



News Release

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Recreational Boating Economic Impact Study Shows that New Jersey Boaters Spent \$2.1 Billion in 2006

Manasquan, NJ – The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) unveiled the results of a two year effort to quantify the economic impacts of recreational boating in the State of New Jersey at the Association’s Annual Dinner & Elections. This study, the first of its kind in New Jersey, directly measured expenditures related to recreational boating and their impact on the state's economy.

New Jersey is well known for its popular water-related recreational activities. The state boasts 127 miles of coastal shoreline along the Atlantic Ocean, 1,792 miles of tidal shoreline, and over 4,000 lakes, rivers, and bays (NJDEP 2008). In addition to providing enjoyment, the recreational boating industry contributes substantially to local and state economies. The industry provides jobs in many sectors of the work force, attracts tourism, and provides tax revenues. The purpose of the study was to characterize New Jersey’s recreational boating population and to quantify the real impact of recreational boating on New Jersey’s economy.

The data used in the study was captured from a survey of New Jersey’s registered boaters. Boaters were asked to provide information on how much was spent on boat purchases, equipment,

boat repair, insurance, services, and annual fees associated with the use of marinas. Information on trip related expenditures such as launching fees, lodging, food, gas, boater profile and geographic information was also collected.

The survey results indicate that New Jersey boaters spent approximately \$2.1 billion dollars on in-state recreational boating activities in 2006. Of the money spent, \$1.1 billion were trip-related expenditures and \$938 million were in annual boating purchases (such as registration fees, maintenance, etc.). The study also showed that New Jersey's recreational boating industry provides approximately 18,000 jobs.

The project was funded in part from an I BOAT NJ Program Grant. The I BOAT NJ program is funded from revenue derived from the boater registration fees and managed by the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources. The MTA/NJ retained the services of HDR Engineering, Inc. to conduct the study with a team of economists led by Project Manager, Jennifer Curran. Over the past eight years, Ms. Curran has worked with the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources and the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey on several projects relating to recreational boating and the state channel dredging program.

“The data captured from this study finally proves how recreational boating substantially contributes to the economy and how important the industry is to the state. Boating in New Jersey is serious business and this study clearly demonstrates how much we need to work to protect and promote it. The report is also a valuable resource that will be extremely helpful to decision makers, managers, planners and anyone concerned with recreational boating and New Jersey's economy,” Melissa Danko, Executive Director of the MTA/NJ, stated.

The report can be viewed by visiting www.mtanj.org and clicking on Economic Impact Study on the home page.

For more information, contact Melissa Danko, MTA/NJ Executive Director, phone: (732) 292-1051, email: mdanko@mtanj.org.

About the MTA/NJ

The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ), established in 1972 and comprised of over 300 marine related businesses, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the recreational marine industry and waterways in the State of New Jersey. The MTA/NJ is dedicated to the interests of the industry as a whole for the benefit of its individual members and the consumers whom they serve.