



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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BOATER BRIEF

INVASIVE SPECIES

Recently, two bills were signed into law that involved actions being taken to prevent the spread of invasive species in California's waters. RBOC in its efforts to make certain the interests of California boaters are heard and protected has taken positions on these matters.

Two major programs have been signed into law. A synopsis of each follows:

▶ AB 1540 [Buchanan]. This legislation was supported by RBOC. It designates the Department of Boating and Waterways as the State's lead agency to develop and implement plans to control the South American Spongeplant [*Limnobia laevigatum*] in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These plans will be developed working in cooperation with other involved State agencies.

▶ AB 2443 [Williams]. This legislation levies a fee on all state vessel registrations, except those vessels used exclusively in marine waters. Funds generated from this fee will be used to fund a grant program to implement and administer Quagga and Zebra (Dreissend) mussel infestation, prevention and inspection programs.

RBOC has been actively involved in this issue and has urged that several concerns be addressed. RBOC appreciates the revisions made to the bill, including those that ensure a critical role in the process for the Department of Boating and Waterways (Cal Boating) in the administration and expenditure of boater funds generated by boater fees.

Further, the bill stipulates that a recreational boater will be appointed as a permanent member of the technical advisory committee. This committee is responsible for assisting Cal Boating in implementing this legislation. RBOC is currently working on the appointment of this individual and will be actively involved as the provisions of the bill are implemented.

RBOC will focus on: (A) keeping the new registration fees to a minimum and (B) the

establishment of policies and procedures that fairly determine which vessels meet the definition of being used in marine waters. Watch for future Boater Briefs which will report on actions being taken in this area.

STATE PARKS AUDIT

The Joint Legislative Committee's (JLAC) audit of the Department of Parks & Recreation (State Parks) is underway. This action follows numerous reports that State Parks took advantage of a costly vacation buy-out, and that the Department had \$54 million in surplus money for more than a decade.

RBOC's President Cleve Hardaker has stated "The allegations of financial mismanagement at State Parks are of great concern. California's boaters provide significant funding to State Parks through both entrance fees as well as fuel tax dollars totaling close to \$30 million each year. It is essential that boaters have confidence that the funds we pay the state are used wisely and effectively." President Hardaker also said "We will remain engaged and vigilant on these fiscal issues over the next twelve months and additional action, including legislation, may be necessary."

RBOC is carefully monitoring this audit and will keep boaters informed in future Boater Briefs.

BOATING & WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Governor Brown signed into law AB 737 [Buchanan] modifying his reorganization proposal [GAP #2]. This action resurrects the Boating and Waterways Commission with revised activities and adds a recreational boater to the State Parks and Recreation Committee. This action restores representation for all California Boaters.

ETHANOL (E-10 & E-15)

All boaters, or at least the ones reading RBOC's Boater Briefs, should be aware that gasoline purchased at filling station pumps contains ethanol (E-10). Further, boaters should also know the Government has approved the use of gasoline containing higher levels of ethanol, i.e. E-15, in selected automobiles made after 2001. Finally, boaters

should know that fuels containing ethanol are corrosive and will cause damage to small gasoline engines (dinghy motors, personal watercraft, lawnmowers, ATV's, etc.) and fiberglass gas tanks.

For an outstanding report on ethanol fuels go online to the West Marine Advisor's report entitled "Busting Ethanol Fuel Myths." This is an excellent write-up and covers many of the issues inherent in fuels containing ethanol.

Bottom line ----boaters should never use fuels containing E-15 in their gasoline engines (inboards, outboards, sterndrives, dinghies, jet skis). Those folks using E-10 should become thoroughly familiar with the recommended procedures for winterizing gasoline engines. Additionally, RBOC recommends that boaters using gasoline containing E-10 thoroughly inspect their engines on a regular basis.

RBOC is fortunate to have a Director with an outstanding knowledge of marine maintenance practices. This gentleman suggests boaters may wish to consider installing a shut-off valve on fuel lines that cannot be removed. This action allows the boater to shut off the fuel supply and run the engine out of gas before it is stored. This action potentially saves expensive carburetor repairs at a future date.

Support RBOC

RBOC represents all California boaters and operates solely on donations from boaters like You! We need your help.

- RBOC encourages all boating, sailing and yacht club members to contribute a minimum of \$20 per boating family per year.
- Boaters who are not members of the above mentioned organizations, benefit from RBOC's activities, and are also asked to contribute \$20 per family.

It is easy to make a contribution either mail donations to: RBOC, 925 L Street – Ste. 220, Sacramento, CA 95814-3703 OR donations may be made on-line at www.rbo.org using Discover, Visa, American Express, MasterCard, or PayPal. Donations are not tax deductible due to RBOC's extensive lobbying efforts.