



## ▶ MRAA Supports Dredging Of Small Boat Harbors, Canals and Channels

**Legislative Objective** — The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) supports use of the Harbor Maintenance Fund for dredging of small boat harbors. MRAA is asking Congress to move the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) out of conference and to pass the conference report when it comes to the floor.

**Legislative Background** — Access to our nation's waterways is critical for Americans who enjoy boating and fishing; however, many infrastructure projects necessary to help foster and encourage these activities are being ignored, including dredging.

The House of Representatives passed WRDA, H.R. 3080, October 23, 2013 by a 417-3 vote. The Senate passed the House bill with one amendment on dam safety by unanimous consent October 31, 2013. The two bills have been in conference since November 14, 2013. WRDA is long overdue to authorize important water resource projects, including dredging. This Act is the primary legislative vehicle for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the largest provider of outdoor recreation on federal lands and waters, to set priorities for navigation, shoreline protection, environmental restoration and dredging.

The critical need for dredging operations is evidenced by several factors, including silting channels and small boat harbors and low water levels in the Great Lakes and in major river tributaries. With 50 percent of our nation's population living within an hour of coastal areas and Great Lakes, access to water for fishing and boating is one of America's most important economic and cultural resources. MRAA believes passage of WRDA is vital to preserve water access for recreational boating and commercial fishing and shipping operations. MRAA applauds Congress for including recreational interests in H.R. 3080, especially by increasing available funds for small river and harbor projects and the authorization of dredging for shallow draft ports in the Great Lakes and on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

**Action Needed** — MRAA encourages Congress to move WRDA, H.R. 3080, out of conference and support dredging of shallow draft channels and harbors used for recreational fishing and boating.



### ASK CONGRESS...

To move WRDA, H.R. 3080 out of conference and support dredging of shallow harbors.

### ▶ Key Facts

- ▶ Both the House and Senate passed bills supporting WRDA.
- ▶ Two bills have been in conference for six months.
- ▶ Act is primary legislative vehicle for Army Corps of Engineers.
- ▶ Passage of WRDA is vital to preserve water access for boaters.

### ▶ Contact

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

