🌊 **CAPTAIN'S CURRENT** November - *2025 | Inaugural Issue*

Your Monthly Navigation Guide from Boht Captain Network

Welcome Aboard, Captain!

Today marks a milestone — not just for The Bohting Company, but for every captain and vessel owner seeking community, resources, and support on Florida's Gulf Coast. As we launch the Boht Captain Network on November 1st, 2025, this newsletter becomes your monthly compass for industry insights, local happenings, and the tools you need to thrive on the water.

Whether you're running charters, managing a fleet, or simply passionate about the maritime life, this community was built by boat people, for boat people. Thank you for joining us in these first waters — together, we'll chart a course toward greater success and connection.

Fair winds,

Jay Knox, Co-Owenr and Found Founder

Anchor & Trade +

The Bohting Company

Captain's Spotlight: "The Future of Marine Navigation is Here"

The marine technology landscape is evolving rapidly, and 2025 promises to be a watershed year for captain tools and navigation systems. According to recent industry analysis, we're seeing unprecedented integration of AI-powered navigation systems that can identify and track marine wildlife, debris, and other vessels in real-time.

Key innovations transforming captain operations:

Smart GPS Plotters with Integrated Weather Tracking are becoming standard, providing predictive routing based on real-time conditions. These systems don't just show you where you are — they help you plan where you should be.

Wireless Man Overboard (MOB) Alert Devices now offer GPS tracking and automatic emergency broadcasts, giving captains peace of mind during charter operations. The latest models integrate directly with your existing electronics suite.

AI-Enhanced Radar Systems are revolutionizing situational awareness. The new LOOKOUT system uses artificial intelligence to automatically identify and classify targets, reducing workload during busy navigation periods.

For Gulf Coast operations, these innovations are particularly valuable given our diverse marine environment — from busy Tampa Bay traffic to offshore fishing grounds. The investment in modern navigation tools isn't just about convenience; it's about safety, efficiency, and providing the professional service your clients expect.

Navigation Note: "Pre-Season Safety Systems Check"

Peak season isn’t that far ahed, now's the perfect time for a comprehensive safety systems review. The U.S. Coast Guard recently updated safety equipment regulations for 2025, and staying current isn't just about compliance — it's about protecting your crew, passengers, and livelihood.

Your 5-Point Safety Checklist:

- **Fire suppression systems**: Test activation mechanisms and check pressure gauges
- **Emergency communications**: Verify VHF functionality and GPS beacon batteries
- **Life safety equipment**: Inspect PFDs, flares (check expiration dates), and throwable devices
- **Navigation lights**: Test all positions and replace any dimming LEDs
- **Engine safety**: Check fire extinguisher mounts and engine compartment ventilation

Pro Tip from the Network: BCN suggests creating a "safety systems log" to track inspection dates and equipment lifecycles. This not only keeps you compliant but demonstrates professionalism to clients and insurers.

Gulf Coast Current: Local News & Events

🎯 St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show - January 16-19, 2025

The Gulf Coast's largest boat show returns to downtown St. Pete. This is where the season's opportunities begin.

⚓ Tampa Bay Holiday Lighted Boat Parade - December 12, 2024

MarineMax St. Petersburg hosts this spectacular evening event. Perfect opportunity to showcase your vessel and connect with potential charter clients. Registration opens November 15th.

🌊 New Marina Development in Clearwater

Clearwater Marine Group announced expansion plans that will add 200 new slips by summer 2025. Priority reservations available for BCN members — contact us for details.

🐟 Gulf Red Snapper Season Update

NOAA announced extended recreational seasons for 2025. Charter captains should note the new bag limits and size restrictions taking effect January 1st.

Tech & Gear Watch

📱 **App Review: "Anchor Alarm Pro"** BCN member Captain Thompson recommends this $4.99 app that uses GPS to monitor anchor position and alerts you if your boat drags. "Saved me twice during overnight charters," he reports.

🔧 **Gear Spotlight: Boht Dek EVA Flooring** Our own premium EVA/PE marine flooring solution is gaining attention throughout the Gulf Coast. Custom installations available and BCN member discounts. The non-slip surface and UV resistance make it ideal for charter operations. BTW - industry benchmarked quality, better lead times and significantly better prices.

⚡ **Power Solution: Portable Marine Solar Chargers** With electronics demand increasing, portable marine-grade solar chargers are becoming essential. Look for models with 20W+ capacity and marine-grade waterproofing.

🎯 **Member Recommendation** "The Garmin GPSMap 8617 has transformed my charter operations. The touchscreen is responsive even with wet hands, and the integration with my fishfinder is seamless." - *Captain Mike Stevens, BCN Member*

⭐ Captain's Bridge: Member Profile

Spotlight on the professionals who make our waters safer and more enjoyable

Meet Captain Harley

@howtoboating - Teaching the Next Generation of Safe Boaters

With hundreds of millions of views across social media platforms, Captain Harley has transformed how people learn boating skills. As the owner of How To Boating L.L.C., he's made complex maritime knowledge accessible to everyone from first-time boat owners to experienced captains looking to refine their skills.

From Vision to Viral Success

In January 2024, Captain Harley launched How To Boating with a simple mission: teach boating safety and skills through engaging social media content. His unique teaching style, honed through years working on sailboats, government research vessels, fishing and crabbing boats, SCUBA diving vessels, and high-end luxury yacht charters, resonates with audiences hungry for practical maritime knowledge.

Real Experience, Real Teaching

"I've worked as both crew and captain on everything from research vessels to luxury charters," Captain Harley explains. "That hands-on experience across different vessel types gives me perspective on what actually matters when you're at the helm." His content covers everything from docking techniques to navigation rules, always emphasizing safety first.

Beyond Social Media

While his viral videos teach millions online, Captain Harley also provides hands-on boating instruction in South Florida. "You can learn theory from videos, but nothing replaces time at the wheel with an experienced instructor," he says. His 4-hour confidence-building sessions help nervous boaters become competent captains.

The BCN Connection

Captain Harley embodies what it means to demonstrate a commitment to education and safety. "The maritime community thrives when we share knowledge," he notes. "BCN creates a space where experienced captains can mentor others and learn from each other." We have 100% learned from Captain Harley and will continue to do so.

Captain's Philosophy

"My goal isn't just to teach people how to drive a boat — it's to create confident, safe boaters who respect the water and help others do the same. Every person we teach properly makes the entire boating community safer."

Essential Learning Resources:

Captain Harley's How To Boating platform offers free PDFs covering vessel handling, knot tying, weather judgment, navigation markers, and captain exam preparation. His docking approach theory series has become required viewing for many charter operations.

Connect with Captain Harley:

🌐 Website: howtoboating.com

📸 Instagram: @howtoboating

📚 Free Resources: Safe boating PDFs and instruction videos

🎓 In-Person Training: South Florida locations available

"If you don't know knots, don't just tie a lot — learn the right way. That's the Captain Harley difference."

🍽️ **Shore Leave: Local Business Spotlight**

Great places to dock, dine, and decompress across our Gulf Coast region

Salt Shack on the Bay

Gulf-to-table dining where captains become family

📍 *Off Old Tampa Bay, just off the Gandy Bridge*

Since 2019, Salt Shack has been "keeping it reel" with a combination that's rare in waterfront dining: prime location, gulf-to-table freshness, and a casual

beachfront atmosphere that makes both captains and crew feel at home.

A Captain's Paradise

Located just off the Gandy Bridge in South Tampa, Salt Shack sits perfectly positioned on Old Tampa Bay. The rustic-refined beach getaway offers everything tired charter crews need: easy water access, generous portions of fresh Gulf seafood, and sunset views that rival anything you'll see from the helm.

Fresh from the Gulf

What sets Salt Shack apart is their commitment to serving fish caught by skilled Gulf fishermen — some of which might have been landed by BCN members earlier that day. Their seasonal, Caribbean-inspired menu changes based on what's running, ensuring the freshest possible dining experience.

The Captain's Advantage

- **Water Access**: Easy approach from Tampa Bay with nearby docking options
- **Flexible Timing**: Perfect for post-charter meals or pre-trip planning sessions
- **Crew-Friendly**: Portions and pricing that work for hardworking marine professionals
- **The View**: Waterfront dining that reminds you why you chose life on the water

Don't Miss Specialties:

- **Gulf Grouper**: Prepared multiple ways, always fresh, never frozen
- **Stone Crab** (in season): Local favorites that showcase Florida's maritime bounty
- **Island-Inspired Cocktails**: Perfect for unwinding after a long day on the water
- **Sunset Views**: Timed perfectly for that golden hour decompression

The Vibe

Salt Shack strikes the perfect balance between laid-back beach bar and quality dining. You can dock up in your work clothes and flip-flops or bring charter guests for a memorable shore excursion — either way, you'll feel welcome.

Local Captain Intel: The bar staff knows the fishing reports, tide schedules, and weather patterns as well as any marina. It's become an unofficial information exchange for Tampa Bay's maritime community.

Salt Shack Details:

🌐 Website: salt-shack.com

📍 Off Old Tampa Bay, South Tampa (Gandy Bridge area)

⏰ Check website for current hours

🍽️ Gulf-to-table seafood, Caribbean-inspired menu

🌅 Prime sunset viewing location

🚤 Water access friendly

Captain's Recommendation: "After a long charter day, Salt Shack is where my crew and I decompress. Good food, cold drinks, and water views — everything we need to reset for tomorrow." - *BCN Member*

These profiles showcase real BCN community members and partners while providing genuine value to your readers. Captain Harley's profile demonstrates the educational resources available through the network, while Salt Shack represents the type of captain-friendly businesses that make the Gulf Coast maritime community special.

📢 **BCN Captain/Business Spotlight Nominations** Know a captain or business with an inspiring story, innovative approach or is just solid all around? Nominate them for our monthly member spotlight feature.

⚓ **Contact The Boht Captain Network**

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📍 Greater Tampa & Florida's Gulf Coast

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