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## **OVERVIEW OF MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE BOATING CAUCUS**

Thank you to the Massachusetts Legislative Boating Caucus Co-Chairs, Senators Joseph Boncore and Donald Humason and Representatives Susan Gifford and Bill Straus for their excellent leadership supporting the Business of Boating for the December 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Legislative Boating Caucus!

### **1) Workforce Development – Jobs in the Boating industry and Training Issues – Mass Marine Trades Association Executive Director Randall Lyons Presenting**

- Huge kudos to MMTA's Executive Director, Randall Lyons for his extensive work preparing for and presenting at the Boating Caucus.
- Randall kicked off the Boating Caucus with the debut of two workforce development videos created by MMTA, explaining MMTA's workforce development initiatives to the Boating Caucus.
- This triggered a thoughtful discussion between MMTA Board Members and legislators on the dire need for more employees in the boating industry.
- Discussion included the importance of connecting training opportunities and industry, as well as getting the word out about what opportunities are available to

job seekers, and the mis-perception that these jobs are seasonal.

- Goals should be about sustainability of the industry, which is dependent on the increase in workforce. We work to get kids interested in boating and the industry early!
- To watch the boating industry videos and check out the new boating careers website please visit: <http://massboatingcareers.com>

## **2. Mass KidsInBoating – MMTA Executive Director Randall Lyons – FREE events statewide; partnerships with local programs, state and federal efforts**

- Randall highlighted the MMTA and MMTET's initiatives on KidsInBoating
- Materials are available online at: <https://www.boatma.com/ma-kids-in-boating.html>



A special thank you to MMTA Board Directors for their thoughtful participation at the Boating Caucus (left to right in photo above): **Mass Marine Trades Educational**

**Trust Trustee Howard Kreuzberg; Past President & current Director Larry Russo, Sr. (MarineMax - Russo), Executive Director Randall Lyons, Directors Krisha Plauche,(Onboard Interiors), Matt O'Connor (Freedom Boat Club), Scott Smith (Boston Boat Works), Past President and current Director Tom Cox (Constitution Marina and Bosport Docking), 2nd Vice President Adam Cooper (Manchester Marine) and 3rd Vice President Greg Egan (Crosby Yacht Yard)**



### **3. Dredging: Baker Administration's initiatives**

- **Senator Joseph Boncore (pictured above with Jamy Buchanan Madeja)** explained Cottage Park Yacht Club's recent dredging project.
- He explained that there is an absolute need for more recreational dredging opportunities in the Commonwealth.
- We discussed the Baker Administration's 400% increase in dredging spending to fund navigational channels, which did not include the dredging of adjacent areas

where the boating facilities are located. We emphasized the need for more public-private partnerships to allow the boating facilities to be dredged at the same time..

- Adam Cooper highlighted the dredging project taken on by Manchester Marine and shocked the audience at the expense of sediment testing, and untimeliness of obtaining permits.

#### **4. "Business of Boating Legislation" to date; Tracking List of All; OPEN**

##### **DISCUSSION**

- MMTA Comment Letters and Tracking List available online at: [www.boatma.com](http://www.boatma.com)
- Support for a repeal of the sales tax on boats built/rebuilt in MA to keep marine jobs and businesses in the Commonwealth (HB 1484 sponsor Rep. Cantwell/SB 1594 sponsor Sen. O'Connor).
- Larry Russo explained how this bill is so important, given that Massachusetts is sandwiched between New Hampshire and Rhode Island, both of which are much more boater-friendly states.
- Other hot-topic bills included the strong opposition towards state registration of federally documented vessels, support for several mechanisms for funding dredging projects, the local control of excise taxes to be put towards municipal waterways maintenance, climate change, and mandatory boater safety courses with specified conditions to recognize longstanding boaters and the need for ease of taking courses.

If you have questions about any matters discussed at the Boating Caucus please call or email me at 617-227-8410 or [jmadeja@buchananassociates.com](mailto:jmadeja@buchananassociates.com).



President Paul Nowak; Senator Don Humason; Executive Director Randall Lyons



Director Scott Smith of Boston Boat Works and Past President and current Director Ed Lofgren of 3A Marine Services



*For more information on the BOB Conference and to register please visit:*

<https://www.boatma.com/business-of-boating-conference.html>





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**Massachusetts Marine Trades Association**

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