



## ▶ MRAA Opposes Increase in Ethanol Blends

**Legislative Objective** — The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) opposes attempts to increase the Renewable Fuels Standard, which would enable the level of ethanol in gasoline to reach 15 percent (E-15) or higher, and asks Congress to support legislation reducing the ethanol content in gasoline to just 10 percent (E-10) by co-sponsoring S. 344 and H.R. 1464.

**Legislative Background** — Serious and well-documented safety problems, technology breakdowns and environmental issues result when gasoline is blended with more than 10 percent ethanol in recreational marine engines, outboard motors and marine fuel systems. An increase above 10 percent will have potential catastrophic effects on public safety. Tests conducted by marine engine manufacturers under guidance of the Department of Energy have demonstrated that for marine engines designed to run on gasoline at E-10 by volume, high concentrations of ethanol will pose serious problems, such as damage to valves, push rods and bearings; performance issues, such as starting and stalling; increased water absorption and phase separation in the fuel tank; fuel tank corrosion, resulting in leaks; increased emission of Nitrogen Oxide, causing smog; and passenger safety issues when breakdowns occur underway and out of port.

MRAA understands approximately 95 percent of all recreational boats use trailers to reach boating or fishing access points. These boats are fueled at gas stations alongside boat owners' cars, SUVs and trucks. If E-15 is widely sold at these stations, misfueling will occur and marine engines will be damaged, potentially invalidating warranties. MRAA believes additional testing of recreational marine engines, fuel systems and component parts is necessary to determine the impact of E-15.

**Action Needed** — MRAA supports S. 344, introduced by Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS) and David Vitter (R-LA) with five co-sponsors, to prohibit EPA from approving gasoline containing ethanol levels greater than 10 percent (E-10); and H.R. 1462, introduced by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) and 59 co-sponsors, to require comprehensive assessment by the National Academy of Sciences of the effects mid-level ethanol blends have on engines of all kinds and suspends the current EPA waiver that permits the sale of E-15.



### ASK CONGRESS...

To oppose an increase in ethanol in gasoline.

### ▶ Key Facts

- ▶ Ethanol levels of 10 percent already cause problems for boaters.
- ▶ An increase to E-15 will pose serious mechanical and safety concerns.
- ▶ 95% of boats are trailered to the water; fuel pumps with E-15 will lead to misfueling of boats and damaged engines.

### ▶ Contact

Larry Innis  
Legislative Affairs  
301-858-7149,  
larryinnis@aol.com

