

Boating Safety Account Continuation Review



*House Appropriations Committee on Agriculture
and Natural and Economic Resources
May 3rd, 2016*



NORTH CAROLINA
Wildlife Resources Commission

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Mission

The Wildlife Resources Commission conserves North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provides programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.



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Boating Safety Program Objectives

- Administer the state boating safety program and provide services to boaters that will make boating activity safer and more enjoyable for all North Carolinians.
- Administer the Recreational Boating Safety Grant according to established guidelines and procedures and to use these funds to enhance boating safety efforts in North Carolina.
- Administer the vessel registration and titling program for the State of North Carolina.
- Perform boating safety patrols on all public waters in North Carolina and enforce boating safety laws and regulations.
- Encourage safe boat operation by providing boating education courses and training programs.
- Report boating accident information and to gather statistical data to identify various causes and contributing factors.

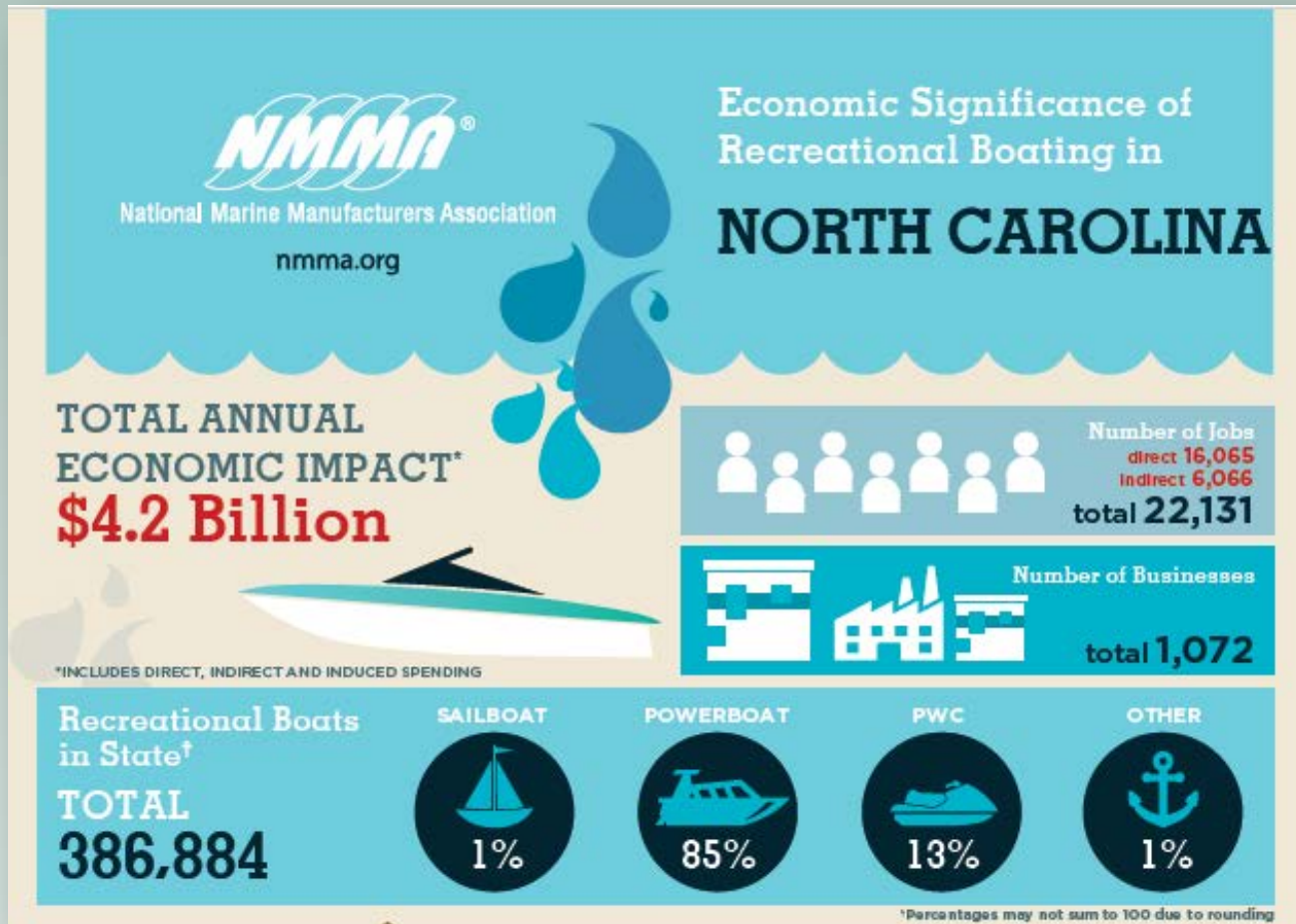


Boating Statute Authority

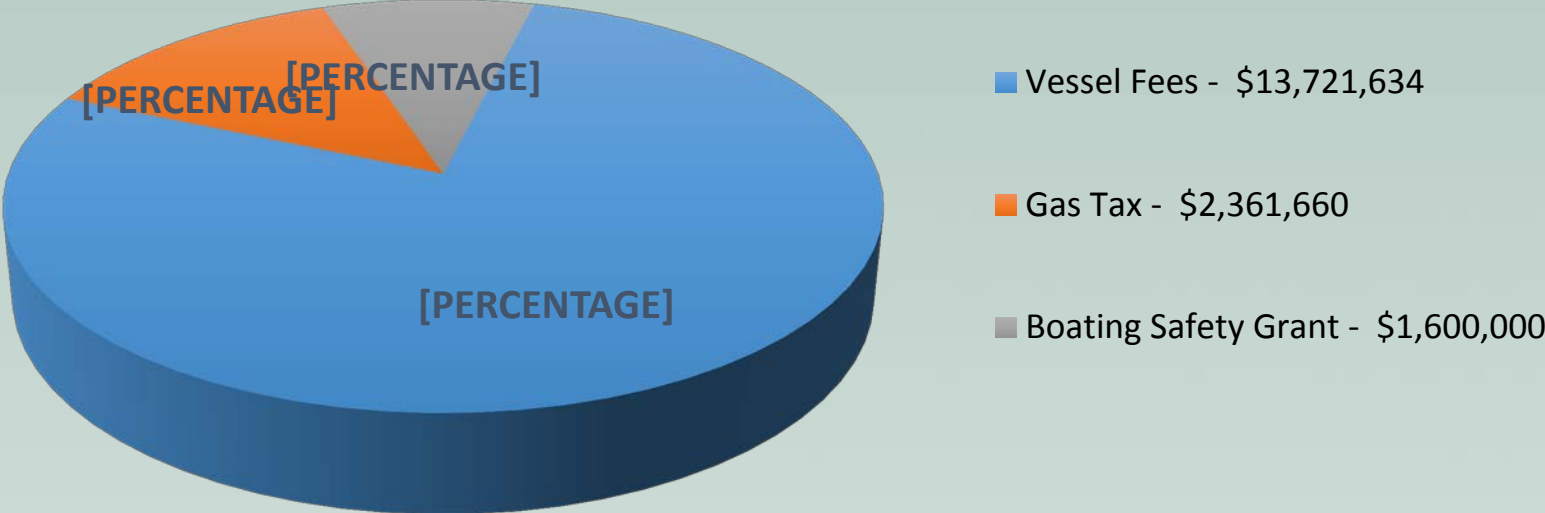
- Chapter 75A-1 in the general statutes addresses boating and water safety. The purpose of the article (75A-1) is to promote safety for persons and property in and connected with the use, operation and equipment of vessels, and to promote uniformity of laws relating thereto.
- Chapter 75A-3
 - (a) The Commission shall enforce and administer the provisions of this chapter.
 - (c) The Boating Safety Account is established within the Wildlife Resources Fund.



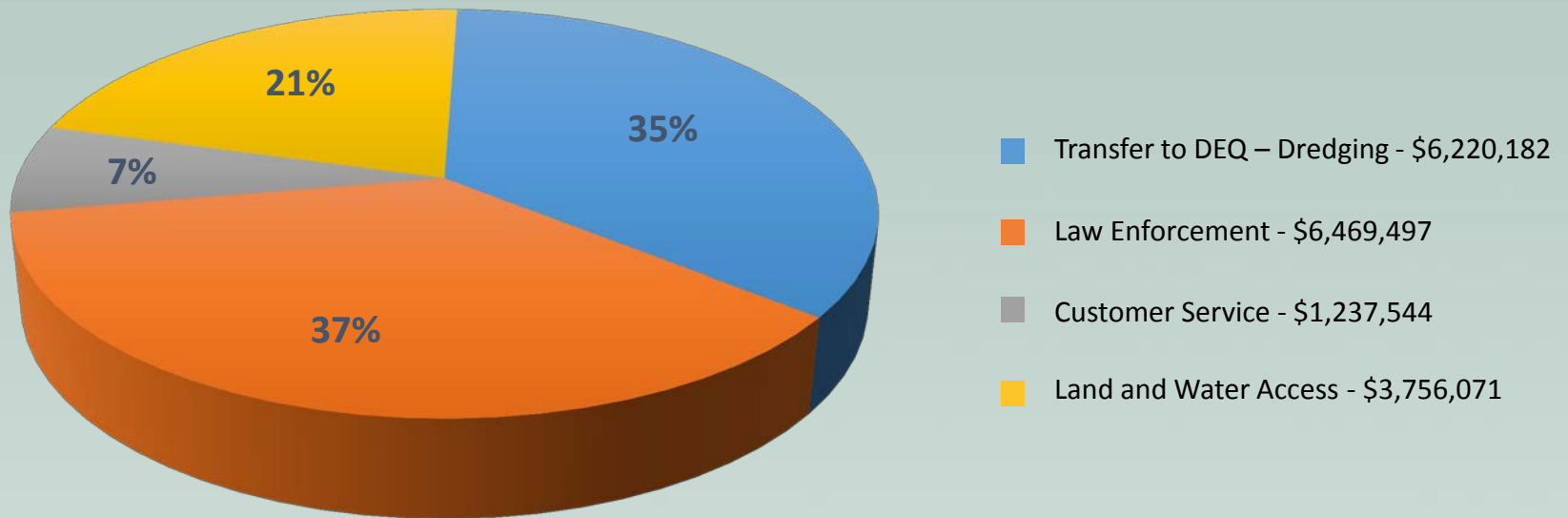
Rec Boating Economic Impact on NC



FY 2015-16 Boating Fund Projected Revenues



FY 2015-2016 Projected Expenditures



Law Enforcement Division



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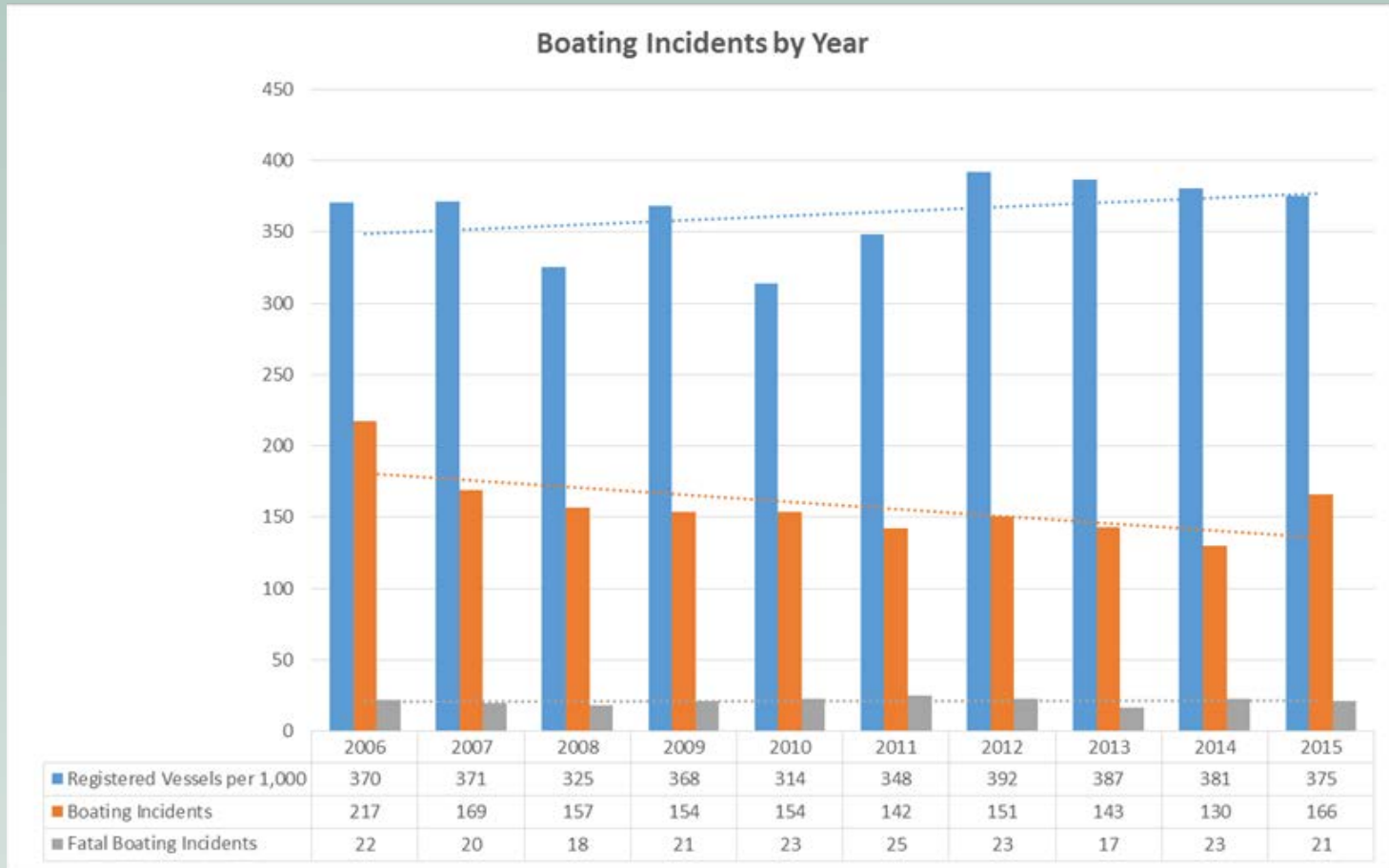
Law Enforcement Division Mission

The mission of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Law Enforcement is to conserve wildlife resources, promote safe, responsible boating, and provide public safety, through both proactive law enforcement and the instruction of quality education.



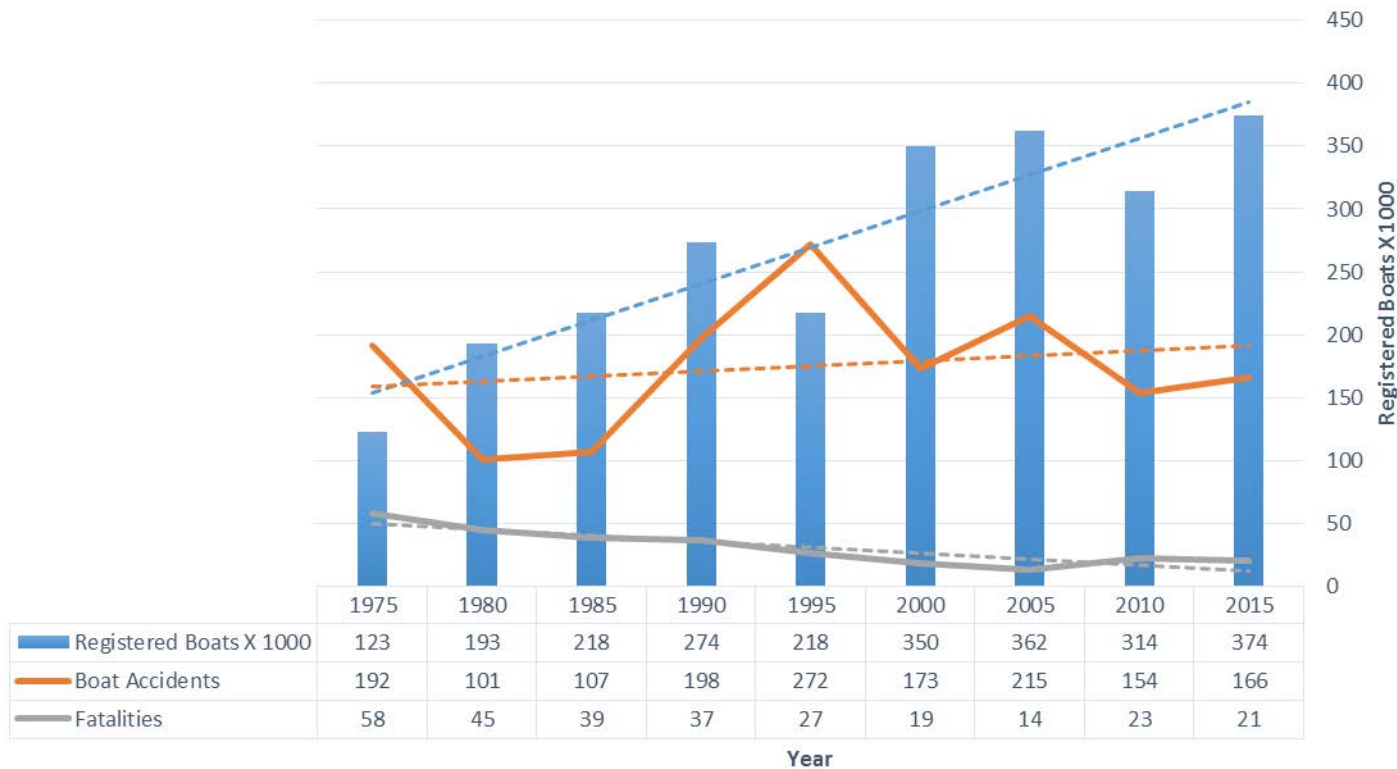
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Boating Fatalities



Boating Fatalities

Boating Accidents and Fatalities Vs. Registered Boats

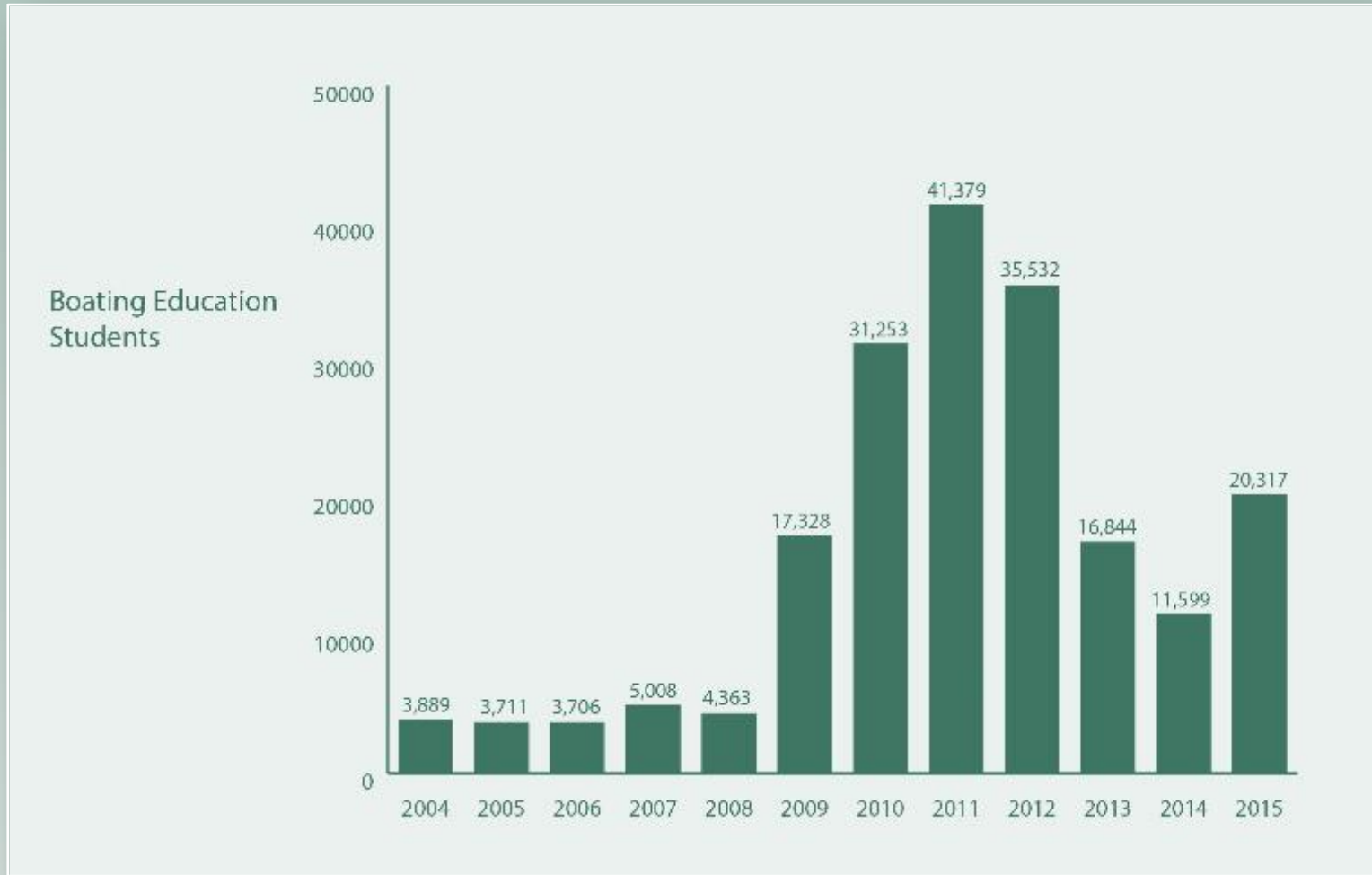


Boating Safety Education

- North Carolina boating safety education law GS 75A-16.2 requires anyone born on or after January 1, 1988 operating a vessel with a motor of 10 HP or greater to complete a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved boating education course.
- NCWRC offers free public boating education courses online and via classroom settings.
- Online courses have become the method of choice for most individuals taking boating education classes. In 2012, approx. 90% of all students received their boating education online.



Boating Safety Education



Pre-Launch Safety Checks

- Division implements preventive measures in the form of Pre-launch Boating Safety Checks. The Division has conducted courtesy boating checks as part of boating safety events for several years.
- The goal of these checks is to address safety issues before the person launches their boat. These pre-launch checks result in bringing boaters into compliance, promoting safety on the waterways.



Public Awareness

- The Division conducts ongoing media campaigns informing people of the mandatory boater education requirements. These campaigns utilize public service announcements, fact sheets, posters, and notification fliers.
- The Division participates in three statewide partnerships that seek to bring about awareness of the dangers of impaired operation of a vessel on our waterways.



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Customer Service

- NCWRC operates the Vessel Titling & Registration section (Customer Service Section) which links boat registration and license agents in a statewide communications network with point of sale capabilities.
- The Internet based vessel registration system named “ALVIN” is available 24-7.
- Alvin provides vessel registration and titling support to 374,823 recreational boaters.



Land and Water Access



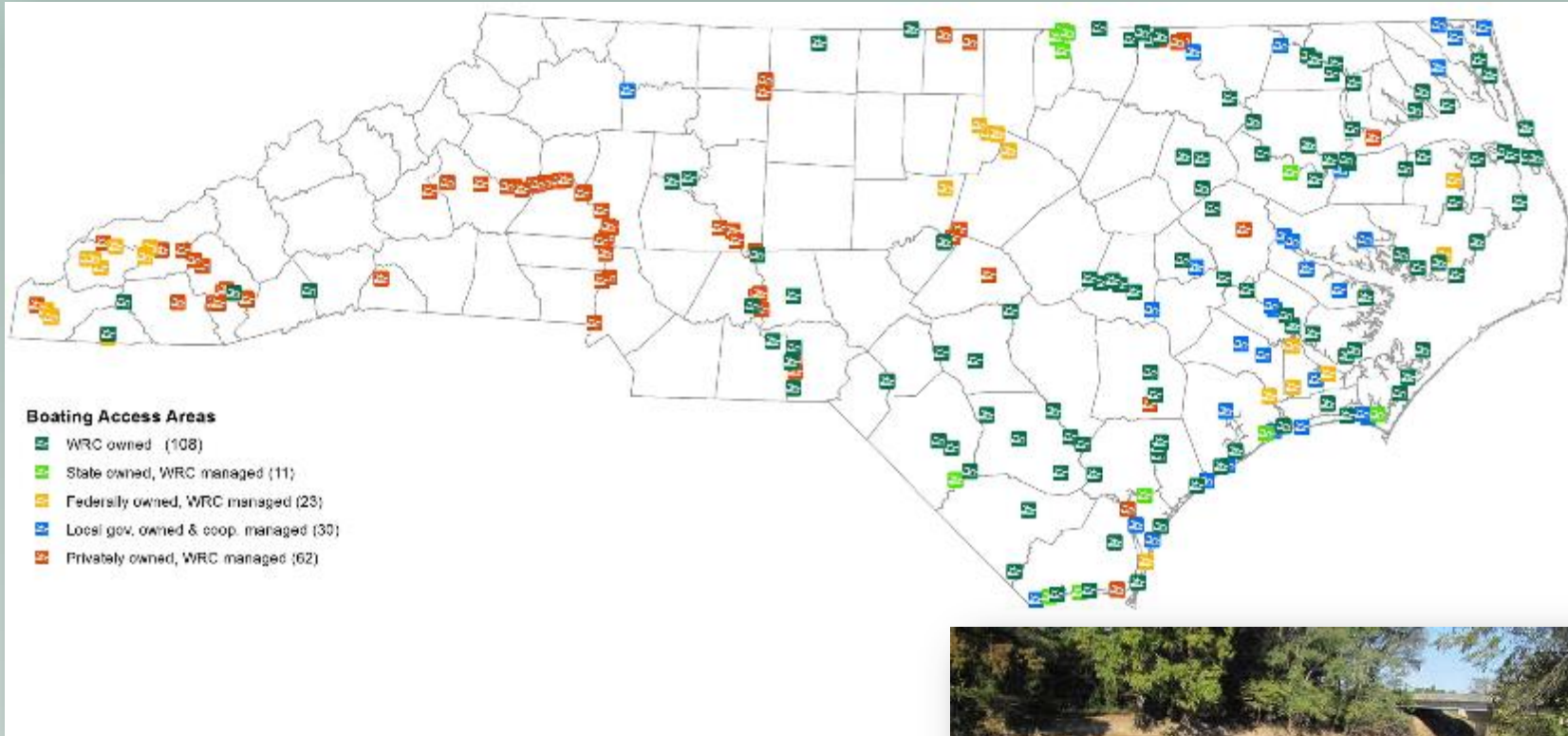
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Boating Access

- NCWRC's boating access area program is nationally recognized and received the 2012 State Boating Access Program Excellence Award.
- NCWRC has a team of engineers and technicians who facilitate recreational and commercial boaters free boating access 24-hours a day to the state's waterways.
- G.S. 75A-5 mandates the Commission use at least \$3.00 of each one-year vessel registration and at least \$9.00 of each three-year vessel registration fee collected under the numbering provisions of G.S. 75A-5 for boating access area acquisition, development, and maintenance.



Boating Access Areas (BAAs)



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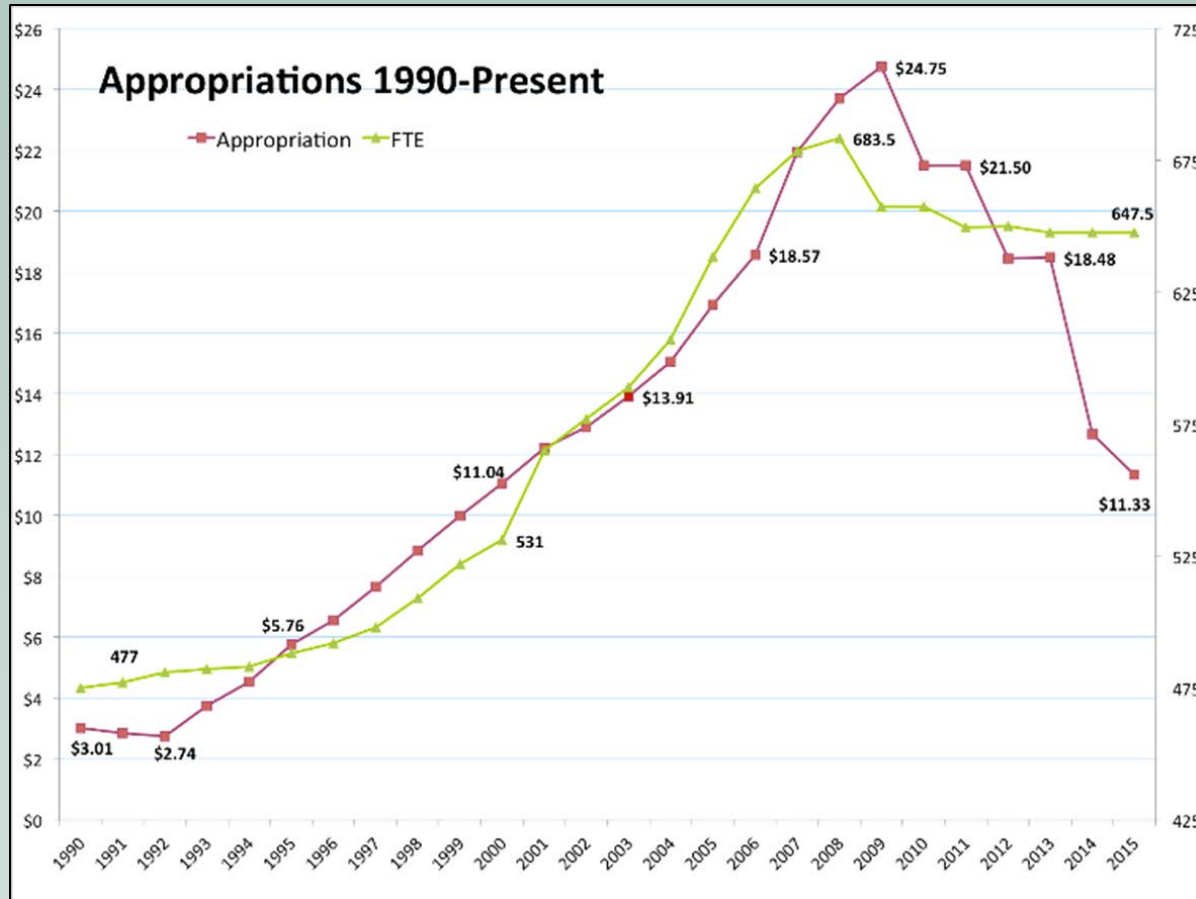
Waterway Marking

- The United States Coast Guard (USCG) has delegated the statewide navigation authority and responsibility to State of North Carolina.
- NCWRC maintains approximately 1,400 aids to navigation throughout the state. Routine maintenance checks are performed twice a year on all buoys in mid-April and again in mid-October in all North Carolina waters.
- Buoy and hardware purchases are made as needed utilizing funds from the Boating Safety Account. Field activities and maintenance are completed by 10 two-man crews working in various locations around the state.



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Path to Fiscal Self Sufficiency



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