



MTA/NJ Accomplishments & Successes Supporting & Advancing New Jersey's Marine Businesses *Updated June 2017*

Legislative Efforts: The MTA/NJ has been directly involved in movement and/or opposition of many bills that have impacted or negatively affected the industry including the boating safety education law, abandoned vessel law, speed limits, fishing and boating restrictions, mandatory insurance and environmental legislation. Most recently, the MTA/NJ was successful in getting Sales Tax Legislation, S2784, quickly through committees, passed in both houses and signed by the Governor. Under this new law, the sales tax is reduced to 50% of the tax for every boat sold in NJ. This effectively makes the sales tax less than 3.5% across the board for boats, regardless of the price of the boat - with a cap of \$20,000. The bill also includes a 30-day grace period for use tax imposition. This ensures that New Jersey remains competitive with other states and is a true victory for the boating industry.

Environmental Regulations: The MTA/NJ has worked tirelessly to address and amend many environmental regulations that directly impact marine businesses. In early 2013, following Hurricane Sandy, the DEP adopted several significant rule changes for marinas to repair their facilities and conduct needed maintenance without going through a cumbersome permitting process. On June 6th, 2015 more, significant rule changes for marinas were adopted and are the direct result of the MTA/NJ's efforts in working with DEP leadership to further promote and protect the industry. These positive changes make it easier for marinas to obtain permits, conduct needed maintenance, expansion projects and facilitate compliance with DEP regulations.

DEP Public Access Rule: The MTA/NJ fought for over six years to provide relief for marinas forced to comply with the DEP public access rules. While this battle continues today now in the legislature, in November 2012 DEP leadership amended and adopted a rule proposal that freed marinas from the onerous and burdensome requirements of these rules which included providing access to marina properties 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days of the year. The DEP responded to the Association's concerns and recognized the need to revise the state's public access rule to make it more reasonable by using common sense and recognizing that marinas already provide access. The adoption of these rules is another victory for the industry that to this day is protecting New Jersey marinas.

Boat Shows: The MTA/NJ is committed to making sure that there are affordable and successful local boat shows to support our boat dealer members as well as those that provide related goods and services. As a result of that commitment, the MTA/NJ produces The Jersey Shore Boat Sale & Expo held in September at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood and New Jersey Boat Sale & Expo held in February at the NJ Convention & Exposition Center in Edison. Proceeds from these shows go back to the Association to aggressively and strategically advertise the show as well as to support the efforts of the MTA/NJ, which is dedicated to advancing, promoting and protecting the recreational boating industry. Details on both events are available at JerseyBoatExpo.com. The MTA/NJ also proudly endorses the Progressive Insurance Atlantic City Boat Show in which MTA/NJ members are entitled to exhibitor discounts.

Education Scholarships & Training Support for Members: The MTA/NJ Foundation has awarded over \$20,000 in education scholarships over the last seven years to students interested in furthering their education. The MTA/NJ Family Scholarship is open to all members' children and their employees and can be applied to any higher education program. The Education Foundation also helps our members with reimbursements for various training classes and certifications to help grow their workforce and businesses. In the last three years alone, the MTA/NJ Foundation has reimbursed members over \$6,000 for ABYC Certification Courses and OSHA Certification for forklift and marine travelift operators. These funds go directly back to our members.

Hurricane Sandy Recovery & Relief Efforts: The MTA/NJ worked tirelessly following Hurricane Sandy to provide support and assistance to members. These efforts are outlined in detail in our *Overview of MTA/NJ Hurricane Sandy Recovery & Relief Efforts* which can be found on our website at mtanj.org/whyjoin.html.

Go Boating NJ: The GoBoatingNJ initiative was launched in 2013 to provide boaters throughout the Region with accurate and current information on the condition of New Jersey's waterways following Hurricane Sandy in late October 2012. The initiative was launched to address boater concerns by providing coverage of the waterway restoration efforts taking place each day. A new website, www.goboatingnj.org was created and included videos, links and boating resources. Go Boating NJ campaign's objectives have now shifted to solely promoting boating in New Jersey. In 2017, GoBoatingNJ will promote boating all season long through our social media outlets, news releases and the website. The Go Boating NJ campaign will be sharing boating information, tips and resources as well as highlighting some of NJ's most popular boating areas.

Events: In the last six years alone, the MTA/NJ has held over 50 events ranging from casual networking events held in various locations across the state to large conferences that provide attendees with a diverse and informative schedule of presentations. Many of these events offer members an affordable means to promote and advertise their businesses through sponsorships, resulting in new sales and new business contacts for these members.

Vessel Wash Wastewater Regulations: The MTA/NJ worked directly with the DEP to provide relief for marine businesses needing to comply with this regulation. The MTA/NJ was responsible for several measures that benefit the industry:

- **Permit- By- Rule:** Thanks to the MTA/NJ, the DEP developed a permit-by-rule that enables marinas to install a boat wash wastewater system and any related infrastructure without having to obtain a coastal or general permit.
- **Enforcement Discretion:** Thanks to the lobbying effort of the MTA/NJ, the DEP exercised their "enforcement discretion" and did not enforce the requirements of the Basic Industrial Stormwater General Permit for an additional 6 months.
- **Grant Funding:** The MTA/NJ worked with the I BOAT NJ Program and the NJ Marine Sciences Consortium to provide grant funding to marinas to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and/or install Vessel Wash Wastewater Systems and Stormwater Control Measures. Over \$400,000 in grant funding was distributed to marinas to assist them in complying with this regulation.
- **2017 Compliance Assistance:** Thanks to the MTA/NJ the DEP is currently conducting compliance assistance to help marinas with compliance before any violations are issued.

Clean Marina Program: The program provides free resources and materials to pledged and certified clean marinas. Without the support and perseverance of the MTA/NJ, this program would not have been developed. To date, there are over 50 clean marinas utilizing the valuable resources and information provided from the Program.

I BOAT NJ: The MTA/NJ successfully lobbied for the dedication of boater registration fees to go back to the industry to support projects that improve and enhance recreational boating. The I BOAT NJ Program has provided millions of dollars for critical resources to improve the marine trades industry with many funds going directly to MTA/NJ Members. It has funded much needed infrastructure improvements, boating programs and has helped to improve NJ's reputation as a boating destination. While the last few state budgets have diverted I BOAT NJ Program dollars into the DOT's operations and maintenance fund, the MTA/NJ continues to fight to restore these critical funds.

For more information on the MTA/NJ, upcoming events, recent news and updates, please visit:

mtanj.org

JerseyBoatExpo.com

GoBoatingNJ.org