

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Marine Trades Association of New Jersey Commends DEP for New Public Access Rule Proposal**

**Manasquan, NJ** – The Marine Trades Association of New Jersey (MTA/NJ) announced to its membership that the new public access rules proposed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) include a number of significant changes impacting marinas, many of which are positive and represent a return to common sense with a reasonable and balanced approach to providing public access to our waterways.

The MTA/NJ has spent the last four years aggressively working on this issue and fighting for the rights of marinas pointing out that, marinas, by their very nature, already provide access to the public. When the previous regulations were promulgated in 2007, they placed serious mandates on marina owners by forcing them to provide unlimited public access on their properties without taking into consideration the access and services they already provide. The rules increased security concerns, reduced revenues and increased costs beyond the ability of most marinas to support. Marinas found themselves boxed in, as they could not expand or improve without revising their entire facility for increased and unlimited public access.

“The DEP has made a real effort to take into consideration the nature of the family run marina businesses, the access already provided by New Jersey’s marinas, and the need for a

reasonable, realistic and affordable permitting process which does not unduly burden marina owners and operators when essential maintenance and upgrades become necessary,” said Rick Traber, MTA/NJ President.

Under this new rule proposal, existing marinas will maintain the existing access they provide. If it is necessary to impact the existing public access in order to perform maintenance, renovation or needed improvements, equivalent public access shall be provided onsite. Public access will be required for new marina development and include a number of ways to satisfy the requirements taking into consideration the operations of the marina.

“Public access is a complex issue and we realize that no rule is ever going to be perfect. However, we appreciate the fact that many of our concerns were heard and we recognize that these changes are the culmination of significant efforts by the Department to allow for real opportunities to create meaningful public access by bringing common sense, reason and a respect for property rights to the rules,” stated Melissa Danko, MTA/NJ Executive Director.

### **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 advancing, 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.

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