

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION
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Congressman Garamendi Introduces Bill to Implement Enhanced LORAN System: In a press release, Congressman Garamendi (D-3rd CA) indicated he had introduced H.R. 1678 which would require the DOD, in coordination with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT), to establish and sustain a reliable, land-based positioning and navigation system that will complement and provide backup to our existing GPS system for military and civilian use. The new system will utilize the still existing LORAN infrastructure, except new towers will be required, as the old ones were torn down for safety reasons.

The new backup system required by H.R. 1678 would be there when, for any number of reasons, the GPS signal is lost. Good evidence exists on the critical need for a backup to GPS, based on previous incidents of signal interference, jamming or a satellite laser, which actually occurred some years ago when one of our orbiting satellites was lased by a foreign country. It was no longer in use but this proved the vulnerability of GPS and the need for a backup system. Unlike GPS, which relies on satellite signals, eLoran operates on land-based terrestrial signals, which are not as vulnerable to interference as GPS.

Before eLoran is fully implemented, the DOT is requesting public comment providing a brief description of how the eLoran would be used and other related information. To provide a comment on or before 22 May, 2015 click on this link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/03/23/2015-06538/complementary-positioning-navigation-and-timing-capability-notice-request-for-public-comments>

When you get to the site, click on the big green button saying "Submit Comments" to provide the information needed by the DOT. All are asked to provide this basic information as soon as possible. It is most important to the entire boating community, for navigation and security purposes and most important that we obtain a backup for our GPS.

EPA Agrees to Deadline for 2014/2015 Ethanol Volume Mandates: As reported by NMMA, on Friday, April 10th, the EPA set a November 30th deadline to issue the 2014 and 2015 Renewable Fuel Standard mandates. The announcement comes as a settlement in a lawsuit filed by the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM). The two groups filed a lawsuit against the EPA in March for the agency's continued failure to set a rule for the RFS. Today's agreement is still subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by a federal court.

The Renewable Fuel Standard requires that fuel refiners mix a certain volume of ethanol into gasoline and biodiesel into diesel each year. The EPA is legally obligated to set those volume mandates by November 30th each year for the following year. In both 2013 and 2014 EPA failed to meet those deadlines.

Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA's director of federal and legal affairs, says of the announcement, "The EPA has failed time and time again to uphold their obligation to lead the way in implementing the RFS by setting annual ethanol mandates. The agency is grossly behind its deadlines further proving that it is Congress who must act to reform the broken RFS. A failure to reform this law will result in additional damage to marine engines, costly repairs and additional risk during an important time of economic recovery and growth for the recreational boating industry."

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