



## NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION



A FEDERATION OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL & STATE BOATING ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING AMERICA'S BOATERS

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### CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING RECREATIONAL BOATING

#### **Ethanol Blended Gasoline and Marine Engines**

The Federation, together with a coalition of over 50 other organizations, opposes the introduction of mid-level ethanol blends (gasoline containing more than 10% ethanol) and we support Senate Bill S-1666 which requires the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board to study the compatibility of such fuels with current engines.

#### **Mandatory Boating Education**

NBF supports mandatory boating education for all watercraft operators based on the concept that each one of us should be able to expect that the operator of a vessel passing us, or crossing us, has a rudimentary knowledge of the "Rules of the Road."

#### **Operator Licensing**

The Federation opposes recreational vessel operator licensing.

#### **Small Vessel Threat to Homeland Security**

The 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, added new emphasis to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) argument on the threat posed by small recreational vessels. This attack caused the DHS to comment on the need to "Counter the threat posed by small boats." While neither this incident nor the attack on the USS Cole occurred in U. S. waters, the concerns of the DHS is that a similar scenario could take place in this country. The U. S. Coast Guard continues to work on formulating legislation for some type of identification/tracking system for recreational vessels. The Federation continues to monitor this issue. At the same time, NBF encourages the participation of recreational boaters in local harbor councils generally formed by the U. S. Coast Guard's Captain of the Port. Participation can assure that recreational boating concerns are considered in the formation of local waterways regulations.

#### **America's Waterway Watch**

The Federation supports the U. S. Coast Guard's program as one of the ways the recreational boating community can assist local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to increase the safety of our waterways.

#### **Public Access to our Waterways**

NBF supports vigorously every effort designed to assure continued access to our waterways. We oppose the use of eminent domain declarations to supplant small marinas with condominiums in order to increase real estate tax revenues for local governments.

**JOIN US!**  
**INCREASE THE IMPACT OF OUR VOICES**