



# RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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**SUMMER 2016**

# BOATER BRIEF

## Get Informed & Take Action – Sign Up Today at [www.rbo.org](http://www.rbo.org)

Sign up today to receive emails directly from RBOC so you will be informed and can take quick action to influence proposals that will directly impact you as a boater.

RBOC speaks on your behalf when elected officials, government agencies and other interests propose laws, rules and requirements that will impact boating.

## How Far Can Your Boat Go on Corn?



RBOC joins Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) in urging the EPA to lower the ethanol mandates to ensure an adequate supply of fuel that will work with recreational boat engine and fuel systems.

Boaters can quickly take action: [click here](#)

EPA is asking for comments to be submitted on a proposal to increase the amount of ethanol that must be blended into the nation's gasoline supply for 2017. If adopted, these proposed levels will require the use of a record amount of ethanol, forcing higher-level ethanol fuel blends (including E15 or 15% ethanol) into gas pumps and at more gas stations. Most marine engines are built to only work with up to 10% ethanol, and it is illegal to use gas containing more than 10% ethanol in any marine engine.

## Boater Funds for Commercial Vessel Cleanup

The Assembly Appropriations Committee has “held under submission” the RBOC-opposed AB 2092 [Frazier] that would authorize the use of boater-generated state taxes and fees for the cleanup of commercial vessels. With this action, AB 2092 was stopped at the Appropriations Committee.



Commercial vessels are much more expensive to clean-up and the cost of one vessel could exceed the entire amount of available funds.

The owners of commercial vessels do not contribute to our fund – only recreational vessel owners do.

The demand for clean-up of recreational vessels already exceeds the amount of available funds. These vessels should remain the top priority at this time.

Many thanks to the many boaters statewide who took action to contact their elected representatives and express concerns with this important measure. Your actions make a difference.



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## Support RBOC

We estimate that, over the years, RBOC's efforts are saving individual California boaters several hundreds of dollars each year. It is easy to make a contribution. Donate easily on-line at [www.rbo.org](http://www.rbo.org) using Discover, Visa, American Express, MasterCard, or PayPal. Donations are not tax deductible due to RBOC's extensive lobbying efforts.

## Anti-Fouling Paints

RBOC continues to urge that the USEPA Office of Water complete its review of the Copper Marine Biotic Ligand Model [BLM] for metals in salt water.

This issue is important to boaters as it impacts decisions made by the state and regional water quality control boards that address copper including the copper-based anti-fouling paints used on boat hulls in salt water.



When adopted by USEPA, this water quality criteria document will be available for use in California and will allow for more accurate marine and estuarine water quality criteria to be developed to protect the environment and to create more scientifically defensible regulatory actions rather than the arbitrary one-size-fits all number that is currently used.

Adoption of the action by the USEPA will help all parties involved establish protective and accurate water quality criteria.

## Invasive Species

RBOC is supporting the dedicated efforts of the Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] to identify and commit



the necessary resources to combat non-native aquatic species such as *Egeria densa* and water hyacinth, and to develop and implement long-term strategies that can be more effective than past efforts.

RBOC has supported the efforts of the Governor's administration to dedicate additional resources within the state budget to these efforts. While \$4 million in boater-generated funds have been identified and are being utilized, it is important that other stakeholders and beneficiaries contribute financially in these efforts.