



National Boat Identification Database

What? The [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#) (NMMA) and the [National Insurance Crime Bureau](#) (NICB) have initiated the first national database of vessel information. This new collection of boat manufacturing data can be used to assist in vessel identification, which should both help to deter and prosecute crimes involving recreational boats. The data that NICB is collecting from boat manufacturers includes:

- Year of manufacture
- Hull identification number (HIN)
- Brand
- Model
- Length overall
- Hull material
- Propulsion type
- Fuel type
- Vessel type

Some records may also contain component serial numbers, which can further assist law enforcement and the NICB with vessel identification. NICB is also collecting hidden HIN numbers from manufacturers. NICB will serve as the repository for this information and will maintain the data on a proprietary basis at no cost to NMMA or its members.

Why? More than 500 vessels are stolen each month in the United States, costing boat owners and their insurers millions of dollars annually. In turn, boat thieves often sell these stolen vessels to unsuspecting consumers for a large profit. The NICB and NMMA partnership and its resulting database will enhance the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, law enforcement personnel and the NICB to prevent, detect and report potential marine thefts and insurance fraud.

How? Previously, law enforcement officials had to contact the particular boat manufacturer to verify craft information. The NICB is probably best known for its work with vehicle manufacturers worldwide

to develop the use of vehicle identification numbers (VIN) to verify vehicle origin and ownership. This boat database will serve a similar purpose in streamlining the access law enforcement officials have to important vessel identification information.

To address the problems associated with theft, identification, and insurance fraud, the NMMA and NICB have joined forces to share information and intelligence to effectively create a national database for law enforcement officials to efficiently and quickly verify craft information. The database will also serve the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in their work to accurately report and record on-water accidents. The USCG currently assembles important safety and accident statistics, but is forced to use a patchwork of resources. The new database will allow the USCG easy access to vessel information for the purpose of more precise data collection.

When? The database is currently live and ready for manufacturer participation.

How can I get involved? It is imperative that boat manufacturers participate and share information. Please, don't wait to be included in this effort. Your contribution can directly assist officials thwart thefts, report them and collect more accurate data. To contribute your boat model information, contact boats@nicb.org. For more information on NMMA's role, contact Tom Marhevko at tmrhevko@nmma.org.

Additional Information

The NMMA and the NICB signed a Memorandum of Understanding, working jointly to move the project forward to completion. Supporters of this endeavor include Brunswick Boat Group, Grady-White Boats and Forever Resorts, which generously volunteered to help define the best data for inclusion in the database and to beta test the program for NICB. To read a letter of support from the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI), [click here](#). To read a letter of support from BoatUS, [click here](#).

Headquartered in Des Plaines, Ill., the NICB is the nation's leading not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to preventing, detecting and defeating insurance fraud and vehicle theft through data analytics, investigations, training, legislative advocacy and public awareness. The NICB is supported by more than 1,100 property and casualty insurance companies and self-insured organizations. To learn more visit www.nicb.org.

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) is the leading association representing the recreational boating industry in North America. NMMA member companies produce more than 80 percent of the boats, engines, trailers, accessories and gear used by boaters and anglers throughout the U.S. and Canada. The association is dedicated to industry growth through programs in public policy advocacy, market statistics and research, product quality assurance and promotion of the boating lifestyle. For more information visit www.nmma.org.