



MTA/NJ Accomplishments & Successes Supporting & Advancing New Jersey's Marine Businesses *Updated February 2016*

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 now 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.

Legislative Efforts: The MTA/NJ has been very active in the 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, and boating restrictions, mandatory insurance and environmental legislation. **Most recently, the MTA/NJ was successful in getting Sales Tax Legislation, S2784, passed in both houses and signed into law by Governor Christie in December. 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 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 is a true victory for the boating industry in New Jersey.**

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 a number of 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 will 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. This long battle successfully came to an end in November 2012 when DEP leadership 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. An amended rule proposal was adopted and 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 adoption of these rules is another victory for the industry that will ensure the future health and growth of the recreational boating industry and the marinas that provide meaningful access to our waterways.

Education Scholarships: The MTA/NJ Foundation has awarded close to \$20,000 in education scholarships over the last six years to students interested in furthering their education and pursuing a career in the marine trades industry. In 2014, the MTA/NJ established the Family Scholarship. This new 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 reimbursement for various training classes and certifications to help grow their workforce and businesses. **Most recently, the MTA/NJ reimbursed members that attended an ABYC course \$150 per person for completing the training. This is money that goes directly to support 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: In April 2013, the MTA/NJ launched a new campaign, Go Boating NJ to provide boaters throughout the Region with accurate and current information on the condition of New Jersey's waterways. This initiative was launched to address concerns about the 2013 boating season by providing coverage of the restoration efforts taking place each day. GoBoatingNJ.org was created and included on-water videos, photos and important boating resources. The campaign is now shifting its focus to promoting boating in NJ. This new website is continually being updated and currently provides boaters with a wealth of boating resources, links, news, photos, and more. Plans are in the works now to expand and grow Go Boating NJ.

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. 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.

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 a number of 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.

Economic Impact Study: In April 2008, the MTA/NJ released the results of a two year effort to quantify the economic impacts of recreational boating in the State of New Jersey. The study, the first of its kind in New Jersey, directly measured expenditures related to recreational boating and their impact on the state's economy. The study indicated that NJ boaters spend approximately \$2 billion dollars on in-state recreational boating activities.

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 and more are becoming certified every month.

Events: In the last five years alone, the MTA/NJ has held over 45 events ranging from casual networking events to large conferences that provide attendees with a diverse and informative schedule of presentations. Many of these events also offer members an affordable means to promote and advertise their businesses through sponsorships, resulting in new sales and new business contacts for these members.

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

Mtanj.org
JerseyBoatExpo.com
GoBoatingNJ.org