



Story Angles / Providence Boat Show 2017 (February 3-5)

Cover your Hometown Companies: Over 125 exhibitors at the Providence Boat Show represent a broad cross section of the marine trades, and the boat show is one of the best venues for reporting on this business segment. The majority of exhibitors are from Rhode Island, seconded by Massachusetts. There is also a special ArtSea Gallery, where local artists inspired by the sea will showcase their work. New boats account for nearly 20% of the fleet. Contact [Cynthia Goss](#) for more information on exhibitors from your coverage area.

Cover the Fastest Growing Sector of the Outdoor Recreation Market: There is one type of watercraft on view at the show whose popularity has caught on like wildfire: stand-up paddleboards. According to a study conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association, the growth of stand-up paddleboarding has outstripped all other outdoor recreations and has grown in participation by 26% over a three-year period. Providence Boat Show exhibitor Guy Gauvin, co-founder of East Coast Paddle Sports in East Greenwich and Wakefield, does not need a study to prove the appeal of these watercraft. Gauvin's company opened in 2014 and the company put 800 people on the water their first summer; that number grew nearly eight-fold in their third summer. Other exhibitors have also seen an explosive demand for these boards. The boat show's indoor pool will feature stand-up paddleboard (SUP) demos. Megrew's Boats (Charlestown, R.I.) will also demo a new "peddleboard" where users get an elliptical-like workout while touring the coast.

Industry Breakfast on February 3 Focuses on Workforce Issues: Join us Friday morning, February 3, for an Industry Breakfast and a panel of experts on the workforce issues facing the marine trades and what is being done in Rhode Island. Journalists who would like to cover the event should contact [Cynthia Goss](#) at the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association for details.

Michael Tougias, a Writer Drawn to Drama at Sea: New England author Michael Tougias is drawn to a good sea story with edge-of-your-seat suspense. He wrote *The Finest Hours*, on which the Disney film of the same named is based. Tougias is coming to this year's show to tell a different tale—and it's one that may just become his next blockbuster. *Ten Hours Until Dawn* has been touted by reviewers as the best story of peril at sea since Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm*. Contact [Cynthia Goss](#) to arrange an interview with Tougias.

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Go Boating, in February: There are die-hard recreational boaters who get out on the water in winter, but for the most part, recreational boating is something New Englanders do in spring, summer and fall. Show organizers, however, have created events that bring the boating experience to this winter expo—including an indoor pool with stand-up paddleboard demos and remote-control model boats, and a fishing simulator where showgoers can go fishing.

From Sea to Table: A big part of boating is enjoying a coastal lifestyle and fresh, local seafood. To celebrate that tradition the Providence Boat Show features Sea-to-Table Events, which are held throughout the show for those who catch their own seafood, purchase it at fish markets, or enjoy it at local eateries. Show organizers have teamed up with Bristol-based Flint & Flame and local chefs from Bristol Oyster Bar, George's of Galilee, and Chef Zeke Lawrence to run a series of Knife Skills Classes; tastings and food preparation demos will also be held. [Learn more.](#)

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