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National Park Service (NPS) Plans to Prohibit Boating & Fishing in Biscayne National Park: The NPS has created a General Management Plan (GMP), the purpose of which is to create a No Fishing Zone (“Marine Reserve Zone”) that would cover over 10,000 acres of the Park’s marine waters, which are just south of Miami Florida. This is a major government overreach that would set a precedent for waterways across America. To counter this Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla) and 31 additional co-sponsors introduced H.R.3310, the Preserving Public Access to Public Waters Act. This bill would require the NPS and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to have approval from state fish and wildlife agencies before closing waters to recreational or commercial fishing. The bill was introduced on July 29, 2015, and assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee. A joint Natural Resources and Small Business Committee Oversight Field Hearing was held in Homestead, FL, on August 3rd to further explore Biscayne National Park’s efforts to institute the Marine Reserve Zone in its GMP. At the conclusion of the field hearing, Chairman Bishop stated that the Natural Resources Committee would be holding a hearing in September to consider Rep. Ros-Lehtinen’s Preserving Public Access to Public Waters Act as a potential solution to the NPS’s recent efforts to reduce public access to state fisheries resources.

All are encouraged to Google “Boating United”, click on “Boating United Keep our National Parks Open Thousands of acres of Biscayne National Park could be closed to fishing and boating unless you take action today!” Fill out the form and hit “Send Message”.

Potential Ethanol Replacement, Bio-Butanol, Gets Marketing Push: As indicated by NMMA, the Wilmington (DE) News Journal reported on marketing efforts by DuPont and BP for their jointly developed new fuel, biobutanol, which “could soon replace ethanol at gas pumps and bring in billions of dollars.” Scientists from the two companies, operating as Butamax Advanced Biofuels, “tinkered with the genes of yeast and created a new oil-producing organism” that is more economical than corn-based ethanol but without the latter’s potential damaging effects on engine fuel systems in damp conditions. Butamax had spent millions of dollars since 2011 fighting Colorado-based Gevo over patents related to biobutanol, until a settlement was reached last week. The News Journal cited a recent NMMA statement asserting that, unlike ethanol, biobutanol doesn’t phase-separate in water. NMMA has expressed concern that a law requiring that “36 billion gallons of renewable fuel be blended with gasoline by 2022, will mean high concentrations of ethanol in gasoline” but that biobutanol “could supply the necessary liquid fuel for those future standards.” While biobutanol is a good replacement for ethanol, it must be distributed to retail gas stations, so Butamax needs to convince ethanol producers that the higher BTUs of biobutanol would translate into more profits than ethanol provides. Enough profits, that they would offset the cost of converting their plants to biobutanol production.

The Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System, or NDGPS, service augments GPS by providing increased accuracy and integrity using land-based reference stations to transmit correction messages over radio-beacon frequencies. The service was implemented through agreements between multiple Federal agencies including the United States Coast Guard, [Department of Transportation](#), or DOT, and [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#), or USACE, as well as several states and scientific organizations, all cooperating to provide the combined national DGPS utility.

However, a number of factors have contributed to declining use of NDGPS and, based on an assessment by the Department of Homeland Security. The decommissioning and shutdown of 62 DGPS sites is being proposed which will leave 22 operational sites available to users in coastal areas. This notice seeks public comments on the shutdown and decommissioning of a total of 62 DGPS sites. Termination of the NDGPS broadcast at these sites is planned to occur on January 15, 2016.

View the [Federal Register notice](#) for full details or to submit a comment.

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