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CONTACT: Mike DiLorenzo – 440-899-5009 x15 / mikedilorenzo@sbcglobal.net

### **ONE-THIRD OF U.S. BOATS BASED IN GREAT LAKES**

CLEVELAND – Though the winters are cold and the waters sometimes freeze over, nearly one boat in three registered in the United States is located right here in the Great Lakes region.

The eight-state area consisting of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin has about 4 million registered recreational boats, approximately one-third of the U.S. total.

The Great Lakes border five of the top ten boating states in the nation when determined by the number of registered boats. Michigan ranks second (California is first) with more than 1 million registered boats; Minnesota is fourth, Wisconsin is sixth, New York is seventh and Ohio is eighth.

The lakes may be popular with boaters because they are lined with major cities on both the U.S. side and the Canadian side. The large fresh-water basins are versatile and can be used for fishing and traveling on both a recreational scale and a commercial scale.

“The popularity of Great Lakes boating is understandable,” said Cleveland Boat & Waterfront Lifestyle Expo Show Manager Ken Alvey. “I’ve been all over this country and there aren’t many other places I’d rather spend a summer than here on the water.”

The boating lifestyle – cruising, sailing and fishing – will be celebrated at the 52nd annual Cleveland Boat & Waterfront Lifestyle Expo Jan. 16-25. It is one of the largest indoor boat shows in the country and will be held at the I-X Center.

Admission is \$12, children 12 and under get in free. For complete information, visit [www.clevelandboatshow.com](http://www.clevelandboatshow.com).

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