

2012 Northeast Recreational Boater Survey

A Socio-economic and Spatial Characterization of Recreational Boating in Coastal and Ocean Waters of the Northeast United States



A recent study of marine recreational boating in the Northeast shows that in 2012, approximately 907,000 marine recreational boating trips generated nearly \$3.5 billion in the Northeast economy and supported the equivalent of about 27,000 year-round jobs. In addition to assessing boating's economic impact, the study also looks at boating's footprint in New England's marine waters, providing regional and state maps of recreational boating locations, busy boating routes, and indicating areas popular with boaters for activities, such as recreational fishing and wildlife viewing. Results can be used by ocean managers, the boating industry and others in many ways, such as identifying areas of the ocean important for recreation and informing marine industry business planning and economic development.

The economic impact estimates and job numbers reported through this study are even more impressive since they represent just part of the overall recreational boating picture. For example, the study does not account for boat sales and commercial recreational boat activity, or the spending from boats that are registered from states outside the Northeast; as well as jobs that result from this spending, including boat building. These additional boating-related activities also contribute to the Northeast's marine recreational boating economy.

Thousands of the 374,000 coastal boaters in the Northeast participated in the 2012 Northeast Recreational Boater Survey,

which was a survey of marine recreational boat owners registered in **Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.**

Through monthly online surveys, boaters mapped their boating trips and identified areas they participated in activities, such as recreational fishing and wildlife viewing. Boaters also reported their boating expenditures including fuel, supplies and other items, and shared their opinions on a variety of boating issues, such as safety and whether boaters could continue to enjoy boating near other new and emerging ocean uses, such as offshore wind farms.

The survey was conducted through a partnership among the boating industry, government and non-governmental organizations. This partnership was involved in all phases of the project, from developing the methodology to reviewing preliminary results, and included SeaPlan, the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), First Coast Guard District, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Marine Trades Association, The New Hampshire Coastal

Program at the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Rhode Island Marine Trades Association, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Connecticut Marine Trades Association, and New York Department of State.

(to page 38)

