



American Boating Congress 2020

Wednesday, May 13 - Thursday, May 14

WWW.NMMA.ORG/ABC

Contents

Table of Contents.....2

A Note from Frank.....3

Schedule of Events.....4

Top Policy Priorities.....8

Grassroots and Social Media10

Speaker Bios.....11

Co-Hosts and Sponsors.....20

ABC 2021 Save the Date21



THE AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS

Dear ABC participants,

On behalf of the co-hosts and sponsors of the 2020 American Boating Congress (ABC), it is our great pleasure to host the recreational boating industry's annual advocacy summit virtually this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a new global reality and has been a trying time for all of us. Since the start of the crisis, NMMA has been aggressive in protecting our industry. Whether it's ensuring boating access, monitoring manufacturing guidelines, or fighting for small business relief, our advocacy team has been successful in securing numerous wins for recreational boating.

Given the uncertainty of these times, it's now more important than ever that we come together as an industry to shape public policy and present a unified front on issues directly impacting marine businesses. Even though we are going to meet virtually this year, ABC will afford you the chance to advocate on behalf of your company and the entire industry.

Our speakers this year are some of the most influential names in government and politics. This line-up of cabinet members, elected officials, and political strategists will provide you with an in-depth look at how this crisis has shaped politics and policy and what we can expect moving forward.

Your participation is ensuring we're not only protecting and supporting your business through this crisis but that we come out together on the other side as an industry that's positioned to thrive and better connect our consumers with their love of being on the water.

All my best,

Frank Hugelmeyer

President | National Marine Manufacturers Association

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 13 | 1:00-2:30pm ET

Welcome

Join us for the opening of the virtual ABC 2020 with remarks from NMMA president, Frank Hugelmeyer on how the association is helping the recreational boating industry navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

CARES Act - Developing, Implementing and Future Economic Relief Measures

Top congressional staff from the House and Senate Small Business Committees join us for a discussion on how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was assembled and implemented. Additionally, the staffers will outline what future COVID-19 economic relief legislation could include.

Speakers:

- Renée Bender, Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Michael Stein, House Small Business Committee

Bipartisanship in the Era of Uncertainty

Members of Congress from both political parties provide insights on the importance of working across the aisle to tackle some of our country's most pressing challenges, including COVID-19 relief and recovery.

Speakers:

- The Honorable Josh Gottheimer, Member of Congress, New Jersey's 5th District
- The Honorable Tom Reed, Member of Congress, New York's 23rd District

COVID-19's Economic Impact on the Recreational Boating Industry

Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA senior vice president of government and legal affairs, provides an overview of the global pandemic's impact on recreational boating businesses and how recent congressional actions have helped the marine industry weather the storm.

Speaker:

- Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA's Senior Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, May 13 cont.

State of the States: Working Together to Re-Open America

As stay-at-home orders are lifted and elements of social distancing are relaxed, neighboring states and regions across the country are closely coordinating on how to safely and swiftly restart the economy. This session will feature a panel discussion with key elected and state officials on what industry stakeholders should expect as more businesses are allowed to re-open and life begins to normalize.

Speakers:

- Sammie Arnold, Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group and Assistant Commissioner of Community and Rural Development
- Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Government Relations for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Basil Seggos, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Jon Snyder, Washington Governor Jay Inslee's Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development

Audience Q&A

Day one ends with a question and answer session, where members of NMMA's advocacy team will address attendees' questions in real time.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 14 | 1:00-2:30pm ET

Discussion with The Honorable Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor

2020 Political Landscape

What can we expect from the campaign trail in the months ahead? With the 2020 elections less than six months away, we will hear from a top staffer with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee on the party's chances in November.

Speaker:

- Gabrielle Quintana Greenfield, Battlefield Director, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee

Discussion with The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce

Economic Forecast: The Lingering Impacts of COVID-19 on the Global Economy

Drawing on nearly 20 years of financial services, politics, and policy analysis experience, Trevor Hanger, strategic adviser at Forbes Tate Partners will provide in-depth analysis on how significant government actions like the CARES Act reverberate throughout the economic and political landscapes.

Speaker:

- Trevor Hanger, Strategic Advisor, Forbes Tate

2020 Political Landscape

After hearing from a representative from the Democratic party earlier in the day, we will be joined by a senior official of the Republican party to discuss their prospects this November.

Speakers:

- Betsy Ankney, Political Director, National Republican Senatorial Committee

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 14 cont.

Discussion with The Honorable David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior

Recreational Boating Industry's Priorities in Upcoming COVID-19 Relief Measures

With Congress considering additional legislation to help the economy recovery from the health crisis, Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA senior vice president of government and legal affairs, outlines the marine industry's top policy priorities in future measures.

Speaker:

- Nicole Vasilaros, NMMA Senior Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs

Audience Q&A

The virtual ABC wraps up with another opportunity for attendees to ask members of NMMA's advocacy team questions, followed by brief remarks recapping the program and next steps from NMMA senior vice president of government and legal affairs, Nicole Vasilaros.

Top Policy Priorities

Even though this year's annual advocacy summit is unable to take place in person, there are several pressing issues that require our community's full attention, including COVID-19 economic relief, recreation infrastructure improvements, healthy and abundant fisheries, and free and fair trade. Below is a breakdown of our top policy priorities.

COVID-19 Economic Relief

The recreational boating industry faces a potential loss of \$22.2 billion as a result of the halt in economic activity brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the economy begins to reopen and recover, it is crucial that businesses continue to receive support in order to save American jobs and reinvest capital.

- Extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to cover at least 16 weeks of payroll and operating costs.
- Waive the Small Business Administration's (SBA) affiliation rule for the recreational boating industry.
- Provide tax credits to businesses that retooled facilities to produce personal protective equipment and invest in research and development.
- Allow small businesses to refinance existing SBA loans to help ensure businesses have more cash flow.
- Expand the PPP to include 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations so that those organizations can qualify for the PPP and other SBA programs.
- Provide limited and rational safe harbor protection for employers operating during the pandemic and prevent frivolous lawsuits.
- End section 232 and 301 tariffs which present an unnecessary tax burden on U.S. companies.
- Expand the Employer Retention Tax Credit to keep employees on payrolls and incentivize businesses that maintain staffing levels.
- Establish a Manufacturer Resiliency Fund and National Institute of Manufacturing to promote a comprehensive manufacturing assistance and strategy effort.

Recreation Infrastructure

Focusing U.S. economic recovery on surface and water infrastructure will put people back to work and provide a needed injection of economic stimulus to local and rural economies. Getting boaters out on the water is essential to our industry's success and doing so requires modern infrastructure.

- Tackle the \$20 billion maintenance backlog for our federal lands and waters system, which includes addressing docks, boat ramps, campgrounds, trails, and roads, and fully fund conservation efforts that improve recreation access (e.g., LWCF) by passing the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422).
- Pass the SHORE Act (H.R. 5832) to ensure that the economic benefit of recreation is part of the calculation for small and emerging harbor investment and maintenance.
- Reauthorize the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (H.R. 4828) and support marketing efforts through the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to get Americans back on the water boating and fishing.
- Support municipal budget shortfalls by reducing federal cost sharing burdens for infrastructure projects.
- Stop and reverse the spread of aquatic invasive species- a national problem that costs the U.S. \$5.4 billion each year
- Expand federal research efforts to detect and mitigate harmful algal blooms.
- Secure \$250 million in annual federal funding for Everglades Restoration (ER) and ensure ER projects are completed in the most expeditious manner possible.

Top Policy Priorities

Healthy and Abundant Fisheries

Fishing is critical to the recreational boating industry – more than 70 percent of all boat outings involve fishing. Recreational anglers make a combined economic contribution of \$125 billion annually, supporting more than 828,000 U.S. jobs. As more Americans take to the water, it is crucial that Congress enact policies to support abundant and sustainable fisheries.

- Ensure better data collection and management of recreational fisheries.
- Support America's Conservation Enhancement Act (H.R. 925/S.3051) and legislation aimed at addressing forage fish management, reducing fish mortality, and banning outdated fishing gear such as gillnets.
- Support reasonable and responsible access to recreational sportfish, including South Atlantic red snapper and Atlantic striped bass.

Free and Fair Trade

Marine manufacturers rely on free and fair trade, global supply chains, and a stable business environment to remain competitive. The combination of tariffs on raw materials, components and parts, and boat exports means it is more expensive to build boats and there are fewer international customers. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated our industry's supply chain and export challenges, making the need for tariff relief as urgent as ever.

- Eliminate the European Union's 25 percent retaliatory tariff on American boats.
- Immediately suspend Section 301 tariff payments while accelerating negotiations for a binding Phase Two agreement with China.
- Secure trade agreements with the European Union and the United Kingdom that addresses technical barriers to trade and regulatory cooperation.



THE AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS

Take Action on Boating United

In the era of social distancing, virtual advocacy has never been more important. Throughout our two-day event, we'll be asking you to contact your members of Congress directly using our grassroots advocacy website, BoatingUnited.org. Plus, it's quick and easy to do:

Text “boat” to 345-345
OR
Visit BoatingUnited.org

Before, during and after ABC, help us create a loud voice for recreational boating and reach decision makers.



BOATING UNITED

SPEAKER BIOS





The Honorable David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior

David L. Bernhardt serves as the 53rd Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 11, 2019 and took office on the same day.

As Secretary of the Interior, Bernhardt leads an agency with more than 70,000 employees who are stewards for 20 percent of the nation's lands, including national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges and other public lands. The department oversees the responsible development of conventional and renewable energy supplies on public lands and waters, is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western states, and upholds trust responsibilities to the 574 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives.

Bernhardt is an avid hunter and angler and recently served on the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also led the International Boundary Commission between the United States and Canada and was responsible, along with his Canadian counterpart, for maintaining the 5,525 mile international boundary between these two nations. He has in-depth experience in legal matters concerning active regulations and rule-makings, with years of legal experience in both the government and the private sector. His expertise ranges from the Endangered Species Act to Outer-Continental leases, from mining royalties to Indian Affairs.

From 2001 to 2009, he held several positions within the Department of the Interior, including serving as Solicitor. Prior to that, he served then-Secretary Norton as a deputy solicitor, deputy chief of staff and counselor to the Secretary, and as director of Congressional and Legislative affairs and counselor to the Secretary.

Raised in Rifle, Colorado, Bernhardt earned a B.A. in political science with a minor in business administration from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in 1990. He graduated with honors from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1994 and is admitted to various state and federal court bars. He is married to Gena Bernhardt. They have two children and reside in Arlington, Virginia.



The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Jr., Secretary of Commerce

Wilbur Ross was sworn in by Vice President Mike Pence as the 39th Secretary of Commerce on February 28, 2017. Secretary Ross is the principal voice of business in the Trump Administration, ensuring that U.S. entrepreneurs and businesses have the tools they need to create jobs and economic opportunity.

Secretary Ross is the former Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer of WL Ross & Co. LLC and has over 55 years of investment banking and private equity experience. He has restructured over \$400 billion of assets in the airline, apparel, auto parts, banking, beverage, chemical, credit card, electric utility, food service, furniture, gypsum, homebuilding, insurance, marine transport, mortgage origination and servicing, oil and gas, railcar manufacturing and leasing, real estate, restaurant, shipyard, steel, textile and trucking industries. Secretary Ross has been chairman or lead director of more than 100 companies operating in more than 20 different countries.

Named by Bloomberg Markets as one of the 50 most influential people in global finance, Secretary Ross is the only person elected to both the Private Equity Hall of Fame and the Turnaround Management Hall of Fame. He previously served as privatization adviser to New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the board of the U.S.-Russia Investment Fund. President Kim Dae-jung awarded Secretary Ross a medal for helping South Korea during its financial crisis and, in November 2014, the Emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

As a philanthropist, Secretary Ross has served as Chairman of the Japan Society, Trustee of the Brookings Institution and Chairman of its Economic Studies Council, International Counsel Member of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Trustee of the Blenheim Foundation, President of the American Friends of the Rene Magritte Museum in Brussels and Director of the Palm Beach Civic Association. He also was an Advisory Board Member of Yale University School of Management.

Secretary Ross is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Business School (with distinction). He and his wife Hilary Geary Ross have four children, Jessica Ross, Amanda Ross, Ted Geary and Jack Geary.



The Honorable Eugene Scalia, Secretary of Labor

Eugene Scalia serves as the 28th Secretary of Labor. He was nominated to the position by President Donald J. Trump in July 2019 and was officially sworn in on September 30, 2019.

Secretary Scalia previously served as Solicitor of Labor, the Department of Labor's principal legal officer, working for Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao as a member of President George W. Bush's Administration. As Solicitor, he pursued initiatives to protect low-wage workers, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and enhance enforcement of workplace safety laws. He worked closely with Secretary Chao on matters such as the Department's efforts seeking to recover the losses of employees and retirees in Enron's pension plans, and resolving a costly labor dispute at the West Coast Ports.

Prior to his confirmation as Secretary of Labor, Secretary Scalia was a lawyer with a national reputation as an expert in labor and employment law and in administrative and regulatory law.

Secretary Scalia served as a speechwriter to U.S. Secretary of Education William J. Bennett during the Reagan Administration. During the Administration of President George H.W. Bush, Scalia received the Department of Justice's Edmund J. Randolph Award while serving as a Special Assistant to Attorney General William P. Barr.

Secretary Scalia has served as a lecturer in labor and employment law at the University of Chicago Law School, and as an adjunct professor at the David A. Clarke School of Law with the University of the District of Columbia.

Secretary Scalia is a graduate with distinction from the University of Virginia. He studied law at the University of Chicago Law School, where he graduated cum laude and served as editor-in-chief of the Law Review.

Secretary Scalia and his wife Patricia have seven children.

The Problem Solvers Caucus

Co-Chairs



Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05)

Josh Gottheimer represents New Jersey's Fifth Congressional District in the northernmost part of the state, which includes parts of Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties. He was sworn in on January 3, 2017.

In Congress, Josh serves on the House Financial Services Committee where he works on three Subcommittees: National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy Subcommittee, the Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets Subcommittee, and the Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

Josh's approach to public service is rooted in his experience in both the public and private sectors. During his time working with President Clinton, Senator Frank Lautenberg, and Speaker Thomas Foley, he saw that, by seeking common ground, it's possible to find a bipartisan path forward without compromising your core values. Josh firmly believes that it doesn't matter if an idea comes from the Democratic or Republican side of the aisle, only whether it will help the communities and people of the Fifth District.

Josh lives in Wyckoff, New Jersey with his wife Marla and their two young children, Ellie and Ben.



Congressman Tom Reed (R-NY-23)

Tom Reed represents New York's 23rd Congressional District, which covers the Southern Tier, Finger Lakes and Western New York.

He currently serves on the influential House Ways and Means committee as the Republican Leader of the Social Security Subcommittee.

Before going to Congress, Tom was the mayor of Corning, the town where he was raised and still lives today with his wife Jean and their two children, Autumn and Will, under the roof of the home is grandfather built.

As the mayor of his hometown, Tom learned potholes and parking tickets are not partisan issues and that is the approach he brings to Washington.

Tom remains committed to being accessible and help anyone in need. He and his team have completed more than 13,000 constituent cases, resolving issues with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Veterans Administration (VA), Social Security Administration (SSA) and other federal agencies. He has also held more than 250 public town hall meetings to listen to the thoughts and concerns of his constituents, earning him recognition as one of the most accessible members of Congress.



Sammie Arnold, Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group, Assistant Commissioner of Community and Rural Developments

Sammie Arnold joined the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development (ECD) in August of 2013 and serves as Assistant Commissioner of Community & Rural Development. He oversees the department's efforts to boost investment and development in Tennessee's rural communities, with a particular emphasis on distressed and at-risk communities. Prior to joining ECD, Sammie worked in the state capitol building in Nashville as a legislative liaison for Governor Bill Haslam. He was also a staffer on Governor Haslam's successful gubernatorial campaign in 2010. Sammie is a native of Dyersburg, TN.

He received a B.A. in Psychology from Vanderbilt University, and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law. He and his wife Laine live in Nashville with their newborn daughter.



Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Bob Meier is the Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Government Relations for the DNR. He is responsible for the management and coordination of the DNR's legislative and governmental activities and relationships. Previous to this position, he was Legislative Affairs Director for the DNR from 2003-2007, and Legislative Affairs Director for the Office of Environmental Assistance from 1994-2003.

Meier holds a M.A. in Public Administration from Hamline University, a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture and a B.S. in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.



Basil Seggos, Commissioner, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

Basil Seggos was appointed Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) by Governor Andrew Cuomo, and has served in this role since 2015, leading an agency of more than 3,000 professionals. As Commissioner, he oversees programs that promote a clean, healthy, and accessible environment, including: protecting and restoring New York's air, lands and waters; combatting climate change; enforcing State environmental laws and regulations; responding to natural disasters; and supporting world-class outdoor recreation on State lands and waters, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and boating.



Jon Snyder, Washington Governor Jay Inslee's Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development

Jon Snyder is Washington Governor Jay Inslee's Policy Advisor for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development. He coordinates policy, legislation, budget items, and outreach related to outdoor recreation. He was appointed in December 2015 after serving on the Spokane City Council for six years and owning a regional outdoor magazine for nine years. Snyder served on the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Spokane Transit Authority, and Spokane Regional Health District as well as having a leadership role in passing local ballot measures to fund parks, streets, libraries, and public transportation.



Renée Bender, Senior Professional Staff for the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Renée Bender is a Senior Professional Staff Member for Chairman Marco Rubio (R-FL) on the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. In her capacity on the Committee, Renée manages the SBA lending and investment portfolios, financial services issues, as well as the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. She also served on the Committee under Chairman Jim Risch (R-ID). Renée previously worked in the office of Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) for seven years, where as a Legislative Assistant she handled small business, financial services, telecommunications, appropriations and child welfare issues. She started her career in the office of Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), where she worked in a number of capacities until his retirement. She is a native New Mexican, and earned her B.A. from New Mexico State University in 2007.



Michael Stein, Counsel for the House Committee on Small Business

Michael Stein is Counsel for the House of Representatives Small Business Committee working on trade, agriculture, and environmental issues. He has a law degree and master's degree in environmental science from the University of Wisconsin.



Nicole Vasilaros, Esq. NMMA's Senior Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs

Nicole Vasilaros serves as Senior Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs for the National Marine Manufacturers Association. In her current role, Vasilaros manages NMMA's Washington, DC office and oversees the federal, state, regulatory, and grassroots advocacy agenda. Vasilaros specializes in federal relations with a portfolio including fuel policy, international trade, transportation and environmental access. In addition, Vasilaros serves as in-house legal counsel for NMMA's government relations department. Vasilaros has been with NMMA for over 7 years, initially as Manager for State Government Relations responsible for monitoring a 50 state legislative agenda advocating for the recreational marine industry and overseeing the federal, state and legal agenda for the Personal Watercraft Industry Association, a subsidiary of NMMA.



Trevor Hanger, Strategic Advisor, Forbes Tate Partners (FTP)

Prior to FTP, Trevor was President and Director of Research at Height Capital Markets, and investment bank in Washington, DC. At Height, Trevor oversaw the research, consulting, and investment banks divisions at the firm and led teams tasked with advising institutional and private equity clients on corporate and investment strategy with a focus on legislative and regulatory policy issues. Prior to Height, Trevor spent two years working on political campaigns through the Campaign Corps programs at EMILY's List. Trevor began his career spending eight years as a trader and head of policy research for a pair of hedge funds in Dallas, TX.



Betsy Ankney, Political Director, National Republican Senatorial Committee

Betsy Ankney is a political operative with over a decade of experience on tough campaigns. She has been involved in campaigns at the state and local level and has played a role in some of the biggest upsets in Republican politics, including Ron Johnson for U.S. Senate, Chris Christie for Governor, and Scott Brown for U.S. Senate.

Ankney managed the successful re-election of Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson in one of the toughest races and biggest upsets of the 2016 cycle. She helped take the race from a double-digit deficit to a victory of 100,000 votes, securing the most Republican votes in Wisconsin's history and outperforming the presidential nominee. For her work on Ron Johnson's race, Ankney was named "Campaign Manager of the Year" by the American Association of Political Consultants for 2016.



**Gabrielle Quintana Greenfield,
Battlefield Director, Democratic Congressional
Campaign Committee**

Gabrielle Quintana Greenfield is the Battlefield Director at the DCCC. She previously worked as political director at the DSCC, deputy independent expenditure at the DCCC and has run several congressional and statewide campaigns.



THE AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS

Thank you to our 2020 sponsors

BRUNSWICK



and co-hosts



MASSACHUSETTS
MARINE TRADES
ASSOCIATION



BoatingIndustry

SOUNDINGS
Trade Only



THE AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS

Save the Date

ABC 2021

Wednesday, April 21-

Friday, April 23

Intercontinental Hotel

Washington, DC