

NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION  
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**EPA Sets Ethanol Percentages to Historic Levels:** As reported by NMMA, the EPA plans to **increase the country's ethanol mandate** to historic levels. This is being done, despite the science and facts about the harms of ethanol, the government is doubling-down on its handout to corn farmers and ethanol producers. But the government can't just increase the levels of ethanol in our fuel without hearing first from the public. They must collect comments until July 27<sup>th</sup>. The easiest way to submit a comment, and tell the EPA to reverse course is go to <http://boatingunited.com/> read the comments, review your profile and hit "Send Message".

To make matters worse, the White House is giving the ethanol industry a \$100 million check, for them to install blender pumps across the US. As stated by David Kennedy of Boat US: If we've got more blender pumps out there, it's more likely they will get traces of E15 through shared hoses or inadvertently fill tanks with the fuel. These are pumps equipped to dispense E15 and higher blends at our local gas stations. So the US Government is doing everything it can to force E15 into our fuel supply, even though it increases carbon emissions and increases the rate of global warming. Also, "the inability to find ethanol free gasoline or a simple misfueling mistake could cause boaters to see engine stalling, corrosion leading to engine stalling or fuel leaks, increased emissions and damaged valves, rubber fuel lines and gaskets."

**House Passes CG Reauthorization Bill, Including Sports Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF):** The House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation that reauthorizes the US Coast Guard funding levels for 2016 and 2017. The House passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 is an important step to ensure the Coast Guard men and women have the necessary resources needed to carry out their vital role in supporting maritime safety and security. "The Coast Guard works tirelessly to improve the safety and security of our transportation system and our Nation's shores, and this bill gives them the support they need to carry out their critical responsibilities," said Congressman Shuster, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The SFRBTF is a "user pay" system, establishing a trust fund for the boating community by placing taxes on fishing tackle, motorboat fuel, imported boats and small engines. This nearly 60 year old measure establishes nearly 600 million dollars annually for the boating community, and is by far the most valuable resource for fishery resources and boaters alike. In addition, it provides the core funding for boating safety and restoration programs at the state level, as stated by the NMMA.

**NMMA's Response to EPA's Proposed Renewable Fuel Standard:** As stated by NMMA, On Friday, May 29, the [EPA released the proposed annual Renewable Fuel Standard \(RFS\) mandates](#) covering 2014, 2015 and 2016, just ahead of the court-ordered June 1 deadline. The

corn ethanol volumes within the proposal call for 13.25 billion gallons in 2014, 13.4 billion gallons 2015 and 14 billion gallons in 2016. The proposal is required to be finalized by November. As it stands, if finalized, the blend wall will be breached next year resulting in widespread increased availability of E15 in the market. This, in addition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's plan to [inject \\$100 million in funding](#) to get more ethanol at the gas pump, will contribute significantly to the problem of consumer misfueling, particularly for boaters, as 97% fill up at retail gas stations.

NMMA opposes the proposed levels announced today and feels strongly that it is incumbent upon EPA to take aggressive action to educate consumers about E15, as it has thus far failed to do so. NMMA's Nicole Vasilaros, vice president of legal and federal affairs, says of the announcement, "The three year combined rule released by the EPA today marks yet another step backwards with regard to the Renewable Fuel Standard. The Renewable Volume Obligation (RVO) announced will make it increasingly difficult for consumers to obtain low-ethanol and ethanol-free fuel blends required to run many engines successfully, and will further promote the expansion of E15—a known harmful fuel to marine and off road engines. If the EPA continues to stand by the introduction of high ethanol blended fuels, at the very least it should engage in widespread public outreach efforts to educate consumers on the problems they may face including engine damage, voided warranties and costly repairs. The RFS is definitely a broken law which sets unrealistic fuel mandates. It should now be even clearer to Congress that the RFS simply does not work and they must take swift action to fix this failed mandate to protect the millions of consumers at risk."

In November 2013, the EPA first proposed to scale back the 2014 mandate to blend corn ethanol and more advanced biofuels in gasoline. However, EPA subsequently withdrew that 2014 proposal after being met with fierce opposition by the biofuels industry. EPA will now be re-proposing the 2014 mandate, and for the first time proposing the annual mandates for 2015 and 2016.