

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Boating Safety Partners Host Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill

**Washington, D.C. (May 17, 2017)** – The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), in partnership with the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), hosted a Boating Safety Congressional Reception on May 17 in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. This event, held in conjunction with the American Boating Congress (ABC), was organized to celebrate National Safe Boating Week and acknowledge past Confluence Award recipients while bringing to light important boating safety issues currently facing our nation.

Among those in attendance were guests from the ABC and the U.S. Coast Guard, including Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, Captain Jennifer Williams, and Captain Scott Johnson. Distinguished members of Congress and the Senate were also in attendance including Congressman Jody Hice (GA), Congressman Walter Jones (NC), Senator James Inhofe (OK), Congressman Joe Wilson (SC), and Congresswoman Madeleine Z Bordallo (Guam).

Remarks from Rachel Johnson, NSBC Executive Director and Thom Dammrich, NMMA President, set the tone for a lively, energetic reception focusing on positive advancements in recreational boating safety.



Special Guest Speaker Rear Admiral Paul Thomas spoke to the importance of encouraging safe boating and the continuing need to make these topics a priority. “It is vital groups such as the NSBC and NMMA continue to make boating safety a priority,” commented Rear Admiral Thomas. “Events such as the American Boating Congress and participating in Capitol Hill visits with others from your state is a great way to educate your representatives on issues surrounding this industry.”

While no Confluence Awards were given this year, the co-hosts of this year’s reception took a moment to pay homage to those who have positively impacted recreational boating. The Confluence Awards aim to recognize those who have worked to save lives on the water and have actively reduced boating casualties. The vision and implementation of these individuals results in safe and enjoyable recreational boating for all.

#### About the National Safe Boating Council

The National Safe Boating Council (NSBC) is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education, outreach, and training. The NSBC accomplishes this mission by promoting outreach and research initiatives that support boating education and

safety awareness; improving the professional development of boating safety educators through training; and developing and recognizing outstanding boating safety programs. To learn more about the NSBC and its programs, visit [www.SafeBoatingCouncil.org](http://www.SafeBoatingCouncil.org).

### **About the National Marine Manufacturers Association**

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is the nation's leading trade association representing boat, marine engine and accessory manufacturers. Collectively, NMMA members manufacture an estimated 80 percent of marine products used in North America. NMMA is a unifying force and powerful voice for the recreational boating industry, working to strengthen and grow boating and protect the interests of its member companies.

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