Division of Boating and Waterways

STAFF REPORT: Legislative Update

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SUBJECT: California Legislation

Summary
This report provides a summary excerpt and status of legislation affecting the Division of Boating and Waterways. Information contained in this report is accurate as of August 8, 2022.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION UPDATE

Assembly Bill 1682 (Boerner Horvath) Vessels: public safety activities.

Summary: This bill would clarify that public safety and lifeguard rescue vessels, including personal watercraft, are authorized to utilize blue lights and are exempt from the 5mph speed limit identified for specific areas in Harbors & Navigation Code §655.2, which includes within 100 feet of a person bathing or water skiing, within 200 feet or a beach, swimming float, diving platform, etc.

Status: Ordered to the Assembly for Concurrence vote.

SB 1065 (Eggman) California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program.

Summary: This bill would establish the California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program within the Natural Resources Agency, to be administered by the State Lands Commission and would establish the Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program Trust Fund. The bill would require the State Lands Commission to create an inventory of abandoned and derelict commercial vessels in “waters of the state” and to establish an Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Plan to provide framework to facilitate and track actions that prevent or reduce the number of abandoned and derelict commercial vessels on the waters of the state, as specified. The bill would also establish the California Abandoned and Derelict Commercial Vessel Program Coordinating Council, within Agency, to oversee the Program, coordinate the removal of derelict commercial vessels, identify all costs associated with vessel removal, evaluate the program and challenges, and make recommendations to the Legislature.

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File Hearing, August 11th