



The Voice of the Waterway

The Newsletter of the
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association

AIWA News :

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2017 AIWA Annual Meeting Registration is NOW OPEN!

The AIWA is pleased to announce that hotel and event registration is now open for the 2017 AIWA Annual Meeting. You can access the event website directly by the link below: <http://tinyurl.com/AIWA2017>.

The meeting will be held November 15-16, 2017 in Wrightsville Beach, NC at the Blockade Runner Beach Resort. We have received confirmations from a number of speakers, and are identifying additional presentations about issues that effect intracoastal waterway users. Some of the current presentation

topics include:

1. State of the AIWW Update with presentations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding projects that are occurring in every state.
2. Real estate challenges facing the AIWW.
3. NOAA's National Charting Plan.
4. Deepening of the AIWW in Broward County, FL.
5. An update on Washington, D.C. activities that are effecting the waterway.
6. A panel discussion on increasing access to the AIWW.

We have also invited our federal partners at the U.S. Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration to participate along with other non-federal stakeholders.

We are also excited to hold our meeting immediately following the N.C. Beach Inlet and Waterway Meeting, and hope that attendees will attend both events.

If you have a topic or speaker recommendation, we invite you to contact Brad Pickel.

See you in November!

AIWW receives over \$47 million in Federal Funding in 2017

What a difference a few years can make! While federal funding for the AIWW has been on the rise for a number of years, FY 2017 turned out to be the biggest year in decades, even larger than from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This is a far cry from 2012 when there was no funding in the President's budget for AIWW dredging.

In FY 2017, the AIWW received funding in

every state along the waterway. The sources of funding included the normal Congressional appropriations process, and also supplemental funding from hurricane impacts in 2016. A description of the process and a table with the breakdown from different sources is included on the following page of this newsletter, but the takeaway message for FY 2017 is that total appropriations for the AIWW was over \$47 million.

As we move through the summer, the AIWA is closely watching the execution of projects along the waterway. While work is underway and dredging is being completed in North Carolina and Florida, we expect new projects to be underway in the fall in South Carolina and Georgia. We look forward to providing a comprehensive update of all completed and new projects in the fall newsletter.

Find us at www.atlanticintracoastal.org

Fiscal Year 2017 and 2018 AIWW Appropriations Snapshot

We have had a dramatic turn of events since our last newsletter when the appropriations process was stalled. Now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts have completed many projects that were funded in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), and are using their fiscal year 2017 (FY17) allocations. As discussed in the Spring newsletter, Congress developed their FY 17 Energy and Water appropriations bills and included additional funding for Inland Waterways; and Small, Remote or Subsistence Navigation (an AIWA Congressional priority) but had not passed a final joint appropriation bill prior to the election.

In early May, Congress passed an Omnibus Appropriations Bill that included the FY17 Energy and Water appropriations bill. The final appropriations bill included \$46.5 million in additional funding for Inland Waterways, and \$49 million in additional funding for Small, Remote or Subsistence Navigation. After allocation of the FY17 appropriations, the AIWW received a total of \$15.604 million, including \$8.693 million more for the AIWW than was allocated in the President’s Budget. **In comparison, the final Work Plan included \$13.931 million in FY16 so the FY17 amount is the highest amount the AIWW has received in the appropriations process in more than five years, and almost 80% more than the FY 17 President’s Budget.**

In addition, each District was allocated supplemental funding for Hurricane Matthew impacts. The total amount of hurricane supplemental funding for the AIWW is \$32.275M and will be used for debris cleanup, repair of dredge material management areas, and dredging of the waterway. In total, the AIWW received \$47.879 million in FY 2017. A breakdown of funding for each of the categories are included in the table below:

	Presidential Budget for FY 17	Hurricane Supplemental Funding	Final FY 17 Funding with Workplan Funding	Presidential Budget for FY 18
VA	\$4.030M	\$1.5M	\$5.64M	\$5.479M
NC	\$1.75M	\$3.5M	\$5.33M	\$2.812M
SC	\$0.1M	\$13.475M	\$20.075M	\$0.1995M
GA	\$0.181M	\$6M	\$6.181M	\$0.181M
FL	\$0.850M	\$7.8M	\$10.650M	\$5.784M
Total	\$6.911M	\$32.275M	\$47.879M	\$14.455M

Looking forward to FY18 Federal Appropriations for the AIWW

On May 23rd, the President released his budget for Fiscal Year (2018). As noted in the table above, funding for the waterway totals \$14.455 million. In comparison, the President’s Budget included \$7.231M in FY16 and \$6.911 M in FY17 for the waterway so the FY18 amount is a substantial increase (over 43% higher than 2017) and a great starting point. However, the amount of FY18 AIWW funding is less than was received in the final FY17 work plan (\$15.604M), so

we will be working with Congress to increase this amount as we have done in previous years.

In July, the House of Representatives approved the Make America Secure Appropriations Act. This appropriations bill includes the funding for four of the 12 annual Appropriations bills, including: the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and the Legislative Branch Appropriations bills. The bill included \$25

million in additional funding for Inland Waterways; and \$20 million in additional funding for Small, Remote or Subsistence Navigation.

The Senate version of the Energy & Water appropriations bill has not yet passed the full Senate and includes \$13.5 million in additional funding for Inland Waterways, and \$51 million in additional funding for Small, Remote or Subsistence Navigation. We look forward to Senate action on this bill.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available for 2017 AIWA Annual Meeting

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association wants to thank the following sponsors of the 2017 Annual Meeting on November 15-16, 2017 in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

Platinum Meeting Sponsor- FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

Evening Welcome Reception on Wednesday, November 15th - GREAT LAKES DREDGE AND DOCK COMPANY

Continental Breakfast Sponsor on Thursday, November 16th - MORGAN & EKLUND, INC.

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Exhibitors:

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES REMAINING:

Lunch Sponsor on Wednesday, November 15th - \$1,750

Sponsor will receive one comp registration; display company printed materials; be recognized in all printed materials, quarterly newsletter and AIWA website.

Networking Break Sponsor – \$1,250 each or \$2,000 for both Two opportunities available (Wed. PM, Thurs. AM)

Sponsor will receive one comp registration; acknowledgement at the conference; signage on the break table; be recognized in all printed materials, quarterly newsletter and AIWA website.

Exhibitor- \$850 (Only SIX remaining)

*Exhibitors will receive one comp registration; be recognized at the conference, in all printed materials, quarterly newsletter and AIWA website. **Additional exhibit participants for \$75 each with access to all functions.***

General Sponsor- \$400

Sponsor will receive one comp registration; be recognized at the conference, in all printed materials, quarterly newsletter and AIWA website.

For more information and to secure your company's sponsorship, contact Brad Pickel at bpickel@seahavenconsulting.com or 843-379-1151.

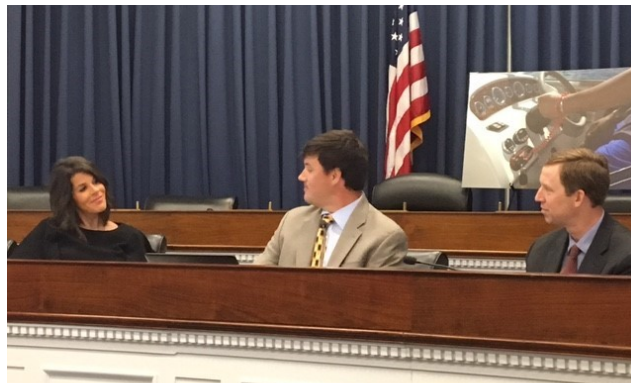
Photos from the Congressional Coastal Caucus Briefing in Washington



From L to R: John Swick, *Safe Harbor Marinas*; Brad Pickel, *AIWA*; Susan Shingledecker, *BoatUS Foundation*; Dave Marlow, *Brunswick Corporation*; and Nicole Vasilaros, *NMMA* at the Senate briefing of the Caucus.



Brad Pickel, AIWA Executive Director, briefs Congressional Boating Caucus on issues related to waterway infrastructure investments and the value of waterborne transportation to the U.S.



Panelists respond to a question from Nicole Vasilaros at the House of Representatives briefing of the Congressional Boating Caucus.

All photographs taken by NMMA

U.S. Coast Guard updates electronic chart policy

Below is information provided by the U.S. Coast Guard in a July 18, 2017 Press Release.

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Coast Guard announced today an update to its navigation guidance for the use of electronic charts in lieu of paper charts and publications.

The updated version of Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-16 identifies voluntary acceptable equivalencies to paper charts and publications as well as position fixing and plotting require-

ments under Coast Guard regulations.

The NVIC also provides guidance and recommendations to vessel owners and operators and chart display manufacturers.

“We took into account feedback from agency partners and industry stakeholders to adjust our electronic charts policy,” said Capt. Mary Ellen J. Durley, the chief of the Office of Navigation Systems.

Mariners are not required to

use electronic charts or electronic charting systems. The updated guidance offers a voluntary alternative means to comply with U.S. chart and publication carriage requirements.

View the NVIC through the link above or copy and paste the following into a browser:

https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/nvic/pdf/2016/NVIC_01-16_electronic_charts_and_publications.pdf



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

AIWA On The Road

The AIWA was active on the road raising awareness for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) during summer of 2017. The Association is appreciative of all of the opportunities to highlight the value of the AIWW to the nation, and would like to highlight two specific meetings.

In April, Brad Pickel, AIWA Executive Director, was invited to participate as a speaker at the Local Government Meeting of the North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association (NCBIWA). NCBIWA is a long-time member of the AIWA and we will be holding our annual meeting immediately following their annual meeting in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

The presentation focused on the nation's marine highway system and specifically the AIWW (Marine Highway 95) and its value as the connection between the major ports of entry located along the eastern seaboard.

Brad also provided an overview of federal funding for the waterway and showed how the AIWW has received increased funding every year since 2012 due to the President's budget and increased support offered by Congress through Additional Funding Needs funding pots.

In July, Brad represented the AIWA at two briefings of the Congressional Boating Caucus in

Washington, D.C. The AIWA was invited to participate and discuss infrastructure needs for the AIWW and the nation's waterways in general. He highlighted the need to support all marine infrastructure and not only focus on locks, dams and ports. He used the AIWW to demonstrate how the nation's waterways will become more important over time as the need to move commerce increases, and other forms of transportation face capacity and logistical challenges.

More information is in the following article from the NMMA.

Recreational Boating Leaders Hold Capitol Hill Briefings on Boating Safety and Infrastructure

The following information was provided by the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), a longtime partner of the AIWA.

Recreational boating took center stage on Capitol Hill [on July 13], as industry leaders held briefings in conjunction with the Congressional Boating Caucus. The briefing, titled 'Boating Safety and Infrastructure,' focused on issues ranging from dredging the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) and engine cut-off devices, to aquatic invasive species and public-private partnerships with marinas, presented by a panel of industry experts, which included: NMMA Federal and Legal Affairs Vice President Nicole Vasilaros; Brunswick Corporation Product Integrity and Government Affairs Director Dave Marlow; BoatUS Foundation VP and Director of Environmental Programs Susan Shingledecker; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association (AIWA) Executive Director Brad Pickel; and Safe Harbor Marinas Senior Vice President of Operations John Swick.

Hosted by NMMA, Boat Owners Association of The United States

Association of the Americas (MRAA), the briefings highlighted the impact recreational boating has on the U.S. economy—a \$121 billion annual contribution—and how Congress can help protect it through supporting key boating safety and infrastructure programs. Topics of discussion included the following:

1. NMMA's Vasilaros opened with an overview of the industry, followed by its boating infrastructure priorities, such as increased support for public-private partnerships to help address the maintenance backlog and aging infrastructure on federal lands and waterways.
2. Brunswick Corporation's Marlow provided an in-depth analysis on how engine cut-off devices and Emergency Locator Beacons (ELBs) improve safety for boaters and why they should be supported in U.S. Coast Guard reauthorization bills.
3. BoatUS Foundation's Shingledecker reviewed the impact Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can have on the nation's waters and importance of finding a

consistent approach to the management of invasive species transport by boat, which varies across the U.S. currently.

4. AIWA's Pickel emphasized the critical importance of dredging the ICW to authorized depths for commercial and recreational boating via providing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the necessary funding.
5. Safe Harbor Marinas' Swick wrapped up the panel discussion with ways he and his team maintain marinas for safe use across 17 states and opportunities for public-private partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state water managers.

The briefings gathered nearly 80 attendees total, raising awareness of the key issues our industry is facing today and how we can work together to protect its 88 million boaters nationwide.

For more information or questions, please contact Nicole Vasilaros at nvasilaros@nmma.org.

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association is to encourage the continuation and further development of waterborne commerce and recreation in the Intracoastal Waterways of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida through the promotion of adequate dredging, safe navigation and maintenance; to work to ensure the US Army Corps of Engineers maintains the waterway at a 12-foot depth at low tide, as authorized by Congress; and to educate the nation and the region about the historical and economic value of the waterway to its citizens.

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Waterway Surveys & Engineering

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST

September 26-28, 2017:
National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting
St. Louis, MO
Go to: www.waterways.org

October 24-27, 2017:
ASBPA Annual Meeting
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Go to: www.asbpa.org

November 13-14, 2017:
NCBIWA Annual Meeting
Blockade Runner Resort
Wrightsville Beach, NC
Go to: www.ncbiwa.org

November 15-16, 2017:
AIWA Annual Meeting
Blockade Runner Resort
Wrightsville Beach, NC
Go to: www.atlanticintracoastal.org