



American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC)
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Caption: Jeff Ludwig from the USCG speaks during ABYC/USCG Risk Mitigation Series

ABYC, Coast Guard to host Risk Mitigation Series webinar May 13

Free virtual event will cover eFoils, defect notification policy, ABYC standards updates, factory visits and advanced driver-assistance systems

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 6, 2026) – The U.S. Coast Guard and the American Boat & Yacht Council will host the next installment of the [USCG/ABYC Risk Mitigation](#) Series, “Be Informed and Prepared: Emerging Technologies and Inspections,” on May 13 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. EDT.

The free virtual event will bring together experts from ABYC, the Coast Guard and the marine industry to discuss emerging technologies, upcoming standards updates, new inspection formats and the future of advanced driver-assistance systems in recreational boating.

“There’s a lot changing across the industry right now, and people need clear, practical information,” said Brian Goodwin, ABYC director of standards and compliance. “Risk Mitigation Series 10 brings key updates into one place so manufacturers and the broader boating industry can better understand what’s coming and plan for it. It’s straightforward, timely and designed to help.”

Webinar topics include:

- **Intro and update from the U.S. Coast Guard** — The webinar will open with an update on eFoils from Brian Goodwin, ABYC director of standards and compliance, followed by insight from Jeff Ludwig, chief of the Coast Guard’s Recreational Boating Product Assurance Branch, on the Coast Guard’s defect notification policy.
- **Changes to upcoming standards** — Attendees will get a look at changes coming with ABYC Supplement 66, including alternate capacity labels and flotation changes, from Craig Scholten, ABYC vice president of standards and compliance. Eric Johnson of the Coast Guard also will review the Coast Guard’s equivalence policy and how upcoming standards changes may affect it.
- **Factory Visits 2.0: What to Expect** — Kevin Ferrie, product assurance engineer with the Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety, will offer insight into the Coast Guard’s new inspection format and what manufacturers should know before a factory visit.
- **ADAS: Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems** — The final session will explore how advanced driver-assistance technology, already familiar in the automotive industry, may affect recreational boating in the coming years. Speakers include Dr. Grant Suzuki, chief of technology for Marine Innovation Engineering at Yamaha U.S. Marine Business Unit; Jason Arbuckle, Brunswick technical fellow and marine

autonomy technical lead; and Sangwon Shin of HD Hyundai and Avikus.

Manufacturers, compliance professionals and others across the marine industry are encouraged to register ahead of next week's webinar to hear directly from ABYC and the Coast Guard. Registration is available at www.abycinc.org/riskmitigation10.

The Risk Mitigation Series is a free online event dedicated to improving safety in recreational boat design and construction. This session will be recorded for later viewing.

To access past recordings, visit www.abycinc.org/USCGwebinars

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Since 1954, the nonprofit American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) has developed safety standards for boat design, construction, equipage, 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.

The mission of the Coast Guard's Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats, through preventive means, in order to maximize safe use and enjoyment of U.S. Waterways by the public