



# RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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FALL 2021

# BOATER BRIEF

## 250% Boat Registration Fee Hike – Prevented for Now

RBOC appreciates the action taken by Governor Newsom and the State Legislature to remove a proposed 250% increase in boat registration fees from the state budget in response to the serious concerns raised by RBOC, our national advocacy partner Boat Owners Association of The United States, and boating associations including the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association, Southern California Yachting Association, Marine Recreation Association, California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, California Yacht Brokers Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association,

California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains, thousands of California boaters who took action, and several other allied organizations.

“This is the right decision for boaters,” responded RBOC President Winston Bumpus. “The further we look into the many different pots where boater-generated fuel tax dollars are placed, the more questions boaters have identified about the fairness of a registration fee increase.”

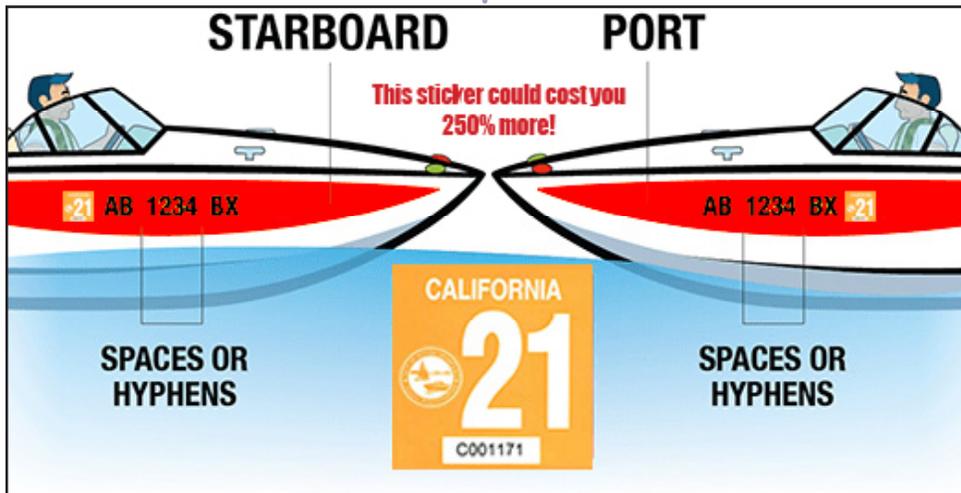
Continued Bumpus: “For instance, boaters pay \$107 million each year in fuel taxes to the state, yet only \$15 million [14%] is provided to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund [HWRF] for a number of programs and services including boater education and operator certification, safety and enforcement on the waterways, boating facilities, removal of abandoned and derelict watercraft,

and efforts to combat invasive species.”

Added David B. Kennedy with BoatU.S. Government Affairs: “This is a great demonstration of the benefits of boaters engaging on issues that matter to their boating. Working with RBOC, over 4,000 messages were sent by BoatU.S. members to the legislature and governor. It’s clear their voices were heard.”

The final state budget action allocates state general fund dollars to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund [HWRF] administered by the Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] for a variety of programs and services that benefit boaters.

RBOC and others will participate in a public stakeholder process DBW will initiate in the near future to develop recommendations to the Legislature for long-term solutions to the deficiencies that DBW and State Parks state that the HWRF is experiencing. Boat registration fees will be part of that conversation, together with efficiencies and improvements to existing programs and revisions to better serve the boating public.



## Governor Signs Fix-it Ticket Legislation

Governor Newsom has signed into law AB 591 [Villapudua] that will provide incentives for boaters to correct certain violations by giving peace officers the option to issue a written notice containing a violator's promise to correct and alleged violation of various offenses relating to vessels. These include – having an expired vessel registration, not having a serviceable fire extinguisher, or not having a boater card while operating a vessel powered by an engine. The measure is sponsored by the California State Sheriffs Association.

## Sport Fishing Licenses

The RBOC-supported AB 817 [Wood] and SB 470 [Jones] to improve the licensing systems for sport fishing and hunting are progressing through the legislative process.

AB 817 would authorize the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue sport fishing licenses that are valid for 12 consecutive months from the date of purchase, and to offer an electronic version beginning January 1, 2023. The measure is sponsored by the California Coastal Conservation Association.

SB 470 would require the Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue a combined hunting and sport fishing license valid for one year from the date of purchase, beginning Jan. 1, 2024.



## 30x30 and Navigable Waterways



RBOC is participating together with the many interested parties as the California Natural Resources Agency holds a series of public workshops to develop strategies to conserve 30 percent of state lands by 2030.

RBOC has testified in support of the principles outlined in the **Governor's Executive Order on 30 x 30**, including the goals of protecting and enhancing biodiversity in terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats by the year 2030. RBOC encourages that these approaches include recognition of the positive role that on-the-water recreation including boating plays in conservation, inclusion, and equitable access.

As the Natural and Working Lands Climate Strategy is developed for California's 30x30 initiative, advisory panels have identified opportunities for the long-term success of these efforts. These include the enhancement of inclusion and equitable access, together with a process that emphasizes engagement and collaboration.

## Privacy Act Accommodation for Warranties and Recalls

The RBOC-supported AB 335 [Boerner Horvath] has passed to the Senate Floor. The measure would provide an exemption from the California Consumer Privacy Act's opt-out provision so that vessel owner contact information can be shared for the limited purposes of recalls, warranties and repairs. The legislation is sponsored by the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

## Please Contribute

Your contribution helps RBOC continue our professional advocacy and grassroots efforts that ensures we are able to continue to enjoy boating. Please contribute \$20 or more and become a Friend of RBOC. [www.RBOC.org](http://www.RBOC.org)

Please note that, due to RBOC's extensive lobbying activities, contributions to our nonprofit advocacy organization are not tax deductible.