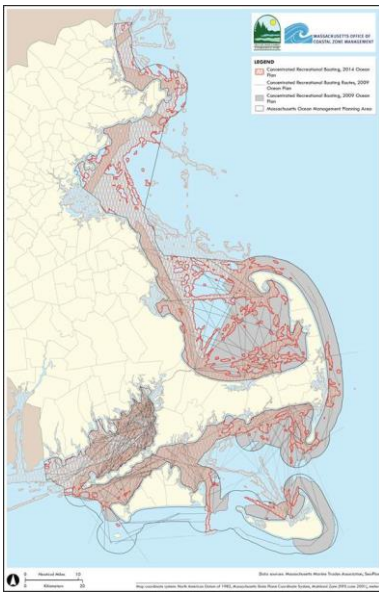




MASSACHUSETTS MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

MMTA ENEWS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & LEGAL NEWS– October 2, 2014



From the Desk of Jamy Buchanan Madeja, Esq, MMTA Gov't Relations & Legal Counsel

Happy early Fall/late Summer! We hope the conclusion to the boating season goes smoothly and successfully. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the MMTA member social last week.

MMTA's Government Relations efforts prioritize matters which are uniquely important to the Business of Boating, although we partner periodically with other organizations on matters of general and major business impact. On behalf of MMTA we monitor hundreds of bills during each legislative session. The full tracking list is available at www.boatma.com in the Members Only section, with all 5000+ bills analyzed. As usual, it is updated constantly, as the legislature schedules hearings and information develops, with monthly postings on the MMTA website and periodic ENEWS briefs for members. Below is one particular matter - the **Ocean**

Management Plan - which is of unique importance to the Business of Boating because if it changes unfavorably, whole marinas could see their customer base evaporate as non-boating uses took up what used to be open water. The proposed revisions to the Areas of Concentrated Recreational Boating are pictured and are available by clicking 'Read More' below.

Even though these proposed revisions are beneficial to recreational boating interests, it's important that the State is aware of just how many people this plan impacts. **Below is a sample comment letter we hope you might consider submitting to the state before November 25 on behalf of**

your business or yourself or both, and which may be used as a sample form for boaters also.

EMAIL COMMENT: oceanplan@state.ma.us

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

ATTN: Ocean Plan

251 Causeway Street, Suite 800

Boston, MA 02114

Re: Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan Draft Revisions 2014

Dear Office of Coastal Zone Management:

As members of the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association we spent a great deal of time providing recreation boating data and verifying and correcting those Areas of Concentrated Recreational Boating over the past many years. We support the results published in this draft and ask that you don't reduce these recreational boating areas. They are reasonably accurate and inclusive. If anything, they leave out boated areas and should not be reduced.

Recreational boating is important to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is our right, held in trust by the Governor, to navigate the state's waterways. As the Ocean Management Plan evolves over time, areas of recreational boating activity should be provided the necessary protections due to this long-existing protected trust right to navigate.

Sincerely,

Your Name/Your Organization/General Location/Address

There are also in-person hearing dates you can attend, if desired. We at MMTA are working on having at least one Director or Member or Staff person at each hearing, if possible. **Please let us know if you can volunteer** (we will happily brief you in advance). The dates are as follows:

Five regional public hearings will be held to receive comment and input on the 2014 draft ocean plan. The hearings will be:

North Shore - October 8, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Ipswich Public Library, Collins Room, 25 N. Main Street, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Cape Cod - October 14, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Heritage House Hotel, Chauncy's Room, 259

Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

South Coast - October 20, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, Memorial Theater, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Islands - October 22, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Katharine Cornell Theater, 54 Spring Street, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

Boston and South Shore - October 27, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor Rooms C-D, Boston, MA 02114.

Members, thank you for your anticipated continued efforts on the Ocean Management Plan. As more in-water projects are proposed for our ocean waters, it increasingly important your recreational boating voice is heard.

Again, you can review the entire proposed amendments and revisions to the Ocean Management Plan by clicking 'Read More' below.

That's most of the news fit to print! Here's to a continued safe, successful boating season while the weather cooperates. Do feel welcome to call or email anytime with questions or comments.

Jamy Buchanan Madeja, Esq., MMTA General and Government Relations Counsel, Buchanan & Associates, 33 Mount Vernon St, Boston MA 02108, 617.227.8410 office, 617.256.8491 cell, www.BuchananAssociates.com

[Read more](#)

