

September 14, 2007

Rear Admiral D.T. Glenn
Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications,
Computers and Information Technology
U.S. Coast Guard
c/o Docket Management Facility (M-30)
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

VIA DOT Docket Management System [<http://dms.dot.gov>]

RE: National Recreational Boating Survey: Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget - OMB Control Number 1625-0089/ Docket No. USCG 20007-28578

Dear Admiral Glenn:

I am writing on behalf of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) to comment on the U.S. Coast Guard notice that it intends to submit an Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requesting the re-instatement of the previously approved National Recreational Boating Survey. See 72 Fed. Reg. 38,839 (July 16, 2007).

ASA is the nation's sportfishing industry association. We represent over 700 sportfishing manufacturers, retailers, and angler advocacy groups, as well as the interests of America's 40 million recreational anglers. ASA safeguards and promotes the social, economic, and conservation values of sportfishing in America which result in a \$116 billion-a-year impact on the nation's economy. Because of the inherent connection between fishing and boating - over half of those who purchase boats do so for the purpose of fishing - ASA works very closely with the boating industry.

The National Recreational Boating Survey provides valuable information on a host of recreational boating participation and safety topics and ASA supports the swift approval of this important survey. The survey has been substantially revised to reflect the need for more targeted data and in response to the elements included in the recreational boating safety program strategic plan. The survey redesign has been guided by a Scientific Advisory Committee and been reviewed by a host of boating state and industry partners to ensure that it is relevant and on sound scientific footing. ASA therefore urges quick re-instatement of the National Recreational Boating Survey.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the approval of the National Recreational Boating Survey. Please contact me at 703.519.9691 ext. 237 or grobertson@asafishing.org if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Gordon Robertson
Vice President