

TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

COVID-19 Economic Relief

The recreational boating industry faces a potential loss of \$22.2 billion as a result of the halt in economic activity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the economy begins to reopen and recover, it is crucial that businesses continue to receive support in order to save American jobs and reinvest capital.

- Extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to cover at least 16 weeks of payroll and operating costs.
- Waive the Small Business Administration's (SBA) affiliation rule for the recreational boating industry.
- Provide tax credits to businesses that retooled facilities to produce personal protective equipment and invest in research and development.
- Allow small businesses to refinance existing SBA loans to help ensure businesses have more cash flow.
- Expand the PPP to include 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations so that those organizations can qualify for the PPP and other SBA programs.
- Provide limited and rational safe harbor protection for employers operating during the pandemic and prevent frivolous lawsuits.
- End section 232 and 301 tariffs which present an unnecessary tax burden on U.S. companies.
- Expand the Employer Retention Tax Credit to keep employees on payrolls and incentivize businesses that maintain staffing levels.
- Establish a Manufacturer Resiliency Fund and National Institute of Manufacturing to promote a comprehensive manufacturing assistance and strategy effort.

Recreation Infrastructure

Focusing U.S. economic recovery on surface and water infrastructure will put people back to work and provide a needed injection of economic stimulus to local and rural economies. Getting boaters out on the water is essential to our industry's success and doing so requires modern infrastructure.

- Tackle the \$20 billion maintenance backlog for our federal lands and waters system, which includes addressing docks, boat ramps, campgrounds, trails, and roads, and fully fund conservation efforts that improve recreation access (e.g., LWCF) by passing the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).
- Pass the SHORE Act (H.R. 5832) to ensure that the economic benefit of recreation is part of the calculation for small and emerging harbor investment and maintenance.
- Reauthorize the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (H.R. 4828) and support marketing efforts through the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to get Americans back on the water boating and fishing.
- Support municipal budget shortfalls by reducing federal cost sharing burdens for infrastructure projects.
- Stop and reverse the spread of aquatic invasive species- a national problem that costs the U.S. \$5.4 billion each year.
- Expand federal research efforts to detect and mitigate harmful algal blooms.
- Secure \$250 million in annual federal funding for Everglades Restoration (ER) and ensure ER projects are completed in the most expeditious manner possible.



Healthy and Abundant Fisheries

Fishing is critical to the recreational boating industry – more than 70 percent of all boat outings involve fishing. Recreational anglers make a combined economic contribution of \$125 billion annually, supporting more than 828,000 U.S. jobs. As more Americans take to the water, it is crucial that Congress enact policies to support abundant and sustainable fisheries.

- Ensure better data collection and management of recreational fisheries.
- Support America's Conservation Enhancement Act (H.R. 925/S.3051) and legislation aimed at addressing forage fish management, reducing fish mortality, and banning outdated fishing gear such as gillnets.
- Support reasonable and responsible access to recreational sportfish, including South Atlantic red snapper and Atlantic striped bass.

Free and Fair Trade

Marine manufacturers rely on free and fair trade, global supply chains, and a stable business environment to remain competitive. The combination of tariffs on raw materials, components and parts, and boat exports means it is more expensive to build boats and there are fewer international customers. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated our industry's supply chain and export challenges, making the need for tariff relief as urgent as ever.

- Eliminate the European Union's 25 percent retaliatory tariff on American boats.
- Immediately suspend Section 301 tariff payments while accelerating negotiations for a binding Phase Two agreement with China.
- Secure trade agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom that addresses technical barriers to trade and regulatory cooperation.

