

## “OCEAN ZONING” ALERT FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

MASSACHUSETTS  
MARINE TRADES  
ASSOCIATION



All Hands On Deck!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has released for comment a draft “Ocean Management Plan”, the first open ocean zoning plan in the nation. Recent state legislation ordered that a science-based ocean plan for state waters be developed and finalized by December 31, 2009.

What Does This Mean For Boaters?

**THE STATE HAS NOT ACCURATELY INCLUDED ALL RECREATIONAL BOATING AREAS ALREADY HEAVILY USED.**

How Can Boaters Get Involved?

**Attend a public comment session to offer input on the draft plan.** Without your boating voice, the opportunity may be lost to well funded, in-water structure advocates and classic environmental advocates. **Let your state officials know that recreational boaters are intent on maintaining their right to access our coastal waters!**

WIDESPREAD BOATER PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECTING RECREATIONAL BOATING FOR DECADES TO COME. Please attend a hearing and speak up for recreational boaters. Let the drafters of the plan know where you enjoy spending time on the water and that you want to continue.

If you or boater friends cannot attend, please submit your comments on-line or by mail. Written comments can double as oral remarks at hearings. Model written comments to double as oral remarks will be made available as information develops.

Submit on-line comments at <http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/commentonline.aspx>. Or via standard mail to Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, Re: Draft Ocean Management Plan, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114

What's The Fallout?

The Massachusetts Marine Trades Association has been involved from the ground up in developing the draft plan while advocating for the recognition of recreational boating as a positive and balanced use of our coastal waters. Without this recognition, **the areas you value as a recreational boater may become less accessible.** As part of the ocean management plan, **other uses incompatible with recreational boating may exclude you from using coastal waters** that you have enjoyed, until now, without restriction.

## Where Do Things Stand Now?

MMTA has been negotiating many aspects of the plan for several years. For example, the legislation orders that the area being planned begin well beyond existing marinas, docks and mooring fields. The draft plan does this.

MMTA also provided the state with detailed charts illustrating where people currently boat, all up and down the coast and around the islands. The text of the draft plan does recognize the areas of concentrated recreational boating, meaning that any new in-water structures or uses in those areas are “presumed incompatible” and must avoid interfering with recreational navigation or pay mitigation to improve public recreational boating.

## So What’s The Problem?

**Not all of the important underlying recreational boating data (areas) were incorporated in the draft plan.** MMTA data provided to the state included ALL areas of concentrated recreational boating, but the state’s portrayal of recreational boating data just isn’t complete or accurate yet. **This concern must be voiced in the public comment sessions.**

Look at the draft plan online and see for yourself what needs correcting for the areas you boat in most often. The text of the entire draft plan is available at:

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeaterminal&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Ocean+%26+Coastal+Management&L2=Massachusetts+Ocean+Plan&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea\\_oceans\\_draft\\_mop&csid=Eoeea](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeaterminal&L=3&L0=Home&L1=Ocean+%26+Coastal+Management&L2=Massachusetts+Ocean+Plan&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea_oceans_draft_mop&csid=Eoeea) .

Key areas for recreational boating are shown in the draft plan (see attached Figure 4-19 - Areas of Concentrated Recreational Boating Activity) at:

[http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/draft\\_plan/v1/figs/4-19.htm](http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/draft_plan/v1/figs/4-19.htm)

And also on Figure 2-14 (General Recreational Activity) at:

[http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/draft\\_plan/v1/figs/2-14.htm](http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/mop/draft_plan/v1/figs/2-14.htm).

Again, these figures do not include all of the data MMTA provided, leaving out large swaths of heavily-boated areas. MMTA urges the inclusion of all underlying data in the Plan to avoid any future ambiguity. Are there areas you see that are missing in the plan? Speak out at the public comment sessions and let state officials know!

The Massachusetts Marine Trades Association has established an informational liaison for each hearing location. Please contact the person in your region with any questions or for more information on how the ocean management plan will affect recreational boaters.

Date	Start time	Location	Contact
September 14	7:00 pm	Exchange Conference Center, Boston Fish Pier 212 Northern Avenue Boston	Jamy Buchanan Madeja Buchanan & Associates 33 Mount Vernon Street Boston, MA 02108 617-227-8410 <a href="mailto:jmadeja@buchananassociates.com">jmadeja@buchananassociates.com</a>
September 15	7:00 pm	New Bedford Public Library, Main Meeting Room 613 Pleasant Street New Bedford	Toby Burr Burr Brothers Boats 209 Front Street, Marion 508.748.0541 <a href="mailto:toby@burrbros.com">toby@burrbros.com</a>
September 16	7:00 pm	Tilden Arts Center, Main Theater Cape Cod Community College 2240 Iyannough Road West Barnstable	Richard Egan/Greg Egan Crosby Yacht Yard 72 Crosby Circle, Osterville 508.428.6900 <a href="mailto:rbegan@crosbyyacht.com">rbegan@crosbyyacht.com</a> <a href="mailto:greg@crosbyyacht.com">greg@crosbyyacht.com</a>
September 17	7:00 pm	Kyrouz Auditorium, Gloucester City Hall 9 Dale Avenue Gloucester	Russ Vickers Hawthorne Cove Marina 10 White Street, Salem 978.740.9890 <a href="mailto:marina@cove.com">marina@cove.com</a>
September 23	6:00 pm	Katharine Cornell Theater 51 Spring Street, Tisbury (Vineyard Haven)	Robert Butcher Kellogg Marine 76 Allen Avenue Falmouth, MA 02540 800-243-9303 <a href="mailto:rbutcher@kelloggmarine.com">rbutcher@kelloggmarine.com</a>

Please contact Jamy Buchanan Madeja, Esq. at 617-227-8410 or [jmadeja@buchananassociates.com](mailto:jmadeja@buchananassociates.com) if you have any questions or difficulty reaching the aforementioned contacts. Thank you!