

The Issue:

Anchoring Restrictions by Local Governmental Units surrounding Municipal Mooring Fields.

The NBF Position:

National Boating Federation Position Statement Regarding State Enacted Boat Anchoring Laws

Millions of recreational boaters throughout the United States enjoy reasonably unfettered freedom to navigate, use and enjoy our nation's waterways.

In order to maintain these unfettered freedoms, the National Boating Federation advocates that all states within the United States pass legislation limiting the powers of local municipalities to restrict the safe, free anchoring of recreational vessels throughout the states' navigable waters, while anchored outside of established mooring fields. Except in designated mooring fields, and within reasonable anchoring set-back requirements surrounding such mooring fields, municipalities should have no authority to regulate where typical cruising vessels may anchor.

Governmental entities that wish to do so, may regulate anchoring by establishing marked mooring fields in accordance with state laws. Those mooring fields should be reasonable in availability, scope and use, and fees charged for the use of same should be reasonably related to the maintenance and management thereof. All efforts should be made by those governmental entities who establish mooring fields, to allow for ease of access and use by recreational boaters.