

April 2021

## Whoo News

I'm usually not political, but have recently attended some meetings (yes, by Zoom), that have brought many "Bills" to light. They affect us all as a boating community and should be viewed as informational for your own political, and recreational, views. You may already be aware of some of these, but wanted to pass them along just in case.

1. AB 817 - Assembly Bill 817, 365 Day Fishing License would transition California's calendar-based fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase. It will allow digital proof available on your mobile device. Check it out.

2. ACA 5 - In 2017, the California State Legislature passed SB1 to increase vehicle and fuel taxes by 5.3 billion per year. This revenue currently has no constitutional protections and could be diverted at any time. The Legislature currently diverts approx. \$1.5 billion per year in transportation revenues to backfill the states General Fund. ACA 5 will add constitutional protection to reverse this annual diversion and provide voters a chance to decide for themselves where they want this money to go.

3. AB 591 - brings parity to the current difference in systems when regulating boating laws compared to vehicle laws by specifying certain infractions on vessel registration and operation are correctable and reduce or forgive the fine upon correction.

There is more information available on line at:

[leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov)



## Great News Ahead .....

The season is looking brighter as we move forward to a little more "normalcy" - whatever that may be. We are excited here at Owl Harbor to attach our Calendar of Events for the 2021 Year. You can make your plans with family and friends to attend some of our fun gatherings and be sure to get reservations in for the picnic areas. It's looking like a great year to be on the water and celebrating all that we hold dear - each other. Don't forget to come out and clean that boat before the season gets ahead of you. You don't want to spend precious time at the dock when you can be on the water.

Cheers,

Devery, Max, and Captain Jack Sparrow

## Current Events and Updates

### April 4 Happy Easter



### May 31 Memorial Day



### June 12-13 Delta Ditch Run

### June 18-20 Owl Harbor Cruise Out



# A few more fun facts to take a look at

For those of you that are currently BoatUS members, you may have already received this notice. If you have not, well, it's pretty important to take a look and weigh in your thoughts, and actions. Make sure your boating dollars are going in the direction you want. Read on.....

March 3, 2021

Dear California BoatU.S. Member:

California boaters will see their boat registration fees increase from a minimum of \$20 every two years to at least \$70 every two years as soon as July 1 if Gov. Gavin Newsom's state budget proposal is enacted. Budget subcommittees in the state Senate and Assembly are discussing this proposal now, and are anticipated to decide on the issue in the next few weeks.

We urge you to contact your state senator and assembly members and request this proposal be revised to ensure boaters taxes go to their intended purposes. [Take Action](#) to easily make your voice heard.

Background:

The governor's proposed state budget for the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) proposes adjustments to the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF.) HWRF receives no monies from the state's General Fund. It is comprised of boat fuel tax dollars, registration fees, federal monies, and interest payments on loans from the fund.

HWRF supports several programs and services that benefit boaters including infrastructure such as launch ramps, education, aquatic centers, local boating law enforcement, the boater certification card, and invasive species prevention and control.

The Governor's current budget proposal includes a vessel registration fees increase from \$20 every two years to \$70 every two years effective July 1. This proposed 250% registration fee hike is being considered as the state increasingly dedicates boater fuel tax dollars for the state parks system. This started decades ago, and now totals \$107 million each year. In contrast, only \$15 million (14%) of the fuel taxes paid by boaters are placed in the HWRF for the programs and services that directly benefit boaters.

Before such a significant increase is enacted [BoatU.S.](#) and the [Recreational Boaters of California](#) are urging legislators to revise this proposal to ensure a balanced, reasonable and transparent approach to all taxes and fees boaters pay the state.

[Take Action](#)

Thank you for taking action and for being a BoatU.S. Member!

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## Phone calling to change in how you “Reach out and Touch someone”

This information came in our AT & T phone bill and thought it was good information to share

- 1. New Dialing Procedure** - to complete all local calls, you will now need to dial area code + telephone number. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits.
- 2. When Does it Start** -beginning April 24, 2021 **you should** begin dialing the 10 digits. Beginning October 24, 2021 **you must** dial the 10 digits.
3. The FCC has adopted 988 as a new 3-digit number to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline, starting July 16, 2022.
- 4. What will remain the same** - your telephone # and area code, the price of a call, what is local now will remain local, you will continue to dial 1 + area code + telephone # for long distance, you can still dial just 3-digits for specified services.
- 5. What do you need to do** - change your dialing patterns, automatic systems, fire/burglar alarms, security systems, wireless phone contacts, call forwarding, voicemail services, personal and pet ID tags to be sure all have area code listed.

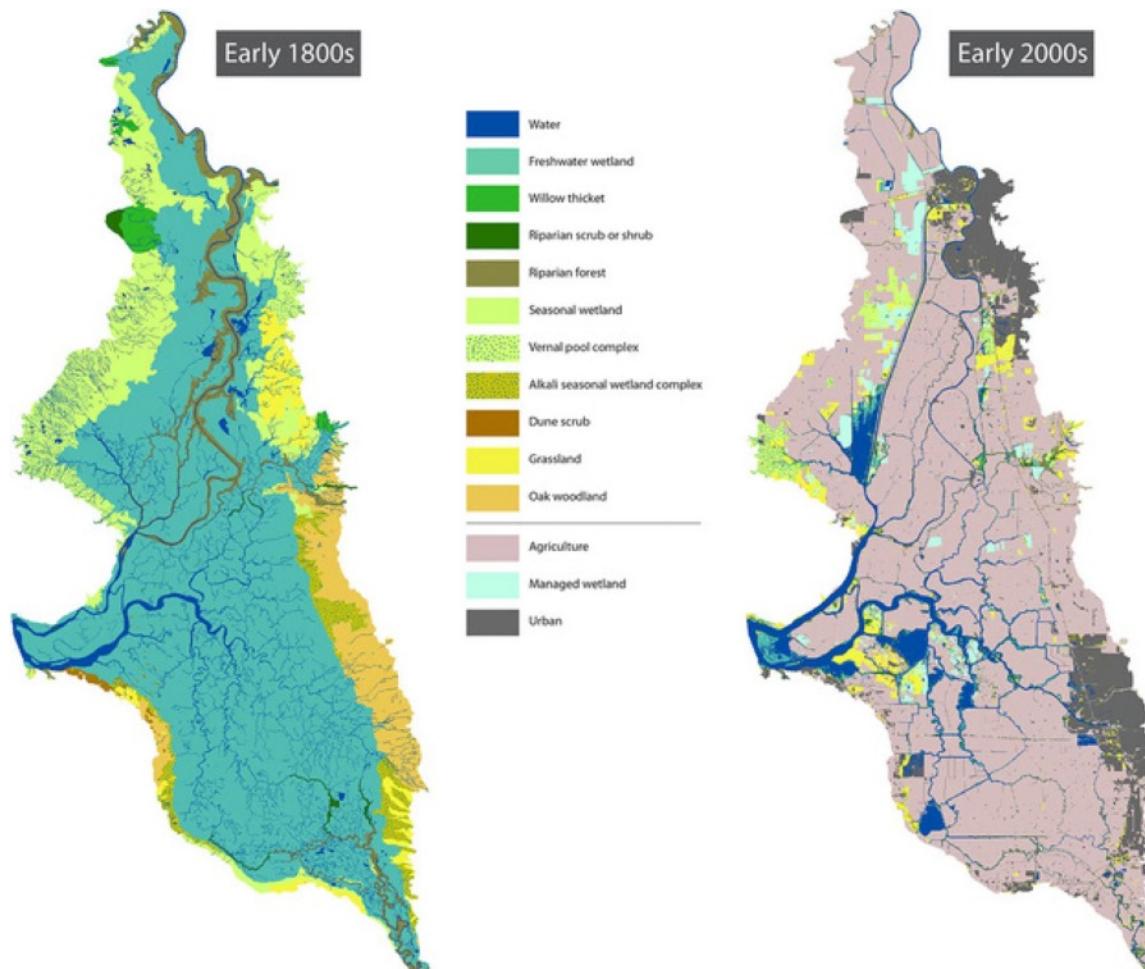
# Welcome to the Delta.....continued from March

The Delta. The nickname for the 1,150 square mile floodplain fed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers may be the only simple thing about a place that, it turns out, isn't actually a delta, with islands that aren't strictly islands, and that is protected by levees that -- you guessed it -- aren't really levees.

Rather, trapped inland from the Pacific and San Francisco Bay behind a bottleneck strait, the Delta's mouth narrows at its ocean-most point precisely where most deltas fan out to open water. With fresh water tumbling in from the easterly rivers and its westerly border protected by this inverted arrangement from Pacific tides, generations of Delta farmers have managed to drain the region's wetlands to grow alfalfa, corn, asparagus, rice, wine grapes, and canning tomatoes. Call their farm tracts "islands" and an engineer will scold that they are most certainly not that. No, they are sunken "polders" protected from streams, rivers, and irrigation ditches by earthen mounds that the locals call "levees." But these, admonish UC Davis engineers, are not levees. They're dikes.

Call all those things what you will, what makes the Delta the Delta is water. After winter rain and snow, roughly half of California's fresh water arrives in this quirky engineered, mis-named place. Twenty five million Californians depend to some degree or another on freshwater from the Delta. Roughly a third of Southern California's supplies originate here.

Strangest yet for newcomers, the Delta's easterly wetlands don't seem particularly wet, at least at first glance. It's easy to drive through them on Interstate 5 without realizing that the land either side of the farm-truck heavy traffic could ever have been mistaken by an 18th century Spanish explorer for a lake. If the landscape finally speaks to the observer, it's as if a place pitted by tractors, lacerated by shipping channels, criss-crossed by power lines, mined by gas works, and bisected by highways is saying, "You'd look like this too if Spain, Mexico, the Forty-niners and then the 31st state of the nation had all had their way with you."



Only a detailed historical ecology project by the San Francisco Estuary Institute and a spin-off mapping project by the Institute, Stanford's Bill Lane Center for the American West, and KQED Quest offer a glimpse of what might have been recognizable to the 300,000 indigenous people who once hunted elk, beaver, and duck among the Delta's sycamores and tule reeds.

# Owl Harbor Marina 2021 Calendar

January 1 – Happy New Year **office will be closed**

January 18 – Martin Luther King Day

February 7 – Owl Harbor Chili Cook and Super Bowl LIV Party

February 14 – Happy Valentine's Day

February 15 – President's Day **office will be closed**

March 1 – Owl Harbor New Gate Codes

March 14 – Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 20 – First Day of Spring

April 4 – Happy Easter **office will be closed**

May 31 – Memorial Day

June 12-13 – Delta Ditch Run

June 18-20 – Owl Harbor Cruise Out and Raft Up for Summer Sailstice

June 21 – First Day of Summer

July 4 – Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

July 31 – Owl Harbor Tenant BBQ and Dinghy Poker Run

August 21 – Owl Harbor Nautical Swap Meet

September 6 – Labor Day

September 18 – Owl Harbor/International Coastal Clean Up Day

September 22 – First Day of Autumn

October 30 – Owl Harbor Halloween Potluck and Pumpkin Carving Party

October 31 – Happy Halloween

November 7 – Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 25/26 – Happy Thanksgiving Day **office will be closed**

December 4 – Owl Harbor Holiday Potluck

December 25 – Merry Christmas Day **office will be closed**

December 31 – New Year's Eve