Dear Friends and Industry Colleagues:

I hope everyone has marked October 13th - 16th on their calendar. The 2008 SOBA Conference and the pre-conference workshop in historic Norfolk, Virginia are shaping up to be outstanding events. If you have not reserved your hotel room and sent in your conference registration, please don’t forget to do so (information enclosed). I’m sure you’re all looking forward to the 2008 Annual Conference as much as I am.

I would like to update everyone on a few issues facing SOBA and its members:

• With the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund coming up for reauthorization in 2009, the SOBA Executive Board adopted a policy position that highlights the need for consistent organization funding. The Board has been actively talking to and working with recreational boating partners about this issue to ensure that the future needs of Water Access are adequately represented. Availability of boating access is crucial to the future health of recreational boating, and continual funding will help protect this future. Briefly, SOBA’s proposal seeks to secure funding to develop a system for reporting each State’s use of their 15% boating access funding, (current, future and past), and to establish a helpline for local officials who have questions related to design, permitting issues etc., as they relate to boating access.

• The By-Laws Task Force is currently conducting a review of SOBA’s By-Laws to ensure the organization is structured to best support its members, partners, and the recreational boating public. Their task is to identify items they feel may need to be reviewed by the membership and develop possible alternatives that address each issue. The Task Force recommendations will be shared with the membership during the Annual Business Meeting in Norfolk, and time will be set aside for discussion by the membership. Based on this discussion, the SOBA Executive Board will create a draft version of any amendments or changes to the By-Laws and distribute them to the membership for review and additional comments following the annual conference. Please be assured that no vote on any

(Continued on page 2)
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
(Continued from page 1)

By-Law changes will occur during the 2008 Annual Business Meeting and without the full membership having ample opportunity to review and comment on any recommended changes. Any review of organization By-Laws is a difficult and tedious job and I appreciate the Task Force members taking on this very important job.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requested that the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council conduct a review of the boating access program authorized under the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Program (a.k.a. the 15% boating access set-aside funding—see copy of letter to Ryck Lydecker with this newsletter). This review will be much like the review the Council conducted on the Clean Vessel and Boating Infrastructure programs and is intended to ensure that the boating access program "continues to provide maximum benefits to

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service boating and fishing stakeholders”. At the request of the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council, we are organizing a meeting at the 2008 Annual Conference geared towards allowing States to highlight some of the benefits and successes achieved through the 15% boating access funding. This session will provide the Council’s review team an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the program and to develop relationships with state boating access officials. I am sure you will hear much more about this project in the months to come and will be asked for information that will assist the review team with their project.

Thanks for all you do and I look forward to seeing everyone in Norfolk.

Edward F. Poolos

SOBA PRESENTS CONGRESSIONAL AWARD DURING 2008 AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS

Association’s most prestigious award presented to Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin

On Tuesday, April 29, the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) presented its most prestigious award, the SOBA Congressional Award, to Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) during a ceremony held in conjunction with the 2008 American Boating Congress (ABC) in Washington, D.C.

SOBA President Ed Poolos and Vice President Kent Skaar presented the award to Senator Kohl in recognition of his many years of service, dedication and support of the recreational boating industry. Kohl currently serves as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Senate Boating Caucus. He was a major supporter of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WERDA) and co-sponsor of the Clean Boating Act of 2008 (S. 2766).

Senator Kohl was first elected to the Senate in 1988 and re-elected to a fourth, six-year term in 2006. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1956 and a master’s degree in business administration from Harvard University in 1958. Kohl served in the Army Reserve from 1958 to 1964.

Senator Kohl presently serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and is Chairman of the Special Aging Committee.

Pictured above are Senator Kohl and Ed Poolos

MCQUADE SAFE HARBOR OPEN

The long-awaited McQuade Safe Harbor is now open in Minnesota. The purpose of the safe harbor is to provide refuge for people who are out on Lake Superior, who get caught in a storm. But now, with a scenic breakwall, it’s also a nice place for tourists and the public to enjoy.

It’s an $8 million dollar project, funded by boat license fees and federal fisheries and wildlife money. The area boasts three ramps, two docks, paved parking for fifty-four cars/trailers, public restrooms and shore fishing.

The DNR, Army Corps of Engineers, and a citizens’ group have been working together with the contractor, Northland Construction, to complete the project.

The grand opening was held Friday, July 18th.
“Launching for Success – Building on Traditions”, will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia from October 13th through 16th 2008.

The conference has been designed for boating access, CVA and BIG programmatic interests. A copy of the conference registration form has been placed in the newsletter for your convenience. For more information check out www.sobaus.org. Go to the Conference tab on the left of the Home page and select “2008 Conference”. This page will keep you up to date and informed about conference details and the link to the City of Norfolk for area attractions.

You may correspond by email to soba2008conference@dgif.virginia.gov or contact James Adams, Conference Chair, at 804-367-0183.

DON’T MISS IT!

DEADLINE DATES TO REMEMBER

| Exhibitor Registration (Paid): | Friday, August 1, 2008 |
| Early Bird Conference Registration (Paid): | Friday, August 29, 2008 |
| Hotel Reservations: | Friday, September 12, 2008 |

CONFERENCE AGENDA (subject to change)

| DAY | TOPICS/EVENTS |
|-----------------------------------|
| Monday, October 13 | - State Boating Administrators, CVA/BIG Grant Compliance full day Workshop by USFWS National Conservation Training Center  
- Conference Welcome Reception |
| Tuesday, October 14 | - Welcome & Plenary - Water Access, National Status and Issues  
- Environmental Permitting  
- Engineering Design Considerations: Products, Materials and their Uses  
- Technical Breakout Sessions: Boating Access, Facility Design Considerations; and CVA, BIG, Use of Pump-Out Boats and BIG Project Reviews  
- Spirit of Norfolk Spirit Cruise |
| Wednesday, October 15 | - General Session: Floating Systems, Materials and Applications  
- SOBA Members Annual Business Meeting  
- Awards Luncheon / Recipient Presentations  
- Technical Breakout Sessions: Boating Access, Strategic Planning and Priorities CVA, BIG, Floating Exhibits at Waterside Marina  
- Social Reception and Banquet |
| Thursday, October 16 | - Field Trip (to boating access sites in nearby locations)  

*Monday through Wednesday will include: Breakfast and Breaks with Exhibitors*
PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS CLEAN BOATING ACT INTO LAW


In a significant victory for the recreational marine industry and the American boating and angling public, President Bush signed into law S. 2766, the Clean Boating Act of 2008, protecting the more than 17 million recreational boats throughout the U.S. from unprecedented and unnecessary federal regulations. Congress passed the Clean Boating Act on July 22, 2008.

"The recreational marine industry and boaters throughout the U.S. can now rest easy and go boating without a federal or state permit, heavy penalties and absurd legal jeopardy," said Scott Gudes, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) vice president of Government Relations. "We applaud President Bush and Congress for their bipartisan efforts to reverse the unintended and potentially devastating consequences of an overbroad federal court decision."

Introduced by Senators Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Representatives Steve LaTourette (R-Ohio) and Candice Miller (R-Mich.), the Clean Boating Act permanently and fully restores a commonsense regulation that excludes recreational boaters and anglers from the Clean Water Act federal and state permitting system designed for land-based industrial facilities, like sewage treatment plants. Without legislative relief, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was set to implement new permitting regulations for boaters by October 1, 2008.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE “KNEWS”

Name Change Complete

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has continued with its compliance efforts with the Federal Aid Improvement Act by changing the name of the Division of Federal Assistance to the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. The name change is reflected in the division’s web site (http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov) and other documents. Activities of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program encompass most, but not all, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s grant programs, including the Boating Infrastructure, Clean Vessel Act, and Sport Fish Restoration programs.

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Review Final Report Available Soon

The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council’s final report on their review of the Clean Vessel Act grant program will be released this fall. The Council’s findings and recommendations were circulated previously amongst SOBA members. Copies of the report, when available, will be widely distributed. Additional copies will be available upon request by contacting Doug Hobbs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Doug_Hobbs@fws.gov. Electronic copies will be available for downloading from both the Council’s web site (http://www.fws.gov/sfpc) and the Wildlife and Sport Restoration Program’s web site (http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov).

Rowan Gould Promoted

Dr. Rowan Gould, Assistant Director of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, recently accepted the position of Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rowan has served as the Assistant Director for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program since 2006. The Deputy Director position is critical to the Service and will work closely with the incoming Presidential transition teams following this fall’s national election.

The Assistant Director of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program position oversees all of the grant programs administered by the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, e.g., Clean Vessel Act, Sport Fish Restoration, and reports to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Additional Guidance Forthcoming for Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

The Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program will be providing additional guidance for the Boating Infrastructure Grant program soon. The guidance will address issues that have been raised with the program regarding proposal scoring criteria and other aspects of the grant program’s administration. These issues have not impacted the management and daily administration efforts of the Service. Examples of the ad

(Continued on page 5)
additional guidance includes further explanation of the definition “way point” and how this criteria is scored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For additional information on this issue, please contact Steve Jose of the Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program at Steve_Jose@fws.gov.

Service Manual Chapters for Sport Fish Restoration Program Boating Access and Clean Vessel Act Progressing

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program staff has undertaken a major effort to develop new and revise existing chapters of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Manual. The Service Manual provides guidance policies and directions on almost every aspect of the daily operations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of this effort, new chapters are being prepared by staff for the Clean Vessel Act grant program, as well as for the boating access portion of the Sport Fish Restoration program. Neither of these activities has existing Manual Chapters. The draft chapters have undergone review internally within the Fish and Wildlife Service and are currently being revised based on these reviews. SOBA and other stakeholders will be able to comment on these chapters in the future.

The chapter development and revision effort covers almost all aspects of the Service’s administration practices with our grant programs. Accordingly, SOBA and other Service stakeholders are welcome to provide comments on all of the chapters as they are made available during public comment periods. The Service plans to develop a chapter for the Boating Infrastructure Grant program in the near future as well.

RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION UPDATE
By Wayne Shuyler

Key Initiative: Anglers’ Legacy (AL)
A total of 8,337 pledges have been received along with 32,901 completed trial experiences. Fifty Partners have signed on to support Anglers’ Legacy and $402,951 in PSAs were placed.

Key Initiative: TakeMeFishing.org
RBFF introduced a completely re-engineered and redesigned website(TakeMeFishing.org)in April. Along with an expanded database of 12,000 places to boat and fish, the upgraded site includes a new Boat Selection Tool; Fishopedia, an A-to-Z fishing reference; Little Lunkers, games and pages for young anglers; and State Pages that provide links to Buying A License, Where to Boat & Fish, Local Events and Conservation Efforts. TakeMeFishing.org is the key destination for new and avid anglers who want to plan a trip, buy a license, get how-to information, design a dream boat, check out the latest equipment, or take the Anglers’ Legacy Pledge.

On April 26, RBFF kicked off its second annual promotion with Triple-A Baseball. At more than 30 parks around the country, fans were given a chance to enter sweepstakes to win a boat, motor and trailer, fun prizes and other game-time contests. Fans enter the Take Me Fishing sweepstakes at registration kiosks in the ballpark or by filling out an entry form distributed by ushers.

In addition to the grand prize sweepstakes, features include humorous boating and fishing videos, an ongoing “Fish or No Fish” game and other prizes such as a fishing trip with the players and free giveaways.

High Gas Prices May Affect Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

The effects of the record gasoline prices are having far ranging implications and may ultimately affect the revenues into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (aka Wallop-Breaux Trust Fund). As SOBA members know, the Trust Fund is revenue source for several grant programs including the Sport Fish Restoration, Clean Vessel Act and Boating Infrastructure grant programs. The Trust Fund receives a portion of the federal gasoline taxes that is attributed to the overall gallons used. Over the years, gasoline consumption in the U.S. has continued to increase. However, that trend may have changed given gasoline prices that have now exceeded $4 per gallon.

The overall effects of the record high gasoline price on revenue into the Trust Fund remains not be known until later this year as the gasoline taxes are paid by the fuel distributors and transferred into the Trust Fund. Gasoline usage typically peaks in the summer as families go on vacation and weekend trips after school has ended. The receipts and subsequent apportionments to states for the grant programs are based on the federal fiscal year, which runs from October – September.

Web Site Overhauled
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration’s web site has been revised and revamped by our Training Section staff. The Division has made a lot of efforts to update the site and to keep information on it current. We hope it will become your one stop shop for all information on the grant programs. We would love to hear comments and any recommendations for improvements or other items needing added. Comments can be sent to: webmaster_wsfrprograms@fws.gov.
RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING...
(Continued from page 5)

**Key Initiative: States Initiatives**

As of June 30, twenty eight states have launched the Take Me Fishing Direct Mail Marketing Program. Results from most of the participating states will be reported in the third quarter. Another training workshop for states is slated for November.

**Key Initiative: Education**

RBFF formed an education committee that established grant application guidelines with the intention of expanding its grant funding. The deadline for submitting grant proposals was closed on April 8. RBFF received and reviewed 34 proposals totaling $1.2 million in requested funding. The funding available to new organizations, however, was $282,050.

Grants are categorized into four distinct groups:

1. National – program is national in scope
2. Pilot-to-National – program will pilot with requested funding then progress to national scope following successful pilot

**Key Initiative: Boating**

Since April 1, 889 Discover Boating DVDs were distributed through TakeMeFishing.org.

The Boating Access Committee revised the draft of the Water Access RFP and sent it to prospective vendors.

RBFF staff met with the Oregon State Marine Board to discuss the research results and potential strategies and next steps for the development of a pilot marketing program to increase boat registrations.

---

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING (NPRM) PROPOSAL TO REVISE ADA REGULATIONS UNDER TITLE II AND TITLE III**

On Friday, May 30, 2008, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey signed proposed regulations to revise the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) ADA regulations, including its ADA Standards for Accessible Design. On Tuesday, June 17, 2008, the proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register. The proposed regulations consist of a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the ADA regulation for State and local governments, a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the ADA regulation for public accommodations and commercial facilities, a Regulatory Impact Analysis, and two supporting appendices.

All documents can be reviewed at [http://www.ada.gov/NPRM2008/ADAnprm08.htm](http://www.ada.gov/NPRM2008/ADAnprm08.htm)

It is proposed that accessible slips will have to be dispersed throughout the boat slip area. Accessible slips may be grouped on one pier if the requirement for different types of slips is met. Types could include shallow-water or deep water; transient or longer-term lease; covered or uncovered; and whether slips are equipped with features such as telephone, water, electricity, or cable connections.”

Of specific interest to SOBA members is proposed rule: 235.2.1 Dispersion. “Boat slips complying with 1003.3.1 shall be dispersed throughout the various types of boat slips provided. Where the minimum number of boat slips required to comply with 1003.3.1 has been met, no further dispersion shall be required.” However, there is ambiguity in Appendix A of the Analysis of Proposed Standards Section 235.2 and 1003.3.1 where it states “Accessible slips will have to be dispersed throughout the boat slip area.”

These proposals are part of the DOJ’s comprehensive review of its regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. On September 30, 2004, the Department issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking announcing its intention to adopt design standards that are consistent with the revised ADA Accessibility Guidelines published by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (also known as the Access Board) on July 23, 2004. The ADA requires the Department to publish regulations that include accessibility standards that are consistent with the Access Board’s guidelines. Until the Department’s rulemaking is complete, the revised ADA Guidelines are effective only as guidance to the Department and the public.

The Department will accept comments on the Department’s proposals through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Interested parties will have sixty days to comment on them.

The regulations are also available at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REGION 5
BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AND CLEAN VESSEL ACT
WORKSHOP: JUNE 8-10, 2008 IN MYSTIC, CT

Ed Poolos, President and Stephanie Cunningham, Member-at-Large

For the past four years USFWS Region 5 BIG and CVA Coordinators have met annually to: 1. get updates on regional and national issues relevant to the administration of both the CVA and BIG Programs; 2. participate in specialized training; and 3. meet with other state coordinators to discuss & solve similar problems and concerns. The workshops are open to any and all who wish to attend.

This year’s workshop presentations included:

- Brian Bohnsack, USFWS, National CVA and BIG – Program Updates;
- Ed Poolos, SOBA President, SOBA Update and CVA Review Update for the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council;
- Judy Driscoll, USFWS, Interim Guidance for Financial Status and Performance Reporting;
- Dan DiVico, USFWS, Internet Accessible Grant Data from IFAIMS;
- Joe Migliori, RI DEM & Rick Huntley, CT DEP, Rhode Island & Connecticut Partnership on the Pawcatuck River;
- A panel presentation, moderated by Stephanie Cunningham, on State CVA Programs- Implementation & Education Similarities and Differences (what works and what doesn’t) included presentations from Connecticut, Virginia, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maryland.

The highlight of the workshop was the significant progress made on regional initiatives with both programs to create a web based map of cooperating facilities for recreational boaters traversing the region’s waters and to develop a cooperative plan to standardize outreach materials across the region.

FISHING ACTIVITY REDUCED BY ACCESS PROBLEMS

Over one quarter of U.S. anglers report their fishing activities have been reduced by problems accessing their preferred fishing holes. In a 2008 poll of over 1,800 anglers by AnglerSurvey.com, anglers were asked if in the past year they had canceled a trip or stopped fishing specific locations due to access problems. Of the anglers reporting such problems, 80 percent reported their access issues were in freshwater areas while 15% experienced access issues in saltwater locations. Of all anglers, 10 percent either reduced their fishing activity or stopped fishing altogether. Detailed results include:

**As a result of your access problem, did you:**

- Continue to fish at the same rate and frequency as before  62%
- Not go fishing at all  4%
- Fish less frequently  33%
- Stop fishing altogether  1%

**In the past year, have you ever had to cancel a trip or stop fishing specific fishing locations because you could no longer access it?**

- Yes  28%
- No  72%

**Was your access problem related to:**

- Saltwater fishing  15%
- Freshwater fishing  80%
- Brackish water fishing  3%
- Do not know  2%

Source: AnglerSurvey.com is a monthly national online survey of sportsmen and women providing industry and policymakers with information on fishing trends and activity.

For more information, contact Rob Southwick at: Rob@southwickassociates.com or 904-277-9765.

Source: RBFF Website
NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR
2008-2009 SOBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Deadline is Friday, August 29

The annual nomination process for the SOBA Executive Board has begun. This includes filling the roles of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Members-At-Large. Terms for officers and at-large positions are one year (renewable). SOBA has a seven-member Board, which includes the Past President.

FAQs:

- **Are my expenses for attending meetings covered by SOBA?** Yes. SOBA will cover your travel, room and stipend for meals for all business meetings, including the meeting prior to the annual conference, and for your room for the night before or after the conference.

- **Are members paid to be Board members?** No, permission is needed from your agency to participate and any SOBA related work would be carried out during your regular work day.

- **What if I am only interested in being a Member At Large?** Yes, this is possible, and has been done by a number of members who were only interested in being involved in operational and logistical board work.

- **Do you need to be a member of States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) to run for office?** Yes, you must be from a SOBA member state, and be in good standing with the organization to be considered.

- **When do board terms begin?** Terms run from September/October through the following September/October to coincide with the annual conference.

If you want to be considered for a board position, OR know anyone who would be interested, please contact Terry N. Boyd, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee at 334-242-3836 or terry.boyd@dcnr.alabama.gov.

**Estimated Time Required For SOBA Board Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function/Activity</th>
<th>Typical Time Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board Meetings</td>
<td>3 meetings per year requiring travel (Meetings typically last one to two days, plus travel time; held Post Conference meeting (Nov/Dec), Winter (Feb/Mar), and Spring (May/June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Conference</td>
<td>The week of the conference (includes a short 1 to 2 hour board meeting at conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teleconference calls</td>
<td>1 hour per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other SOBA related activities:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation on task forces or committees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing President when requested</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing SOBA before Congress and Federal Agencies if needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing SOBA at meetings of partners and stakeholders as appropriate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time will vary depending upon type of requested activity