

WORDS FROM THE INDUSTRY

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Today, most manufacturers far exceed product regulations by voluntarily building to industry safety standards. There's a higher level of boating safety overall through product design, availability of training and boater education thanks to the Federal Boat Safety Act. The industry stands behind delivering the best boating experience – a safe one.

— Robert Newsome
Senior VP, Operations, National Marine Manufacturers Association

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“When working with similar industries in the recreational business, I am always amazed how friendly and collegial our sector is when it comes to developing regulations and standards. Our industry has safety as one of our top priorities, whenever ABYC needs assistance in the product safety area, we are overwhelmed by the responses and commitment of resources.

— John Adey
President, American Boat and Yacht Council

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The boating industry is reinforcing a quality and safe boating experience (because of the Act).

— Ann Baldree
VP, Chaparral Boats, Inc.

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The FBSA continues to impact boating safety education in a significant way; especially with the shared ownership of boats — a new way for more people to gain safe and fun access to boating.

— Dr. Ed Mahoney
Professor Emeritus and Research Center Director,
Michigan State University

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We have more people boating, more boats on the water than ever before, and yet fewer incidences than we've ever had. Because of the Act, the marine industry is exceeding industry standards. And, FBSA set the foundation to hold boaters to higher safety standards and make recreating on the water safer.

— Matt Gruhn
President, Marine Retailers Association

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The FBSA paved the way for opportunities of cooperation and funding between the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Safe Boating Council, and the states. Creating recreational boating outreach, resources, training, education, and events influences boater behavior and contributes to a safer boating environment.

— Peg Phillips
Executive Director, National Safe Boating Council

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The Federal Boat Safety Act, in conjunction with other industry safety standards, has been part of the guiding principle for the recreational boating industry to design and build safe products for consumers. Consumers today have an expectation that when they put their family onboard one of our products that they can enjoy a fun day on the water, with the peace of mind that safety is built in.

— Pete Chisholm
Product Safety Manager, Mercury Marine



“ Use your time wisely. You spend as much time preparing to go boating as you actually do boating. You can enhance your experience by having that safety equipment on board. The data shows that if you perceive those risks, whether it’s bad weather or having kids on board, you will change your behavior to accommodate that risk.

— John Johnson
CEO, NASBLA

“ In the last 50 years, there have been culture shifts, expanding education, and outreach in recreational boating. It’s safe boaters out on the water that become role models, where everyone shifts toward that safety mindset. We’re really happy with the progress that’s been made, and hopefully, that will continue as more people adopt the National On-Water Standards.

— Joanne Dorval
Assistant VP, Government Relations, US Sailing

“ Before the FBSA, the strong relationship the Coast Guard currently has with our state boating partners didn’t exist. For the past 50-years, we’ve worked hand-in-hand to make boating a safe and enjoyable pastime for the recreational boater.

— Jeff Decker
Regulatory Development and Coordination
Manager, U.S. Coast Guard

“ The FBSA set the framework for collaboration between Federal, State and national non-profit agencies and got us where we are today. Without it, we possibly would be stumbling around attempting to establish systemic opportunities for organizations, states and the federal government to work effectively in safeguarding recreational boaters.

— John Malatak
Retired Chief for Program Operations, U.S. Coast
Guard Office of Boating Safety

“ Over the last 50 years since the act was passed, we are seeing a positive cultural shift in favor of both fun and safety on the water. That’s why we do what we do – to keep people safe while they enjoy themselves on the water.

— Brian Dorval
National On-Water Standards Facilitator

“ You know, the perception is changing. You look at the ski and snowboard industry. 15-20 years ago, nobody wore a helmet; now everybody wears a helmet. You’re starting to see life jackets be normalized. You see cultural habits change. It becomes normal. You look like an outlier now if you don’t wear one. We have the FBSA, in part, to thank for this.

— Stu Gilfillen
Director of Education, US Sailing