



National Marine Manufacturers Association

April 24, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
99 Wellesley St. W., 6th Floor, Whitney Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

RE: Essential services extended to marinas & boat dealers

Dear Premier Ford:

On behalf of the National Marine Manufacturers Association ("NMMA Canada") and the entire recreational boating industry, thank you for your tireless work in supporting the people and businesses of Ontario through the present crisis. We are writing to echo the concerns voiced by Boating Ontario about the impact of current emergency orders on marinas and marine dealers.

We fully back your government's move to extend the state of emergency given the current health projections. That said, we are greatly concerned about the ongoing damage to businesses in our sector, most of which are seasonal and rely on tourism. Specifically, the mandatory closure of marinas (except if "necessary to enable individuals to access their primary place of residence") is severely limiting the capacity of these businesses to carry out business.

While a car or motorcycle dealership can drive a vehicle to a person's home or business, boat dealers rely on marinas and at times public ramps to be able to deliver boats. Many dealers have sold boats to customers during the January Boat Shows with a commitment to deliver those boats in the early spring. In some instances customers may default on the deals if dealers are telling them they cannot bring them their goods. This not only hurts boat dealers, but also the manufacturers that supply them - many of which are in Ontario.

In the short term, we urge you to allow marinas to open so they can both take deliveries of new boats and remove owned boats from storage and prep them for use. These activities could happen while observing social distancing and enhanced cleaning practices. For dealers, we ask that the province permit curbside pickup and 'contactless' delivery for our dealers along the same lines as what auto and motorcycle dealers are offering.

In the coming weeks, we also recommend that your government ensure public boat ramps are kept open so that boaters can safely access our waters. Boating is a safe social distancing activity: boaters can easily comply with social distancing requirements by limiting the people aboard to family; maintaining a safe distance from others; and avoiding rafting or beaching up with other boats. During this difficult time we all know that our mental wellbeing is going to be extremely important. Boating provides the escape and a great chance for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors, do enjoyable things like fishing or waterskiing, while avoiding the crowds and close contact of other warm-weather settings.

Once again, thank you for your hard work to support individuals and businesses during this crisis. Should you and your team have any questions, I would be happy to provide further detail.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Anghel".

Sara Anghel
President, NMMA Canada
(T) 416-909-9100 sanghel@nmma.org

cc: Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Culture Industries
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, & Trade
