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ABBRA Launches “Clean Maritime Facility” Certification Program in California

Warren, RI—With the goal of maintaining the highest operational standards at California’s marine new-build and repair facilities, the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association (ABBRA) is preparing to launch the first-ever boatyard certification program for the state.

Called the “Clean Maritime Facility Program,” the voluntary effort will provide a multi-level evaluation process by which the dozens of boatyards throughout California will be better able to comply with local, state, and federal environmental laws and standards.

“ABBRA wholeheartedly promotes the efforts of our California members who are committed to preserving the environment and a boating lifestyle that will sustain dependable and conscientious Clean Maritime Facilities,” Pam Lenzion, ABBRA’s president, states.

To achieve ABBRA’s “California Clean Maritime Facility” designation, boatyards will be required to demonstrate best management practices along with a commitment to protect water, air, and marine life from environmental harm and pollutants based on nationally recognized guidelines. Among the areas of emphasis will be waste disposal, storm water control, spill prevention, emergency preparedness, and staff training.

The first two applicants for certification will be San Diego-based Knight & Carver Maritime, representing the Southern California region, and the Bay Area’s Keefe Kaplan Maritime (KKMI), of Northern California.

“With our long commitment to environmentally sound marine operations, going back to our founding, we are especially proud to lead this new effort,” Paul Kaplan, co-founder of KKMI with facilities in Sausalito and Pt. Richmond, CA, says.

Fully voluntary and nongovernmental, the ABBRA certification program will be similar to the marine industry’s “Clean Boatyard” programs initiated in Florida and Maine and the Clean Marina Program initiated in recent years in California. It has been developed in association with various regulatory agencies, including California Coastal Commission, California Department of Pesticide Regulations, and California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

ABBRA, the American Boat Builders & Repairers Association, promotes the best interests of the boatyard industry and professionalism in its member businesses.

ABBRA: Dedicated to the Marine Service and Repair Industry.

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