



American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC)
613 Third St. Suite 10 • Annapolis, MD 21403
410-990-4460 • <https://www.abycinc.org/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Shannon Aronson, saronson@abycinc.org, 410-990-4460 x105



Caption: *Learning to fly: U.S. Coast Guard and ABYC take part in an eFoil demonstration*

(Photos from ABYC. Approved for media use)

ABYC Standards Week to Explore Efoils and Powered Surfboards

Industry leaders to convene in Charleston to discuss standards for rapidly evolving technologies.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Oct. 22, 2025) – The American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) announced that [Standards Week 2026](#) will take place Jan. 11–15 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina, bringing together marine industry leaders, technical experts, and safety advocates to address emerging technologies and shape the future of boating through collaborative standards development.

This year's event will feature a new exploratory subcommittee meeting focused on efoils and powered surfboards. The session, scheduled for

Monday, Jan. 12, follows a request from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to evaluate the need for standards addressing these rapidly expanding segments of the recreational boating market.

Topics under consideration include:

- Emergency cut-off mechanisms
- Capacity
- Battery and electrical system safety
- On-product warnings and labeling

“This meeting is a critical first step in evaluating how ABYC standards can support safe innovation in emerging watercraft technologies,” said Brian Goodwin, ABYC director of standards and compliance. “Federal regulations lag behind market evolution, and ABYC standards provide the marine industry with practical, consensus-based guidance that enhances safety and supports responsible growth.”

Key stakeholders, manufacturers, regulators, and interested parties are invited to attend. The meeting is open to all, and the outcome will help determine next steps in potential standards development.

Also occurring during the week are Project Technical Committee (PTC) meetings covering topics such as electrical, hull performance, fuel and ventilation, and thermal appliance. In addition, ABYC’s annual meeting and cocktail reception will be held Monday, Jan. 12.

Registration is free for all events. To learn more, visit

<https://abycinc.org/standardsweek>.

###

About Standards Week: ABYC Standards Week is where the marine industry sets the course for safety and innovation. Volunteers from across the boating industry gather to review and update ABYC standards. Through an open, consensus-based process, manufacturers, technicians, surveyors, regulators, and other experts collaborate to ensure the standards are practical, widely adopted, and directly tied to safer boating.

About ABYC:

Since 1954, the nonprofit American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) has developed safety standards for boat design, construction, equipment, repair and maintenance. The essential global source of marine industry technical information, ABYC's product safety standards, credentialing, education, training, and other tools help members make boating safer.