



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

925 L Street • Suite 260
Sacramento CA 95814
www.rbo.org

WINTER 2017

BOATER BRIEF

50 years of fighting for California Boaters rights

RBOC is the nonprofit advocacy organization that works to protect and enhance the interests of the state's recreational boaters before the legislative and executive branches of state and local government. RBOC has been promoting the enjoyment, protection, and responsible use of our waterways since 1968. RBOC also has a working partnership with the effective national boating advocacy organization BoatUS that provides an effective voice for the boating community at the federal level.

Boater Fuel Taxes Should be Used Exclusively for Boating Programs and Services

RBOC urges state legislators to take action to fully fund the Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] and to ensure that fuel tax dollars attributable to vessels be dedicated to programs and services that directly benefit boaters including financing for the construction of public and private marinas, launch ramps, pump-out facilities, licensing of yacht and ship brokers, combatting aquatic invasive species, boater education and operator certification, financing for local boating law enforcement and funding for abandoned vessel prevention and removal.

Fiscal year 2017-2018 budget bills AB 96 [Ting] and SB 72 [Mitchell] would provide funding for the Division of Boating and Waterways from boater gas

tax dollars, registration fees, yacht broker license fees and repayments of loans of boater funds.

Several measures have been introduced in the current legislative session that would address transportation funding and motor vehicle fuel taxes including: AB 1 [Frazier] and SB 1 [Beall].



Copper-based Anti-fouling Paints

RBOC urges that decision-makers ensure that alternatives to copper-based anti-fouling paints are available, affordable and effective before they impose restrictions on the ability of boaters to use copper-based paints. Alternative paints are not widely commercially available, do not have a track record of being effective and are not affordable. The only alternative paints with any degree of effectiveness are not recommended by US EPA's technical contractor because they present serious environmental hazards.

Boating Under the Influence

RBOC supports strong and effective measures to ensure safety on the waterways including boating under the influence. Measures to further enhance safety should be narrowly tailored to recreational boating. SB 65 [Hill] would amend the Vehicle Code to prohibit an individual from drinking an alcoholic beverage while operating a boat.

Invasive Species

RBOC is supporting the efforts of the Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] to identify and commit the necessary resources to combat non-native aquatic species such as egeria densa and water hyacinth, and to develop and implement long-term strategies that can be even more effective.

Take Action Today to Protect Your Boat

RBOC is supporting BoatUS as it asks its more than half-million members – and any recreational boat owner concerned with having a safe fuel supply – to petition the Trump administration and Congress to reform the ethanol mandate, also known as the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Gasoline with more than 10 percent ethanol has been shown to damage boat engines. [Click here]



Become a Friend of RBOC

Joining the Friends of RBOC is the best and easiest way to show your support! <https://www.rbo.org/friendssignup>
Your contribution at any level helps RBOC continue the grassroots effort and advocacy activities needed in California to ensure boaters can continue to enjoy boating! For as little as \$20 for the 2017 year, you can help fund RBOC's important work. Also, by providing your e-mail address, you will be included in exclusive communications from RBOC about upcoming boating issues and successes. Additionally, you will be recognized for your contribution on our website. Due to RBOC's extensive lobbying activities, contributions are not tax deductible.