



The International Game Fish Association

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September 16, 2024

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1625 I St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear NFWF Marine Team,

On behalf of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), I write to express our support for BoatU.S. Foundation's proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Vessel Strike Avoidance Fund.

For decades, BoatU.S. Foundation has been a pivotal partner to both private and public sector stakeholders in promoting safe and responsible boating practices across our nation's waterways. Their leadership in educating over a million boaters each year on critical topics – including safe and clean boating – underscores their commitment to preserving America's marine ecosystems.

BoatU.S. Foundation's proposal to execute a multi-prong education and outreach campaign focused on North Atlantic right whales and potential vessel interactions is not only timely but essential. By raising awareness among recreational boaters and promoting the adoption of available technologies to prevent such interactions, this initiative will contribute to the safety of both America's boaters and marine life.

The IGFA has been privileged to collaborate with BoatU.S. on several initiatives over the years, including in area of boater safety. We have witnessed firsthand their dedication, expertise and success in executing large-scale educational campaigns and their proven ability to manage complex grants. The Foundation's experience, including their stewardship of a \$10 million grant from NOAA's Marine Debris Program, speaks volumes about their capacity to deliver impactful results.

Given the critical nature of this issue and BoatU.S. Foundation's unparalleled track record, we ask you to give this proposal your special attention and full consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Schratwieser
President

The International Game Fish Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making, record keeping and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of angling.