

## Working Waterways and Waterfronts – Plenary Session Introduction

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Some of you might have heard me say this in the past, but it's still true today:

The three most important words in recreational boating today are: Access, Access and – you guessed it – Access.

One of our speakers this morning is going to explain just what the water access conundrum has meant to the boating industry; what it's doing to their ability to get people in boats and on the water.

But in dealing with the access issue it became evident that other sectors of the maritime economy were – if you'll pardon me – in the same boat. So we are fortunate to be able to gain the perspective of the commercial fishing industry, too.

And from these two presentations we should be able to get a good sense of how the access issue is affecting the broader “working waterfront” community.

Then, from that practical background, we are then going to learn about water access from the big-picture public policy perspective of Coastal Zone Management.

Our focus at this conference is primarily on the three saltwater coasts and the Great Lakes. But the inland waterways have their own access challenges, too, and that could very well become Round Two of this forum at sometime in the future. Certainly, much of what we learn here will be useful on the country's inland rivers, large lakes and reservoirs.

As we move through this session, I thought it might be helpful to keep a few more important words in mind – terminology, really. When we think of shore side uses of the waterfront, we need to make a distinction between **Water Dependent Uses** – marinas come to mind here.

And **Water Enhanced Uses** – this hotel is certainly enhanced by its location on the water.

Then, of course, there are **Non Water Dependant Uses**, facilities and businesses that could be located anywhere. A boat factory, for example, does not have to be located on the water and in fact, many are not.

Sea Grant's Bob Goodwin, who did a lot of work with waterfronts and maritime business before retiring from Washington Sea Grant, helped to plan this conference and here's some terminology that I think we should keep in mind as we get into policy discussions throughout the conference. Water access issues fall into three categories:

**Direct Access** – that is, public access to public shores - parks, beaches, reserves, and that kind of open space on the water.

**Facilitated Access** – that is, boater access via public or private facilities to public waterways – marinas, boatyards, dry-stack storage, boat ramps, put-in/take-out areas for kayaks, canoes and hand-launched small boats.

And **Service Access** – meaning industrial and commercial enterprises that depend on access to waterways for their operational requirements, like the receipt of products or materials, or for in-water storage of products. This category might include charter fleets and marine transportation terminals.

When we look just outside the hotel, at the Elizabeth River, we see all three: The **attractive public promenade** along the water, the **adjacent marina** and the **dry dock and shipyard** on the other side.

So with that, let me introduce our speakers.

Thom Dammrich is President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, the recreational boat builders' trade association. NMMA members – more than 1,400 companies – produce, not just boats but every conceivable product used by recreational boaters.

Rod Moore is Executive Director of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association, which exists to serve the needs of the shore-based seafood processors in California, Oregon, and Washington who, he says, must fight to survive in the face of today's economic, environmental, and regulatory challenges.

Katherine Andrews is Executive Director of the Coastal States Organization, which represents the interests of the Governors of the thirty-five coastal States and the Great Lakes on federal, legislative, administrative and policy issues relating to sound coastal management.

And David Kennedy, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. That's the part of NOAA that provides strategic direction and guidance to the state and territory coastal management programs.

Each speaker will have about 20 minutes to give us a Big-Picture overview of the Water Access issue from their perspective. We will hold all questions until the end when we should have plenty of time for Q&A and further discussion. So please, feel free to take notes — jot down questions as they occur to you so that we can have some productive discussions at the end.

And now, to start us off, Thom Dammrich ....