

NMMA, ICOMIA and EBI Launch Global Industry Survey to Shape the Future of Boat Life Cycle Assessment

Boatbuilders and supply chain worldwide invited to help develop a globally harmonised environmental assessment methodology for the recreational marine industry

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Today, the NMMA, alongside the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) and the European Boating Industry (EBI), launched a global industry questionnaire to assess the recreational marine sector's readiness to adopt a harmonised Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology.

The survey forms a key part of [the organizations' joint initiative to develop the first globally aligned environmental assessment framework](#) for recreational boats launched last year. The project aims to establish a consistent, science-based approach that can be used internationally to measure and communicate the environmental impacts of recreational craft across their life cycle. The initiative builds on the Blue Boat Horizon (BBH) project led by EBI that developed an industry-first LCA methodology and now work towards global alignment with a methodology that is both robust and practical for adoption by boatbuilders up to 24m.

As stakeholder demands, eco-design and environmental reporting requirements continue to evolve, boatbuilders, suppliers and industry stakeholders are increasingly seeking reliable tools to understand, measure and improve environmental performance. A globally-harmonized methodology will support greater comparability, transparency and credibility while helping businesses prepare for future market and regulatory expectations.

The questionnaire has been designed to gather insights from boatbuilders and the supply chain around the world on their current understanding and use of Life Cycle Assessment, the resources available within their organisations, perceived challenges to implementation, and the support they would need to adopt a harmonised methodology successfully.

"The success of this project depends on broad industry participation," said Joe Lynch, ICOMIA CEO. "We want to ensure that our collaboration and the methodology reflect the realities of boatbuilders operating in different markets, building different types of craft, and working at different levels of sustainability maturity. The feedback gathered through this questionnaire will help shape a practical solution that delivers value for the entire global recreational marine industry."

The information collected will help the project partners:

- Understand the industry's current level of LCA awareness and experience
- Identify barriers to adoption • Identify current and forthcoming legislation
- Assess training and support requirements
- Guide the development of user-friendly tools and resources
- Ensure global relevance across different markets and boat categories
- Support the creation of a credible and internationally accepted methodology

The project ultimately aims to provide the recreational marine sector with a common framework that enables informed environmental decision-making, supports sustainable boat building continuous improvement, and facilitates credible environmental communication across global markets.

The questionnaire also serves as a gateway for companies wishing to play a more active role in the project. Boatbuilders that participate in the survey may have the opportunity to join a pilot group that will test the new trial LCA tool, based on BBH Version 1.1, currently being developed by NMMA, ICOMIA and EBI. Planned trials from October to December 2026 will allow participating companies to gain first-hand experience of the methodology, learn about LCA first-hand, contribute feedback on usability and functionality, and help shape a tool designed for practical adoption across the global recreational marine industry.

Have Your Say

NMMA encourages all member boatbuilders to participate in the survey (which closes Oct. 23) and contribute to shaping the future environmental framework for the recreational boating industry.

[Click here to access the survey](#)

NMMA member boatbuilders looking to be more involved should contact NMMA's Jeff

Wasil, Vice President Environmental Compliance & Marine Technology,
at jwasil@nmma.org.

About the Project: ICOMIA, EBI and NMMA are collaborating to develop the first globally aligned Life Cycle Assessment methodology for recreational boats and yachts. The initiative seeks to create a harmonised international framework that enables consistent environmental assessment, supports regulatory readiness, and provides practical tools for industry-wide adoption. The project builds upon previous methodology development work and aims to establish a shared global standard for measuring recreational boat environmental performance.