

National Boating Federation

Earl Waesche

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Department of Interior Announces New Recreation Advisory Committee: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced an Advisory Committee to expand recreational opportunities on public lands. Secretary Zinke reported on the meeting and outdoor products showcase held last week with the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable. As a result of the meeting, the Interior Department announced a new outdoor recreation advisory committee to expand recreation opportunities on public lands and waters.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and other senior Federal officials met with representatives of the outdoor recreation industry at the U.S. Department of the Interior on July 18th to discuss how the use of public-private partnerships can help improve visitor experiences on America's public lands and waters. The meeting was organized by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable (ORIR), which includes NMMA, RVDA, RVIA, and other leading outdoor recreation industry associations.

"One of my top priorities is to expand recreational access to public lands and waters. Today I'm excited to announce that, for the first time, the Department of the Interior will host a recreation advisory committee dedicated to looking at public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving the infrastructure on public lands," Zinke said.

"This was one of the most positive meetings I've ever participated in with a government agency," said RVDA President Phil Ingrassia. "Department of the Interior officials were genuinely listening to what the group had to say about the opportunities to advance outdoor recreation on America's public lands."

Outdoor recreation is vital to the economic and healthful well-being of America. The industry generates \$887 billion in direct spending and supports 7.6 million jobs across all 50 states.

Secretary Zinke, representatives of ORIR, key national park concessioners and Members of Congress discussed how improving infrastructure, encouraging innovation, and developing new and enhanced public-private partnerships will give the American people more opportunities to enjoy healthy, active fun on their public lands and waters, while helping outdoor recreation continue to grow as a powerful and positive economic force in America. This is indeed good news for the boating community, in a statement made by the **National Boating Federation**.

NMMA Testifies at EPA Renewable Volume Obligation Hearing: NMMA testified yesterday at the 2018 EPA Renewable Volume Obligation hearing. Nicole Vasilaros, vice president of Federal and Legal Affairs addressed the concerns the recreational boating industry has with E15. In her testimony, Vasilaros pointed out that "The initial 2010 waiver and this RVO proposal, do nothing to guarantee the continued availability of E10, while billions of gallons of E15 enter the marketplace. Ninety-five percent of boaters fuel their boats at traditional gas stations. While the recreational boating industry doesn't support higher levels of ethanol in the fuel marketplace, we ask this Administration, at the very least, to mandate that when E15 is sold, E10 must also be available at retail gas stations to ensure access to appropriate fuel blends for boats and other off-road equipment."

In addition to the oral testimony, NMMA is submitting formal comments, which are due August 31st and will be reaching out to industry stakeholders like you in the coming days to ask for you to share your own comments.

Hearings like the one Vasilaros testified at yesterday, are an opportunity for the EPA to hear public comments regarding its annual obligation to increase the amount of renewable fuel in the nation's fuel supply.

Florida Senators Introduce Fisheries Management Bill: Republican U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson, both of Florida, introduced the Florida Fisheries Improvement Act last week.

The bill would revise requirements for Federal fisheries management in Florida through a series of measures, including greater flexibility in setting rebuilding timelines and increased funding for data collection.

“While our state continues to provide strong management of our freshwater and inshore fisheries, Federal marine fisheries management has created many challenges for Florida's offshore anglers and the businesses that depend on these fisheries. We appreciate Senator Rubio's and Senator Nelson's efforts through the Florida Fisheries Improvement Act to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act in a way that benefits anglers and improves the management and conservation of Federal fisheries,” as stated by Kellie Ralston of the American Sports Fishing Association.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act governs fisheries management in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, up to 200 miles offshore. The National Marine Fisheries Service is the Federal agency responsible for implementing this law and insuring that fisheries do not over exploit the ocean's fishery resources.