



RBOC
Protecting your boating interests.

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40 Years of Advocacy

Back in 1965 several concerned boaters in Northern California led by Ward Cleaveland formed an organization they called Boat Owners Associated Together, Inc. By connecting with like-minded boaters, commodores of yacht clubs, and others, the organization incorporated as a statewide group in 1968 — hence our 40th anniversary.

In 1971 these boaters hired a professional legislative attorney, **Jerry Desmond**, who provided guidance and knowledge as the group waded through the many bills that were affecting recreational boating.

The large east coast marine associated organization The Boat Owners Associated Together, Inc.'s name seemed to cause some confusion here on the West Coast. So the West Coast group decided to change their name in 1982 to reflect their efforts and became Recreational Boaters of California — **RBOC!**

As BoatU.S. grew and became a more nationally recognized organization and a presence in California, both organizations realized they could benefit one another, and so a cooperative agreement was reached in 1992. RBOC would provide important information about California boating legislation to BoatU.S., and BoatU.S. would provide RBOC with information and headsup about federal legislative issues! A great partnership has evolved between the organizations!

BOATER BRIEF

What is RBOC Today?

It is a non-profit government advocacy organization led by 19 volunteer boating directors from all over the state. They work with lawmakers to inform them of California boaters' needs and to advocate boater positions on legislation and regulations.

These directors, along with Jerry Jr. who joined his father's firm to become Desmond & Desmond, professional lobbyists in the Capitol, work to promote recreational boaters' interests, protect boaters from restrictive or adverse laws, and enhance boating opportunities.

Recreational Boaters of California does this by reviewing all proposed laws that affect boaters, writing beneficial laws, opposing bad laws, and keeping the government from taking boaters' tax dollars for non-boating reasons.

Go to website: rbooc.org for the latest info on these boating issues.

What kinds of legislation have been affected by RBOC's efforts?

- Boat registration fee would be more than \$100.00 a year!
- Possible replacement of diesel engine. (Figure the cost for that!!!)
- There would have been no grandfathering of current outboard motors (minimum savings of \$800 per engine)!
- Boating on reservoirs used for drinking water could have been banned.
- Pay for the damage to the ecosystem, caused by the shadow of a boat on the water!
- The interest paid on boats is considered a second home and is still deductible.

Current issues in which RBOC is actively engaged include:

Vessel Operator Certification

RBOC will be sponsoring a new law requiring that operators of motorboats pass a test and carry a lifetime certificate while operating.

Federal Boater Permit

RBOC is working to prevent a new boat permit that could be imposed across the country at the federal level.

Copper-Based Anti-Fouling Paints

RBOC is working with the state on best management practices for the use of anti-fouling paints on boat hulls.

Abandoned Vessels

RBOC is developing a new law allowing boaters to turn-in derelict vessels to local agencies [as an alternative to possibly abandoning them on the waterways].

Boater Fees And Taxes

RBOC is busy working to protect boater fees and taxes as the state struggles with an anticipated \$14 billion budget deficit. Boater-generated revenues should support programs and services that benefit the boating community.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

RBOC is participating in the Delta Vision process to ensure efforts to enhance water transport and storage, to improve levees, and to acknowledge boater rights.

Lake Tahoe

RBOC is supporting the efforts of local boaters and clubs concerned with a proposed "Blue Boater Program" that would require boaters to purchase a decal and support alternative mitigations.