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**ADVISORY**

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**Waterfront Alliance’s City of Water Day Fills Harbor with People and Boats**  
**Demonstrating Waterway’s Potential, Hundreds Converge on Governors Island**

**New York, NY:** *Fun with a Purpose.* On **City of Water Day**, nearly 100 neighborhood boating organizations, private maritime businesses, and civic groups will come together to call for a healthy, shared and vibrant waterfront. “Our waterways can be used much more for recreation and commerce” says Roland Lewis, President of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. “On City of Water Day, we will bring together over a thousand people from dozens and dozens of the members of the Waterfront Alliance to celebrate and demonstrate the potential of our harbor.”

Over the course of the day there will be many free activities, such as *Harbor Herons* and *Working Harbor* boat tours, kayaking and sailing opportunities, and the City of Water Information Fair. Many of the vessels involved that day will be using clean Bio-diesel fuel for the first time to power their engines and provide on-water educational opportunities. More than 40 Settlement Houses, community groups, and water-based programs are already involved and more are signing on each day. Joining the hundreds of paddlers will be historic and working boats such as the retired fireboat John J. Harvey and the W. O. Decker. Kids from Settlement houses throughout the metropolitan area will be picked up by ferries to join the fun. City of Water Day will gather water enthusiasts for a rally for a healthy and vibrant harbor at 11:30am where community leaders, business leaders and elected officials will call for action to open our waterfront for all in the metropolitan area.

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who will be joining the crowd of water enthusiasts said “the community groups that make up the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance are blazing the way toward a better Waterfront for our City, and government must keep pace.” Bob Hughes, the President of Hughes Bros., said “our donation of the use of our barge will help demonstrate how the blue highways that run through New York and New Jersey could be used to move goods and get trucks off the roads and more pollution out of the air.”

Every paddling and rowing club in the metropolitan region will make their way to the Island for City of Water Day, Rob Buchanan, President of the Village Community Boathouse and Boat Building Instructor of the New School’s Eugene Lang College, praised the unprecedented event. “The hundreds of rowers and paddlers excited about this event are indicative of the explosion in interest and use of harbor for recreation. The harbor is our biggest public open space and there is plenty of room for both human-powered boating and commercial shipping.”

The Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is the city’s premiere voice for the intelligent and equitable development of the waterfront. MWA is currently developing an “Action Agenda for the Waterfront,” a comprehensive policy platform to transform the waterfront that will be released later this year. City of Water Day demonstrates many of the Action Agenda proposals:

- o A series of Town Docks for all types of boats, especially recreational vessels
- o Moving Goods by barge and boat to get trucks off our roads
- o Subsidizing ferries to make them competitive with other forms of mass transit
- o More educational waterfront programs to connect our kids to the water
- o Ensuring that that cleaner fuels (such as low and ultra-low sulfur diesel, and bio-fuel) become widely used in ferries and tugboats

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**About the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance**

MWA works to transform the New York and New Jersey harbor and waterways to make them clean and accessible, a vibrant place to play, learn and work, with great parks, great jobs and great transportation for all. [www.waterfrontalliance.org](http://www.waterfrontalliance.org)