



"New Jersey's Voice On The Water"

Overview of MTA/NJ Hurricane Sandy Recovery & Relief Efforts

- Issued email alerts leading up to and right after the storm providing important information to members on who to contact for assistance, emergency information, SBA and FEMA contacts, etc.;
- Provided critical resources to members by creating a new Hurricane Sandy Recovery Resources web page. Information was added daily and weekly to the site including the alerts that were sent out the weeks and months following the storm; <https://www.mtanj.org/sandy.html>
- Created a Members Helping Members Program to connect people that needed help with people that wanted to help; <http://mtanj.org/memberhelpmember.html>
- Met with dozens of state and federal representatives and legislators including SBA, FEMA, Governor's Office, NJEDA, NJDEP, NJDOT, NOAA, F&W and many state and federal legislators. We lobbied for support of the industry and the businesses impacted by the storm, lobbied for financial resources, permitting relief and the dredging of our waterways;
- Obtained permitting relief for members needing to rebuild. A number of emergency authorizations were issued immediately following the storm that allowed marinas to rebuild without permits. In addition to emergency authorizations, a number of positive permanent rule changes for marinas were adopted. These changes established new permit by rules and eased permitting burdens for marinas;
<http://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/SandyFAQ.html#marinas>
- Worked with the Motor Vehicle Commission to expedite the process for marinas to obtain owner information on vessels that washed up and/or were abandoned on their properties;
- Conducted an Assessment Survey of all marine businesses and marinas and used that information to demonstrate to everyone that we met with the significant impacts to the industry and the need for recovery support and funding;
http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1103356980422-349/MTANJ+Assessment_Final.pdf
- Wrote an Economic Analysis of the Importance of Maintaining Navigable Waterways to ensure that the waterways were cleared of all debris and ready for the boating season. Attached. This was provided to the Commissioner of the NJDEP after discussing the issue with him during a meeting following the storm;
- Provided assistance and resources to the NJDEP and NJDOT in the waterway clean-up effort and due to our lobbying efforts a number of private marinas were dredged;

- Established a Recovery & Relief Fund by applying to the IRS for a new charitable organization. Received donations to the fund, established a grant program and awarded small grants directly to marine businesses impacted by the storm;
- Conducted fundraising events to raise money for the MTA/NJ Recovery & Relief Fund;
- Applied to the Robin Hood Foundation and the NJ Sandy Relief Fund for additional funding for the MTA/NJ Recovery & Relief Fund;
- Urged the Governor's office and the Administration to help promote boating and ease the concerns of boaters that were worried about the status of the waterways. The following news release was issued as a result of those efforts: http://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2013/13_0034.htm
- Provided important information to members on storm issues and recovery information at the MTA/NJ Conference & Expo. Topics included insurance, waterway clean up efforts, NJDEP rule changes, Sandy overview and lessons learned; http://mtanj.org/PDF/2013Conference_Agenda.pdf
- Wrote editorials and contacted the media to raise awareness of the need to help the boating industry recover;
- Created and launched the **GoBoatingNJ** campaign: <http://goboatingnj.org/>. Headed out onto the water in March to video and document that the waterways were open, safe and navigable and then launched the campaign to promote all that we had captured as well as provide important resources and information to the boating public. The new website provides a wealth of information about the waterways and boating in general. The campaign is ongoing and plans are in the works to expand the campaign to promote boating in NJ to grow the industry;
- Worked directly with the NJEDA to ensure that marinas were eligible for grant funding under the Stronger NJ Grant Program as HUD regulations were prohibiting funding going to marinas. As a result of our efforts, a new policy was created and marinas are now eligible for grants; <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/552013/approved/20130828c.html>
- Arranged EDA workshops to help members through the grant and loan process and meet face to face to EDA Business Advisors.
- Worked with DEP on Federal Fisheries Grant to ensure federal funding was distributed to businesses impacted by the storm and in need of assistance.
- Preparing a post assessment survey to obtain more information on the recovery process for members and to identify any issues or areas in which additional assistance is needed.
- Continue to assist members with issues such as grant funding, permits, SBA, abandoned vessels, etc.;