- Proposing legislation that established a Stakeholder Taskforce to clear waterways of abandoned vessels.
- Supporting continued efforts to provide incentives for the Boat-Turn in program.



WHAT WE'RE DOING



2023 LEGISLATION & REGULATIONS:

- **Vessel Speed Limits** – advocating for off-shore voluntary speed limits do not apply to recreational boats [AB 953 Connolly]
- **Abandoned Vessels** – advocating to prevent efforts to rid waterways of abandoned commercial vessels do not impact program and funding for abandoned recreational vessels [AB 748 Villapudua]
- **Delta Conveyance** – opposing current proposal with negative impacts on recreational vessel navigation [SB 867 Eggman]
- **Offshore Wind Energy** – advocating for boating impacts to be avoided or mitigated
- **Registration Fees to CARB** – opposing legislation to continue transfer of a portion of boat registration fees to CARB [AB 281 Reyes and SB 84 Gonzalez]

WHAT WE'RE DOING



BOAT REGISTRATION FEES

- Governor Newsom Proposals
 - January 2021: Increase from \$20 to \$70 every two years
- Stakeholder Process – DBW, Commissioners, Staff, Stakeholders
- Opportunity for all interested parties and the state to review:
 - The expenditure of more than \$107 million each year in fuel tax dollars attributable to boats.
 - The most effective and efficient use of those funds.
 - Approaches for increasing the small percentage of those monies currently directed to boating programs.
 - Approaches to enhance the financial participation of non-boaters who benefit from the current and future programs.

WHAT WE'RE DOING



The recommendations developed through this stakeholder process:

1. Develop a report on the economic impact of recreational boating in California.
2. Enhance participation and financial contribution of stakeholders and beneficiaries who benefit from programs and services.
3. Increase the statutory authority for the Commission to provide consent on the Division's loans and grants from the HWRF.
4. Identify approaches for abandoned and derelict vessels that are not addressed by the existing SAVE grant program.
5. Enhance the Division's administration of essential programs.
6. Identify programmatic improvements to programs that may be out-of-date.
7. Return a significant amount of the motor vehicle fuel taxes attributable to recreational boaters to the HWRF.
8. Identify other funds for grants for beach erosion control.
9. Adjust the vessel registration fee in an amount that is reasonable and that corresponds to the revenues and savings that are recommended.

WHAT WE'RE DOING



GOVERNOR'S MAY 2023 BUDGET REVISE

- Proposes a registration fee increase from \$20 to \$80 every two years.
- Does not implement key recommendations of the stakeholder process including:
 - Does not increase efficiency by actions such as transferring boat registration functions from DMV to DBW.
 - Does not address the DMV cost of administering and collecting the fees,
 - Does not address the re-direction of significant vessel registration fees to CARB
- The cumulative impact of the May Revise is that 750,000 boaters throughout California are being made to pay more for less.

STATUS

- Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees have rejected the fee increase
- Legislature has passed main budget bill to the Governor [SB 101 Skinner]
- Budget agreement has been announced
- Budget trailer bill on registration fees has not yet surfaced
- Fiscal Year begins July 1



WHAT YOU CAN DO



CALL TO ACTION! CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

- Go to BoatUS website: [click here](#)
- Send your message. Key points:
 1. RBOC, BoatU.S. and other recreational boating stakeholders have been engaged in a two-year process to review the state's boating programs.
 2. Understanding that boat registration fees have not increased in several years, we anticipated there would be a modest increase.
 3. We also expected the state to recognize the significant contribution boaters already make through taxes such as the \$107 million in annual motor fuel taxes.
 4. It is our expectation that the fees and taxes paid by boaters go to boating programs. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the current proposal.
 5. Please stand firm in rejecting this proposal and engage with boating stakeholders to develop realistic fees that are dedicated to boating programs.



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



- **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD** – by contacting your elected representatives on this registration fee increase: [click here](#)
- **STAY INFORMED** – sign up for our emails: <https://www.rbooc.org/email-sign-up>
- **CONTRIBUTE TO RBOC*** – and become a Friend of RBOC: <https://www.rbooc.org/friendssignup>
- **BECOME A BOATUS MEMBER** - <https://www.boatus.com/boat-membership/join?promoCode=HEWEBPT2>

*Due to RBOC's extensive lobbying activities, contributions are not tax deductible.



Q&A



Questions & Answers





THANK YOU

JUNE 28, 2023