States Organization for Boating Access

Formed in 1986 as a Non-profit 501(c)(3)

Our Mission:

To encourage, promote and support federal and state programs that provide safe, high-quality and environmentally sound public recreational boating facilities in the United States and its territories.
WHO WE ARE

• States and US Territories
• Federal boating program managers
• Boating industry, consultants and engineering firms
• Manufacturers and suppliers
• Others interested in recreational boating facilities
NATIONAL PARTNERS

• National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)

• Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF)

• Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)

• U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

• Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC)
FEDERAL & STATE GRANT PROGRAMS

Boating Access Grants
Clean Vessel Act Grants
Boating Infrastructure Grants
HISTORY OF BOATING ACCESS

Boating Access was created through the 1984 Wallop-Breaux Amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act (SFR) of 1950

1998 the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorized the SFR
- Increased the amount mandated for boating access projects from 12½ percent to 15 percent of the annual SFR allotment

In 2005 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) was signed
- Captured additional motorboat and small engine fuel taxes
- Established the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
HISTORY OF CVA

The Clean Vessel Act of 1992 authorized a five year federal grant program and provided $40 million out of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for the CVA Program.


SAFETEA (2005) reauthorized the CVA Program through 2009
  • changed the annual distribution to the CVA Program to 2% of the funds in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
HISTORY OF BIG – BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

The Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998 amended the SFR (1950), authorizing the BIG program

$8 million annually out of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for the BIG Program

- manufacturers’ excise taxes on sport fishing equipment
- portion of the gasoline fuel tax attributable to small engines and motorboats.

SAFETEA (2005) reauthorized the BIG Program through 2009

- changed the annual distribution to the BIG Program to 2% of the funds in the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
ADVOCACY

• American Boating Congress (ABC)

• Angling and Boating Alliance (ABA)
CURRENT PROJECTS

- TRACS enhancement
- Territories Committee
- CVA App Committee
- Design Guide and Non-Motorized Access Guidelines
- ADA Guidelines Task Force
- Trust Fund Reauthorization
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Participated in American Boating Congress in Washington, D.C.

• Participated in a Congressional Briefing educating on the Trust Fund

• Briefings given to Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and USFWS-WSFR leadership at North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Management Conference

• Updated the Management Plan between SOBA and NMMA
MEMBER RESOURCES

- Newsletter
- ListServ
- Membership & Coordinator Directories
- Technical Publications
TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

• An Applicants Guide to the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

• Operations & Maintenance Program Guidelines for Recreational Boating Facilities

• Design Handbook For Recreational Boating & Fishing Facilities

• Construction Techniques for Recreational Boating Access Facilities

• Construction and Integration of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Areas at Recreational Boating Facilities

• Pump-Out Boat Selection and Operation Guidelines
EVENTS

• Annual Conference
• Federal Assistance Workshops
• Partner Trade Shows
• Boating Access Site Visits
NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

- William H. Ivers Award
- Congressional Awards
- Professional Service Award
- Outstanding Service Award
- Special Recognition Award
NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

• Outstanding Project Award

Historic Bristol Borough of Pennsylvania
Waterfront Transient Docks
2018
NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

- Outstanding Project Award

Okauchee Lake Public Boat Access Renovation
Wisconsin DNR and SEH Engineers
Wisconsin
2018
NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

• President’s Award

Yadkin-Pee Dee Basin
North Carolina
2018
NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

• State Program Excellence Award
  - CVA, BIG, or Boating Access

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Division for their CVA Program
2018
LACY NICHOLS EDUCATION FUND

• In 2013 SOBA established the Lacy E. “Nick” Nichols Education Fund in memory of Nick.

• Each year we hold a silent auction with all proceeds going to this education fund.

• The Education Fund is designed to help SOBA members attend this symposium by providing the non-federal matching funds up to $750 associated with a Boating Access, Clean Vessel Act or Boating Infrastructure Grant.
About Us

Who We Are
An organization devoted to the acquisition, development and administration of public recreational boating facilities nationwide. SOBA provides a forum for the exchange of views, ideas, concepts and experiences related to all aspects of recreational boating facilities.

SOBA was formed in 1986 primarily by a small group of state boating officials who wanted to promote the acquisition, development, and administration of recreational boating facilities nationwide. Membership has now expanded to all 50 states and five territories and includes not only state boating officials, but also consultants, engineering firms, manufacturers, suppliers, publishers and other businessmen interested in boating access.

As a voice supporting the need for recreational boating facilities nationwide, SOBA strives to provide a medium for the exchange of views and experiences that will foster private, interstate, and federal-state cooperation and coordination in boating facility design, construction, and financing. Drawing from its membership’s nationwide experiences SOBA also provides a problem-solving forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating to all aspects of recreational boating facilities.

SOBA invites all boating facility administrators, engineering firms, and others interested in recreational boating facilities to join and participate in organization activities. A conference is held annually that features both presentations highlighting facility programs and design innovations, and site visits to recreational boating facilities to familiarize participants with design and construction techniques in the conference area. Keynote speakers keep participants current with activities at the federal level that affect recreational boating facilities including permitting, design, construction, operation, or maintenance of such facilities. Proceedings of the annual conference are also published and furnished to each participant.

Our Mission To encourage, promote and support federal and state programs that provide safe, high-quality and environmentally sound public recreational boat access to the waterways of the United States and its territories.

www.sobaus.org
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