

The POA has long been a proponent of “quiet” boats. Through the Deep Creek Lake Policy and Review Board it spearheaded an effort to enact legislation that would prohibit above water exhaust (the culprit in boat engine noise). A last minute legislative “trick” or procedure in the 2010 session prevented the bill from becoming law. DNR Boat Committee plans to ask that the legislation be introduced again in the 2011 legislative session. The 2011 Maryland legislature did address this issue and the DNR requested changes were approved. At the POA General Membership Meeting on June 23, 2012, Lt. Bartles, NRP commented on the new legislation. The minutes of the meeting say:

"The State recently reduced from 90 to 88 the permissible decibel level. The testing procedure is governed by the regulations. It is to be tested while idling, which will be lower than when operating. Also, boats can't be operated with cutouts, although it is clear that many do and that there is a problem with boats that are too loud. Lt. Bartles acknowledged that enforcement is very difficult."

The Board of the POA continues to follow this issue and is working with NRP to improve enforcement of these regulations.