

BOATING ATLANTIC

June 14, 2021

The Honourable Bernadette Jordan
Minister of Fisheries, Ocean and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent Street
Station 15N100
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Sent via email: BlueEconomy-EconomieBleue@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister Jordan,

Thank you for the opportunity of providing our views, as Boating Atlantic, on protecting and growing Canada's Blue Economy.

The Boating Atlantic Association, is the voice of the recreational boating industry in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Boating Atlantic is a not-for-profit organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors working with its stakeholders to grow and enhance boating in the Atlantic Region of Canada and support its members in their endeavours. The Boating Industry in Atlantic Canada is very connected to coastal marine tourism and small and medium sized businesses are located in coastal communities servicing not only recreational boaters but commercial fishers and other commercial on-water business.

Did you know that there are over 100 marinas and yacht clubs located in Atlantic Canada? The majority of these facilities are run by non-profit community groups, and yacht clubs. Some are connected to municipalities and a few larger facilities are privately owned. You may think that coastal marine tourism is boats coming from outside Atlantic Canada and the super yacht business, but the mainstay of coastal tourism to these over 100 facilities is boats coming from other Atlantic Canada destinations. An example would be a 'convoy' of boats and families from Charlottetown PEI, who regularly spend several weeks at the St Peter's Marina, Cape Breton Island, which is run by the Lions Club. Other examples would be families in Nova Scotia who save up to purchase a boat suitable to explore the many coves and inlets of Newfoundland and Labrador and perhaps leave their boat to over-winter in the town of Lewisporte, Notre Dame Bay, where the community has supported the development of Lewisporte Marina. In 2020, the establishment of the Atlantic Bubble allowed those small communities to continue to welcome other Atlantic Canadians which helped mitigate the ravages of COVID-19 on marine tourism. Atlantic Canadians spent the summer of 2020 exploring their region.

Many Indigenous communities are located in protected coastal communities, particularly on the Bras d'Or Lake. With waterfront infrastructure and interest by the community, they could welcome more recreational boating and marine tourism.

Coastal marine tourism supports recreational boating business such as Quartermaster Marine in Charlottetown PE as boats are purchased and sold and serviced, it supports distributors of products such as the newly formed Maritime Marine Supply which is a combination of the former Mermaid Marine of Charlottetown PE and Stright MacKay of New Glasgow NS, it supports dock builders who supply wharves, floating docks and moorings to the marinas and yacht clubs such as Bear River Plastic Welding in Bear River NS, and it provides Atlantic Canadians an opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of the coast.

The Boating Industry provides opportunity for youth to find employment, and this is supported in Nova Scotia by investment by the Nova Scotia Provincial Government in the Apprenticeship Programs for Boat Building and Marine Service Technician. Atlantic Canada is known for its boat building and many boats working and enjoying the coast are built in the Atlantic Provinces; from traditional schooners to high end yachts, commercial fishing boats and ferries.

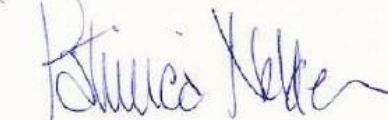
As Boating Atlantic, we would like to see continued investment in infrastructure (marinas, launch ramps, community wharves) that supports coastal marine tourism, investment that supports the development of a workforce, investment in innovation for efficiency in boat design for both recreational and commercial boats and investment that continues to promote the Atlantic Region as a wonderful, scenic coastal tourism destination.

Boating Atlantic will continue to educate users of the coastal environment in sustainable use of the oceans with promotion through boat shows and publications of: protection of marine mammals, the importance of the species that live in tidal zones, invasive species, recreational fishing regulations, best practises for clean boating, and responsible boat ownership and use.

Boating Atlantic is perplexed by the Government's proposed luxury tax on recreational boats over \$250,000 scheduled to be in place January 1st 2022. You are asking us how to protect and grow the Blue Economy while you are placing a tax that will seriously inhibit growth in the boating/coastal marine tourism sector. The proposed luxury tax will put Atlantic Canadian recreational boat builders and the jobs they support in jeopardy along with suppliers and dealers who sell and service boats in the region.

Sincerely

BOATING ATLANTIC



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