Message from the President

It is a tremendous honor and privilege to have been elected President of this wonderful organization. And, it is humbling to be following in the footsteps of so many great Presidents that came before me, too many to mention in this editorial. All of these individuals worked very hard to make the States Organization for Boating Access a stronger organization during their tenure as President, and I will do my best to follow their impressive lead.

I would like to thank the entire SOBA Board of Directors for their time and willingness to serve your Association. The Executive Board for the coming year will consist of Vice-President Kent Skaar (Minnesota), Treasurer Wayne Shuyler (Oregon), and Past President Terry Boyd (Alabama). Assisting them will be Members at Large Stephanie Cunningham (Massachusetts), Steve Miller (Wisconsin), and James Adams (Virginia). I am very proud to be associated with this group and look forward to working with each of them.

Like Past President Terry Boyd, I feel it is very important that we develop and sustain partnerships with other organizations that are dedicated to boaters and boating access. I will work closely with our current partners and pursue new opportunities to develop ties with other organizations that believe in the mission of SOBA. Even more important are the relationships we foster within our organization. SOBA is only as strong as its membership, and I will work with all of you to maintain our core mission as we continue to move forward.

I am very pleased to be able to announce the creation of five task forces that will serve to strengthen our organization and our national voice for public boat access. These task forces are:

- **By-Laws Task Force** (Co-Chaired by Wayne Shuyler and Stephanie Cunningham) - This task force will review SOBA’s current By-Laws to ensure they adequately address the issue of member voting rights, and update other areas as appropriate. No ByLaws changes will go into effect without the majority vote of the membership.

- **Build Better Access Task Force** (Co-Chaired by Gary Iles and Terry Boyd) - This group will develop a new DVD to help in the planning, design, and construction of boating access areas nationwide.

- **Awards Task Force** (Chaired by Steve Miller) – This Task Force will promote and coordinate all of the SOBA awards programs, including the congressional award, the access awards, the program awards, and the individual awards.

- **2009 Conference Task Force** (Co-Chaired by Bernice McArdle and myself) – This task force will explore the possibility of SOBA’s 2009 Annual Conference being held concurrently with NASBLA’s Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, Texas in September 2009.

- **Communications Task Force** (Co-Chaired by Kent Skaar and Bernice McArdle) – This task force will work to ensure that all SOBA communications are streamlined and reflect the core mission of the association. This includes the creation of an improved newsletter.
Message from the President

We would welcome your participation on any of the above groups, and if you are interested, or if you have any comments to make about the work of SOBA, please e-mail the Executive Board at info@sobaus.org.

Finally, I would like to recognize the exceptional work and tremendous effort put forward by the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, and especially conference host Jill Murphey and her team. The 2007 SOBA Conference was the largest Conference ever and to all involved, THANKS! Plans for the 2008 Conference in Norfolk Virginia are already well underway, so go ahead and mark your calendars for October 13th – 17th.

As your SOBA President I look forward to working with our organizations, our tremendous group of partners, and all of our members “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.”

Sincerely,

Edward Poolos
SOBA President

PAST PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

On behalf of the SOBA Board and all of the SOBA members, I would like to thank Jill Murphey and the rest of her committee, the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, the Coeur d’ Alene Tribe, Idaho Fish and Game, and the US Forest Service for a wonderful conference. I apologize if I left anybody out. We had the largest attendance ever at our annual event – over 230 people! I want to personally thank Mr. Chuck Rowe, Chairman of NMMA for coming to the conference. SOBA looks forward to working with NMMA for years to come and appreciates the support NMMA gives to SOBA. I also want to thank Major John Fetterman the new NASBLA President, for attending our conference and talking with us about the possibility of a concurrent SOBA/NASBLA meeting in 2009 in Texas.

I would like to thank the entire SOBA board of directors and Bernice and Janice for making my tenure as President so easy. I believe the changes that SOBA undertook this year will make it stronger in years to come. I am proud to be able to say I was President when we signed the agreement with NMMA, had the largest conference, expanded membership, and provided new services to the membership.

I am looking forward to working with the new SOBA board this year; welcome aboard new board members Steve Miller and James Adams. I know our new President, Ed Poolos, will do a great job. Congratulations to Ed, and the rest of the board. I commit to working with each of you during the coming year to make SOBA a more effective and efficient organization.

I want to challenge every SOBA member to provide at least one paragraph to each newsletter outlining initiatives underway in your state or facility. Bernice McArdle and SOBA Vice President Kent Skaar are working hard to improve this newsletter, but without your input they will not succeed. Please send a brief description and pictures of your projects the next time it is requested. We can all learn from each others successes and failures.

If you missed the deadline for submitting either a project or individual for an award this year, go ahead and start thinking now for next year. I have no doubt that everyone is aware of a good project or knows someone who deserves recognition for their outstanding service. Take the time to submit something, or someone who should be officially rewarded for their hard work.
Past President Terry Boyd Letter

James Adams is already working hard on putting together the 2008 Conference which will held in Norfolk, Virginia October 12-16. By the way, if your state is interested in hosting a future conference, we would welcome your request.

Finally, I want to again thank each of you for supporting me and the rest of your Board. It was an honor and pleasure to serve as your president. I won’t be going far, and will shortly start working with Gary Iles (Illinois) to co-chair a task force to produce a new boating access DVD. In order to progress, we will need to receive the various videos of your access construction projects, so please forward these to me (see front of this newsletter for my address) by mid December. I also just got my appointment letter from Doug Hobbs to represent SOBA on the SFBPC.

I look forward to seeing you in Virginia next October, and to working for you, and with you, over the coming year.

Terry N. Boyd, PE, PLS
SOBA Past-President and Chief of Engineering Section, Alabama Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources

SOBA 2007 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS FROM COEUR d’ALENE, IDAHO

The nation’s boating access leaders had plenty of issues to discuss during their annual conference held in early October at the beautiful Coeur d’Alene Resort in Idaho. Attended by approximately 230 State Boating Access leaders and industry support providers, SOBA’s 21st Annual Conference was a resounding success. A number of SOBA Alumni (past members retired from State government) were also in attendance.

Some sessions included:
- Work being accomplished by SOBA Partners (Boat US, American Canoe Assn, NMMA, National Parks Service, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council)
- State Success Stories – Learning from our members
- New Dock Construction Technology
- Floating Restrooms – Maintenance Methods and Costs
- ADA Technology, Regulations, and Compliance
- Sedimentation, Wave Erosion, and Shoreline Protection
- All Things Concrete (Docks, Ramps, and Pervious Parking Pavements)
- Invasive Aquatic Species
- Marketing Your Program and Your Projects

SUCCESSFUL CLEAN VESSEL ACT WORKSHOP HELD IN IDAHO

SOBA hosted a pre-conference Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Workshop on Saturday, October 6th as part of the 21st Annual Conference, which was held October 7 – 9 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. Generously funded by a grant from the State of California, over 60 attendees representing 30 states participated in the workshop which emphasized:

- Allowing state coordinators to learn about functioning CVA programs;
- Networking opportunities between state coordinators and pump-out equipment manufacturers in order to gain a better understanding of this pump-out procedures;
- An update on the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council’s CVA Review; and
• A survey review conducted with a sampling of boaters, marina owners, and state CVA coordinators concerning the CVA program.

All workshop attendees should have already received a copy of the CVA workshop proceedings. If you have not received your copy or you didn’t have an opportunity to attend the workshop, but would like to receive the proceedings, email info@sobaus.org.

2007 ANNUAL ELECTIONS
The election of officers took place at the 2007 SOBA Annual Meeting which was held on October 8th in Couer d’Alene. The following members were nominated and elected to the following positions:

**President:** Ed Poolos, TN Wildlife Resources Agency  
**Vice President:** Kent Skaar, MN DNR  
**Past President:** Terry Boyd, AL DCNR  
**Treasurer:** Wayne Shuyler, OR State Marine Board  

**Members at Large:**  
James Adams, VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries  
Stephanie Cunningham, MA Dept of Fish and Game  
Steven W. Miller, WI DNR

On Tuesday, October 9th, attendees went on a Field Trip to various water access points around Couer d’Alene. Conference host Jill Murphey is pictured above (center) along with other attendees at one of the sites.

SOBA AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
In early Spring 2007, SOBA requested nominations for a number of award categories, and the following awards were presented in Couer d’Alene in October.

**Ivers Award:** Presented to Tom Donek, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish
**Professional Service Award:** Presented to Tom Parker, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
**Outstanding Service Award:** Presented to Mike Ammon, California Department of Boating & Waterways
**State Boating Excellence Award:** Presented to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for the TN River Boating Trail
**State CVA Program Excellence Award:** Presented to the Virginia Department of Health for providing over $2 million dollars to marinas for the construction of 95 sewage pumping and handling facilities, and for assisting in the purchasing of pump-out vessels for area lakes
**Outstanding Project Awards: Small Access Category:** Presented to the Bureau of Land Management and California Department of Boating and Waterways for the Granite Launch and River Access on the Lower Kern River
Outstanding Project Awards: Medium Access Category: Presented to the Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division for the Boggy Point Public Boating Access Facility

Outstanding Project Awards: Large Access Category: Presented to the Oregon State Marine Board on behalf of the Port of Coos Bay, Oregon for the Charleston Ramp renovations

Outstanding Project Awards: Marina and Harbors Category: Presented to the Adams County Parks and Recreation (Wisconsin) for the Petenwell Park Harbor of Refuge

Special Recognition Award: Presented to Andre Boudreau with the Block Island Pump-out (RI)

2007 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
Conference proceedings for the 2007 Annual Conference are currently being reproduced. Each conference participant will receive the proceedings in due course. If you were unable to attend the conference, the proceedings are available for purchase for $10.00. Email info@sobaus.org to receive an order form.

SOBA 2008 - 22nd Annual Conference
October 13 – 17

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Virginia Department of Health invite you to attend the 2008 SOBA 22nd Annual Conference. The event will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Oct 13-17th. The conference theme is “Launching For Success – Building on Traditions”


SOBA BOARD UPDATES:

SOBA AND NASBLA SIGN MOU
On September 10, 2007 during the NASBLA Annual Conference, Jeffery Johnson, 2007 President of NASBLA, and Ed Poolos, then Vice President of SOBA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This is an excellent opportunity for SOBA to align itself more strategically with NASBLA and their activities. The MOU states that each group shall work to support each other’s respective missions:

SOBA’s mission is 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. The States Organization for Boating Access accomplishes its mission by:
• Providing strong and effective national leadership for the planning, funding, design, construction, operation and maintenance of boat access facilities;
• Creating and maintaining a national forum for the exchange of information relative to recreational boat access;
• Encouraging cooperation between and forging partnerships with; federal, state, local and private entities in the provision, design and operating of boat access facilities; and
• Working to influence federal, state and local legislation on recreational boat access issues

**NASBLA’s mission** is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment. The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators accomplishes its mission by:
• Providing national leadership and advocacy to focus policies and resources on reducing risks in recreational boating and in waterway security;
• Providing models and standards that foster best practices and uniformity among the states and territories;
• Providing professional development opportunities and other products and services that benefit members; and
• Identifying and employing the highest professional standards and best practices in governing, administering and measuring the performance of the association.

**UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING FOUNDATION ACTIVITIES - By Wayne Shuyler**

The Executive Board of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) met in Chicago on October 16 at the Hotel Allegro. I attended the meeting representing SOBA. RBFF is chaired by Thom Dammrich of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA). Frank Peterson, President/CEO of RBFF, is the principal staff representative at Board meetings.

Frank Peterson provided updates on several RBFF initiatives. He indicated that he or other RBFF staff had participated in meetings and conferences, including ICAST (Annual Sport Fishing Trade Show), NASBLA (National
Association of State Boating Law Administrators), AFWA (Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies), IBEX (International Boatbuilders Exhibition), NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association), and the SOBA Conference in Coeur d’Alene.

The Joint Marketing Committee presented a draft Agreement between RBFF, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Grow Boating, Inc. The agreement would govern a potential combination of the “Take Me Fishing” campaign and NMMA’s “Discover Boating” campaign. The combination of the two campaigns must still be considered by the NMMA Board and then the full RBFF Board.

Peterson reported that the States Initiative, an outreach and marketing program to increase fishing license sales, is proving quite successful. Promising results from a pilot program in Minnesota that targeted anglers whose licenses had lapsed were presented at the 2007 AFWA conference and 41 states expressed interest in implementing the program. Participating states would need to have an electronic licensing system, at least one year of data on lapsed anglers, make a three-year commitment to the program and commit at least $25,000 in state funds. The Board voted to increase RBFF funding for the program to $1,040,000 based on a goal of 30 states participating, direct mail to 1.5 million lapsed anglers and a 25% renewal rate or 375,000 anglers deciding to purchase licenses.

It was reported that the Education campaign had resulted in 40,000 hands-on trial fishing experiences of the 65,000 targeted. Most of the experiences resulted in Physical Education grants with schools and recreation programs with the National Recreation and Park Association.

RBFF also reported that:
- An equivalent of $1.7 million in advertising space was donated to Take Me Fishing
- There are 5,600 subscribers to the RBFF newsletter (you can sign up at http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?Page&pageID=252
- A new website premiered in April.

**MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE BOATING CAUCUS - By Stephanie Cunningham**

The Boating Caucus consists of over 50 members of the Legislature who meet several times throughout the year to discuss and advance initiatives directed at preserving the recreational boating industry in Massachusetts, and to hear issues raised by boating constituencies.

The September 27th meeting in Boston included a presentation by the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) on a recent member’s survey, (Environmental Compliance Project Status & Finance Survey), which reported that the average cost of environmental compliance projects exceeds $67,000. Caucus participants discussed various legislative vehicles for assisting marinas and boatyards with financing projects required to meet environmental regulatory codes. Caucus members and MMTA are exploring the feasibility of legislation to provide low interest loans to marinas and boatyards. In addition, as these are primarily federal mandates that marinas and boatyards are trying to meet, the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation should be contacted by the Boating Caucus to generate interest at the federal level in providing funding. MMTA can be contacted at: www.boatma.com.

Tom Cox, Constitution Marina, presented a study recently completed by the Recreation Marine Research Center at Michigan State University to determine the Economic Impacts of Spending By the Owners of Boats Kept at Constitution Marina, Boston MA. Results revealed that Constitution Marina generates $6 million annually for the local economy, including 30 direct and indirect jobs, $328,000 in restaurant sales, $348,000 in retail sales and $60,000 in entertainment sales. Additionally, seasonal boaters at Constitution Marina generate over $3.8 million annually in craft and trip spending and guest boaters spend approximately $2.4 million annually in the Boston area. The economic importance of marinas and boatyards cannot be overstated. The Caucus is considering expanding this study
statewide using the associated online tool (http://www.marinaeconomics.com) and the assistance of local Chambers of Commerce.

ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (AFWA) ANNUAL MEETING, LOUISVILLE, KY - By Stephanie Cunningham

Angler and Boating Participation Committee:


Full reports including an eight page glossary with text by an established outdoor writer will be available this December from Southwick Associates, and the American Sportfishing Association will be sending complete reports to all state agencies. Historical data includes:

- The Surveys are conducted every 5 years. The last set was completed in 2001.
- There are approximately 30 million anglers and 7.7 million of those are marine.
- 57% of all anglers fished from a boat.
- $42.2 billion was spent by anglers on fishing and related expenses.
- There are slight declines in overall participation since 2001; however, there are significant declines in certain sectors over 1990 numbers:
  - Salt water fishing declined 15%
  - Participation in the 25 – 35 age range declined significantly
  - Urban anglers also showed significant declines
- Individual State Reports are completed and available on the USFWS website.

Southwick also has two other surveys that are conducted online – AnglerSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com. These surveys can be analyzed to look at trends e.g. month to month, by gender, or by species. Southwick is asking state agency’s to put the links on their websites. In return, the state will receive a monthly summary analyzing trends. South Carolina and Georgia are participating now.

Improving Marine Recreational Fisheries Information

Web site: www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov

An update was given on the overhaul of MRFSS and the collection of marine recreational fishing data. NOAA must impose a national saltwater angler registry by January 2009 as mandated in the reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens. A committee has been put together comprised of state, federal and industry representatives to create an efficient & thorough Saltwater Angler Registry. Exemptions are being considered for hire vessels, senior citizens, children, and veterans.

Committee Priorities

The meeting concluded with Committee priorities. Members of the Education, Outreach, and Diversity Committee joined the meeting for this topic. Key or recurring themes focused on outreach to young anglers (e.g., less than 14 years of age), angling equipment loan programs, family-friendly fishing access, and angling programs for minorities. Fishing derbies, fishing mentors, aquatic education programs, and school-based fishing programs were offered as models that have been used with some success. Chairman Chanda plans to convene a small work group of Committee members to help him set some goals and priorities for Committee work.
Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee:

Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects

The development of new infrastructure, as well as the impacts of past infrastructure projects, can negatively impact habitat and ecosystems. Unfortunately, the techniques developed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate these impacts may not always provide the greatest environmental benefit, or may do very little to promote ecosystem sustainability. This concern prompted the mobilization of an interagency Steering Team to collaborate over a three-year period to write Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects. The Steering Team was comprised of representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, USEPA, Federal Highway Administration, NOAA Fisheries Service, National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and several state Departments of Transportation and Transportation Authorities. Additionally, an Executive Order (EO 13352) reinforces Eco-Logical by ensuring that agencies of the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that promotes cooperative conservation, with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in Federal decision making. To view or download a PDF of Eco-Logical please visit: http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecological/eco_index.asp.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

OREGON AND RBFF ENTER INTO PILOT EFFORT TO ADDRESS LAPSED BOAT REGISTRATIONS - By Wayne Shuyler

The Oregon State Marine Board has agreed to undertake a pilot project with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to look at ways to encourage boaters with expired boat tags to renew their registrations. Like many states, Oregon has seen a slow but steady decrease in the number of boats registered statewide. The decline began in the late 1990s and has continued. Looking at registration records, the Marine Board surmises that the decline may be due more to boaters not renewing their registration than it is due to lagging new boat sales.

The pilot program, which will be modeled after the successful RBFF campaign to help states retain lapsed anglers, will focus on research into the demographics of lapsed boaters and the reasons they have stopped boating and then identify appropriate efforts to encourage boaters to re-register their boats. Pennsylvania is also considering participating in a similar pilot program.

Lessons learned from the pilot projects may be adapted for use by other states.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TWIN CITIES PUBLIC TELEVISION AIR COOPERATIVE TELEVISION PROGRAM ON DECLINING PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION – By Kent Skaar

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) has partnered with Minneapolis/St. Paul Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) to produce a one-hour program focusing on trends in outdoor recreation participation and its implications. Tim Kelly, Research Analyst with the MN DNR's Office of Management and Budget Services and C. B. Bylander, Outreach Section Chief with the MN DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife are among the guests on the program.

The program, called "Outdoor Recreation In Decline," aired at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 27 on TPT 17. A replay is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 25, also on TPT 17.

If you wish to receive a copy of the program, please contact Kent Skaar at kent.skaar@dnr.state.mn.us.
BLACKWATER BOAT LANDING, CITY OF FRANKLIN, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VA; dedicated and opened for public use in August, 2007; VDGIF Project Manager, Allester Watts. Federal Project Number: F-105-D34, US Sport Fish Restoration Funds

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT: This $1,066,000 project involved all construction necessary to build a double lane, thirty-two feet (32') wide reinforced concrete boat launching facility complete with access road and parking lot. The total length of the concrete boat ramp is approximately sixty feet (60') and provides boating access to the Blackwater River. Two 6 feet wide handicapped accessible courtesy piers with approximately fifty-four feet (54') long gangways and thirty-one feet (31') long "L" heads flanks both sides of the double lane boat ramp, to assist boaters in boarding their boats. The parking lot is designed to handle thirty-five (35) vehicle/trailer parking spaces of which 3 are designated for handicapped vehicle/trailer spaces. The parking lot includes six (6) vehicle parking spaces, two (2) of which are handicapped designated. Also included is temporary parking for four (4) vehicle/trailers near the head of the boat ramp to provide for boat preparation and staging activities. Drive lanes, a maneuvering area and a boat launching staging area are provided at the head of the boat ramp. All parking lot, driveways and parking spaces are paved and striped. Vehicle/trailer spaces are all pull through for convenience to boaters and vehicle parking spaces are striped and have concrete wheel stops to keep vehicles off the 5 ft. wide handicapped accessible sidewalks. An informal "Event Field" located immediately to the east of the paved parking lot will serve as a grassed overflow parking lot when needed.

Previously, there were no areas where the public could gain safe and legal boating access to the Blackwater River in or near the City of Franklin. The site is approximately 9.0 river miles downstream of the Department’s Joyner’s Bridge Landing (Rte. 611) in Isle of Wight County. The site is approximately 13.5 river miles upstream of the confluence of the Blackwater and the Nottoway Rivers at the Virginia and North Carolina state line. This site provides safe and adequate public access to the Blackwater River for boaters and recreational fresh water anglers to a section of the Blackwater River that was previously under utilized.

The 6.58 acre site and access way of .921 acres are located in the City of Franklin on the Blackwater River. The City of Franklin owns the land in fee simple. The VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries hold conservation easements on both tracts with the County to provide public boating access at this location. This facility required the submission of a Joint Permit Application for review and approval by various local, state and federal regulatory agencies. This project was approved by the appropriate environmental regulatory agencies and permits were in place for its construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Regional Permit (No. 04-R2458) for this project. The Virginia Marine Resource Commission issued a permit (VMRC #06-0099) to encroach in, on, or over State-owned sub aqueous bottoms.

SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED
Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne, announced 24 appointments to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, an advisory panel created in 1993 to offer counsel to the Secretary on nationally significant recreational fishing and boating and aquatic resource conservation issues. The announcement was made in Sanibel, Florida, on October 22nd at the Sportfishing Summit, the annual business meeting of the American Sportfishing Association.

The new members will begin their terms in November, and Kempthorne told Summit attendees he is looking forward to working with the Council in the months ahead to address issues such as boating and fishing access and participation.

The Secretary announced the appointment of the following individuals to serve on the Council for its upcoming two-year term: James Anderson of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Douglass Boyd, Coastal Conservation Association; **Terry Boyd, SOBA**; Jeffrey Crane, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation; Thomas Dammrich, National Marine Manufacturers Association; Betty Huskins, Southeastern Tourism Policy Council; Ryck Lydecker, BoatUS; John
L. Morris, Bass Pro Shops; and Michael Nussman, American Sportfishing Association.

Also appointed were James Range of the American Fly Fishing Trade Association; Geoff Ratte, Water Gremlin Company; Tom Ricks, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society/ESPN Outdoors; John Sprague, Marine Industries Association of Florida; and Dr. William Taylor, Michigan State University.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) appoints two State directors to serve on the Council, a coastal state representative and an inland state representative. AFWA recommended Kenneth Haddad of Florida for reappointment and Curtis Taylor of West Virginia for appointment to a vacant slot.

Six alternate Council appointments were also announced. Alternates can attend meetings and vote when the primary member is unable to attend. Alternates are: Edward Poolos, SOBA; Gary Kania, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation; Mathew Dunn, National Marine Manufacturers Association; Martin MacDonald, Bass Pro Shops; Gordon Robertson, American Sportfishing Association; and Christopher Horton, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

INDUSTRY AND LEGISLATIVE NEWS

DISCOVER BOATING MARKETING MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO SOBA MEMBERS

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), in conjunction with their Discover Boating marketing campaign, has developed materials to promote boating as a fun and accessible lifestyle. The following promotional items are available to SOBA members to further the reach of the campaign. Contact www.growboating.org for details.

♦ Posters
♦ Loopled DVDs
♦ Window Clings
♦ Dealer Starter Kits
♦ Bumper Stickers
♦ Brochures

SENATORS BARBARA BOXER AND BILL NELSON COMMITTED TO FIXING BALLAST WATER PERMITTING ISSUE FOR BOATERS

Support from Senate Leaders a Victory for Nation’s Boaters

The nation’s 73 million boaters gained a tremendous victory in the U.S. Senate in their fight against complex, costly and unnecessary permitting as a result of a court decision last fall. During a Senate vote on ballast water legislation, Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) unequivocally committed themselves to resolve the issue before the September 2008 permitting deadline and protect the U.S. recreational boating industry, boaters and anglers across the country.
“A recent court ruling has cast doubt on whether recreational boaters—people going out for a day of fishing, or waterskiing—can continue to operate without a permit from the EPA,” said Senator Bill Nelson. “They’ve never been required to have such a permit, and there’s no reason for that to change. You shouldn’t have to ask the EPA before you take your boat out on the water.”

Environmental groups and several state Attorney Generals successfully argued in a U.S. District Court case last fall that ballast water should not be exempted from government regulation as a pollutant because it introduces harmful invasive species into U.S. waters. Large ocean-going ships use ballast water for stability, taking on water to weigh the vessel down.

Unfortunately for the nation’s 73 million boaters, the court’s ruling also includes boat engine cooling water, bilge water, gray water and common deck runoff—none of which was considered by the court, as the case focused solely on commercial ship ballast water. The court has directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a new, complex and costly permitting scheme for the nation’s estimated 18 million boats by September 2008.

“I don’t think they should have to get these permits,” said Senator Boxer, Chairwoman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

“I agree (with Senator Nelson) and will support that recreational boating and sport fishing should be allowed to continue as they always have—without individual NPDES permits,” Boxer said, referring to national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) historically associated with large industrial and municipal sites. “So we’ve decided that our offices will begin work immediately to find a legislative solution that accomplishes both of these goals as soon as possible, and no later than next September.”

“Florida has almost a million boaters…it’s vitally important to them, and to me, that we continue a reasonable, commonsense exemption for recreational boating and sport fishing,” Senator Nelson said.

“The clock is running out for the nation’s boaters; without congressional action boaters will be trapped in this unprecedented and costly ballast water permitting scheme,” said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the nation’s largest trade association representing the $39.5 billion U.S. recreational boating industry. “We welcome and applaud the strong resolve of Senators Boxer and Nelson to solve the issue before the September 2008 deadline.”

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**SOBA’S 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.*

Interested in learning more about SOBA?

Contact Bernice McArdle at 312-946-6283 or soba@nmma.org

www.sobaus.org