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Title: Boater Access and Water-based Recreational Opportunity: 2004 Watercraft Facility Database Update Results and Implications for Improving Boating Access

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Text: Public input identified boating access as a statewide priority issue for the Division of Watercraft. Thus, in 1997, the Division chartered the Boating Access Site Survey (BASS) team to address the issue of boating access and develop a boating facility database. Per the goal group charter, the project mission was *to develop a comprehensive and statewide boating needs/inventory assessment plan to determine the number, location, design standards, and maintenance/replacement plan of access sites and facilities.*

In 2004, the Division of Watercraft undertook a major update of the Watercraft Facility Database. More than 800 public access sites were field inventoried in the summer of 2004, and qualitative and quantitative data were gathered concerning the condition of the facilities and what boater amenities were extant at the sites. Global positioning system (GPS) coordinates were collected using Magellan and Garmin GPS units, and in turn, these coordinates were rendered into a geographic information system layer (shapefile) using ArcGIS software.

This poster presentation will display spatial data and analysis compiled from the 2004 inventory update and will discuss Division of Watercraft's planning initiatives to improve boating access and water-based recreation in Ohio.

Format: Poster