

# National Legislative Report - Update

June, 2011

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**Coastal Marine Spatial Planning:** The National Ocean Council has invited stakeholders, including NBF, to a public workshop on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP), to be held in Washington, DC on June 21, at the U.S. Dep't of the Interior. The workshop is based on Executive Order 13547 from President Obama in 2009, to take a new approach to stewardship of the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes.

To engage the public in implementing CMSP, the workshop participants will learn about CMSP and help shape its use in coordinating the often competing use of our waters such as national security, energy and economic security and conservation. While no mention of recreational boating was indicated, we want to ensure "Spatial Planning" includes the boating community as well as the many other interests.

**NBF Position on Gray Water Discharge:** NBF has stated its position on gray discharge in a formal letter to the EPA. In the letter we stated our support of the development of Best Management Practices (BMP), but that they "should be reasonable, practicable and economically viable" and further that "such BMP shall be based on hard scientific evidence which demonstrates that such BMP improve the water quality of our oceans, lakes and rivers". We will participate in the future public input sessions when they are scheduled.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held it's 2nd Listening session in Annapolis, MD, on proposed regulations to mitigate adverse effects from bilge water, gray water and deck runoff from recreational vessels as required by the Clean Boating Act. The format was the same as first session; opening remarks, followed by comments and then a question period. There were similar comments to the first Session, with many citing practices already in place to eliminate or at least mitigate any effects from gray water discharge. Some cited State practices already in place (Maryland brochures "Clean Boating Tips" were on the sign in table).

A significant question to the EPA was "has there been any published study on the effect of gray water discharge on water quality?" The answer was "no".

The EPA stated by the summer of 2012 it will release the "proposed rulemaking." There will be a comment period and then in the summer of 2013 will be the "final Phase 1 rules." Not until the final CG regulations are out, which will be enforced by the CG, will there be any effect. The EPA further stated that it is "not looking at hardware solutions" and "no retrofit or expensive installations" will be required. Further they will tell us the cost, provide the rationale and cost analysis of their proposed rulings. These statements were essentially confirmed by Director Denise Keenher, EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, at the 4 May American Boating Congress held in Washington DC.

There was also a webinar held on May 5 and May 10; EPA.gov/cleanboatingact.

**HR 1702 Elimination of Tax Deduction for Marine Mortgages:** This bill as introduced would eliminate any tax deductions for interest paid on boat loans. As of this writing, the House Ways and Means Committee has not announced any hearing on the bill. Many in industry are opposed to this and have made their opposition known to members on the Hill. There seems to be sufficient opposition to defeat the bill.