

## **BIGGER BOAT SHOW SET FOR I-X CENTER**

More boats, more features, more entertainment and a lot more fishing in the new Fish NOW Expo will all be part of the 2018 Progressive Mid-America Boat Show when it docks for 4 big days in the I-X Center, January 18-21.

“It’s much more than Ohio’s largest boat show,” says show manager Bryan Ralston. “Besides being bigger this year, it’s a mid-winter rendezvous for all boaters and anglers. It’s an escape from the cold, a chance to climb aboard the latest boats, learn all about fishing or cruising, and meet up with summer boating friends. We’ve incorporated activities and entertainment that make for hours of enjoyment at the show.”

The stars of the show are the more than 400 boats on display by dealers from across northern Ohio. Included in the fleet are many 2018 models being shown to the public for the first time. They range in size from a one-man kayak to cruisers and motor yachts that will accommodate the biggest family, including all those guests who hope for an invitation.

More than 100 exhibits of boating equipment and accessories are always popular with show goers. These include displays from the top marinas and clubs, nautical clothing, the latest electronics, maintenance services, insurance, education, publications, public service exhibits, and more.

All-new this year is the addition of a special show within a show dubbed the Fish NOW Expo. It’s centered around the giant 5,000-gallon glass-sided Berkley Tank; boasts a daily line-up of top angling speakers on the Buckeye Sports Center Fishing Stage; features a new hands-on casting pond; includes the popular Kids Fishing 411 Seminars with Dan Armitage; displays from charter captains, fishing equipment, and more.

The rendezvous kicks off in a big way opening night because it’s traditionally “Put-In-Bay Night at the Boat Show” with a party in the Put-In-Bay section. This year, the Thursday night festive mood will be set by favorite island entertainers, Ray Fogg and Westside Steve. Visitors will be rockin’ to the tunes and sipping The Boardwalk’s iconic lobster bisque brought in fresh from “the Bay” every day.

Once again the boat show’s title sponsor, Progressive Insurance, will take center stage with its FLO-BOAT exhibit. A hands-on mockup of a fishing cruiser, three visitors at a time man fighting chairs aboard FLO BOAT and catch big Marlin or Sailfish, albeit on fancy simulators. It is a unique, interactive display boasting give-a-ways and fun.

In addition to all the fishing seminars of Fish NOW Expo, the popular “Lake Erie University” is back for another year. This stage will feature clinics and seminars on wide-ranging topics from “Cruising Lake Erie” to the latest Smartphone Apps for Boating everyone can use.

It won't take an app to don the scuba gear and slip underwater for a scuba diving lesson in the special 30-foot, 15,000 gallon "Go Dive Now" pool. Open to any visitor desiring to try scuba, the pool is manned by diving instructors and also features displays of the latest in scuba gear.

To see more show details, seminar and entertainment schedules, and information about the boats and equipment featured in this year's rendezvous, please read through this issue of Mid-America Boating, you Official Show Program.

You can also find the latest information at: [www.clevelandboatshow.com](http://www.clevelandboatshow.com)

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