



## MEMBER CLUBS

**BALTIMORE YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**BELVEDERE YACHT CLUB**  
ARNOLD

**BODKIN YACHT CLUB**  
PASADENA

**BOUMI SHRINE YACHT CLUB**

**BOWLEY'S POINT YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**BUSH RIVER YACHT CLUB**  
ABINGDON

**CHESAPEAKE COMMODORES CLUB**

**CLASSIC YACHT CLUB**

**CRESCENT YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**EASTERN YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**GALLOWAY YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**GOOSE HARBOR YACHT CLUB**  
CHASE

**GREAT OAK YACHT CLUB**  
CHESTERTOWN

**KENT ISLAND YACHT CLUB**  
CHESTER

**MARLEY BOAT CLUB**  
PASADENA

**MARYLAND YACHT CLUB**  
PASADENA

**MIDDLE RIVER YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**MILES RIVER YACHT CLUB**  
ST. MICHAELS

**NEPTUNE YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**NORTH EAST RIVER YACHT CLUB**  
NORTH EAST

**NORTH POINT YACHT CLUB**  
SPARROW'S POINT

**OTTER POINT YACHT CLUB**  
ABINGDON

**PLEASANT YACHT CLUB**  
SPARROW'S POINT

**RED EYE YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**RIVERSIDE YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**SUE HAVEN YACHT CLUB**  
BALTIMORE

**VENTNOR YACHT CLUB**  
PASADENA

**VETERANS YACHT CLUB ASSOCIATION**

# Yacht Clubs of Maryland ...to provide a means for close and frequent interaction and mutual support among member Yacht Clubs...

February 14, 2025

## Testimony to the Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Natural Resources (DNR))

### Why we FAVOR passage of HB 719 - Natural Resources - State Boat Act -

**Alterations:** The proposed fee increases are significant, but reasonable considering there's been no increase in these fees for decades. Given the budget deficits that Maryland faces, we want to make sure that DNR can continue to provide outstanding service to the communities it serves.

- ✓ While we opposed legislation last year (which was HB239) to increase fees, our opposition was to even greater increases and creating a scale of fees that increased based on size of the boat.
- ✓ We believe the fees collected must be directed to cover DNR expenses and waterway improvements. To do otherwise would make this just another means of taxing boaters. Boaters already pay the full Maryland tax on every gallon of gasoline they buy, which doesn't provide any direct benefits to boaters.
- ✓ Fees should correlate to services provided such as titling registration expenses, safety programs, law enforcement, waterway improvements, etc.
- ✓ The State and its citizens benefit from a \$3.5 billion boating industry, commercial fishing, tourism, and thousands of full-time jobs and DNR needs the resources to maintain, at the least, current level of service.
- ✓ DNR services are crucial to the safety of boaters and our magnificent Chesapeake Bay and tributaries.
- ✓ DNR has been very supportive of the boating community, often providing safety presentations to the Yacht Clubs of Maryland community. With looming budget deficits, there needs to be a way for DNR to continue their efforts in support of safe boating.
- ✓ We fear that failure to pass this bill may lead to more boating accidents, injuries, etc.
- ✓ We urge the Maryland Legislature to approve HB 719.

Sincerely,

Kate Cramblett  
Commodore, Yacht Clubs of Maryland