

## **National Marine Trades Council (NMTC) Hosts Successful Annual Conference in Portland, Maine**

**PORTLAND, MAINE, August 14, 2025** – The National Marine Trades Council (NMTC) successfully concluded its annual conference, hosted by the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA) at the Portland Harbor Hotel from July 21–24. The event brought together marine industry leaders, association representatives, and stakeholders from across the country for engaging discussions, informative presentations, and valuable networking.

This year’s sessions covered a wide range of topics, including workforce development, industry advocacy, boat show strategies, legislative updates, and marketing initiatives. Highlights included workforce-focused presentations from Yamaha, industry insights from Discover Boating, and a forward-looking discussion from the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) on the future of marine retail. Attendees also explored the impacts of tariffs, regulatory and legislative trends, and shared best practices from state legislative sessions.

“Every year, NMTC is where marine trade leaders come together to talk, connect, and learn from each other,” said Lori Wheeler, 2025 Conference Chair. “It’s all about working together to support our members, grow our industry, and keep it thriving for the future. A big thank you to the Maine Marine Trades Association and Stacey Keefer for hosting us this year.”

The conference also showcased Portland’s charm and rich boating heritage. Attendees enjoyed a ferry trip to Great Diamond Island for lunch and afternoon sessions focused on boat shows, followed by a traditional Maine lobster bake that encouraged both networking and storytelling.

“I’m excited to keep building on the momentum we’ve created with NMTC and to continue delivering value for marine trade association professionals while strengthening industry connections,” said Matt Gruhn, 2025 Conference Vice Chair. “As we look ahead to 2026, we’re ready to grow participation and make this annual event even more impactful.”

The NMTC extends its gratitude to Randall Lyons for his leadership as last year’s chair and to the sponsors who made this year’s event possible:

**Platinum Level:** Discover Boating, Informa Markets

**Gold Level:** Yamaha

**Silver Level:** Yachtr

**Bronze Level:** American Boat and Yacht Council, BoatUS, AdStrategies, MRAA, Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast, Tix Online Now, U.S. Superyacht Association

**Association Level:** Ohio Marine Trades Association, Boating Ontario, Massachusetts Marine Trades Association, Boating Trades Association of Metropolitan Houston, Maine Marine Trades Association, Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Michigan Boating Industries Association, Marine Industries Association of South Florida

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