

What is ORMA?



The Occoquan River Maritime Association is a federation of businesses, Marinas, Yacht Clubs, and Political constituents whose interest in the Occoquan

River extends to the ecology of the river, economic health of the region, and the use of the Occoquan River as an essential transportation artery that supports commerce and recreational boating. The area bounded by the Occoquan River is steeped in history and legend. Occoquan once was home to the Port of Occoquan, a thriving 18th century seaport which supported commerce and trade in the days of sailing ships. The Occoquan was home to tobacco storage and distribution centers, numerous mills, lumbering, and a brick plant. "Occoquan" translated from the local native Indians, loosely means "end of waters" The town of Occoquan suffered from a devastating flood from Hurricane Agnes in 1972, and since has become a thriving historical community with fine restaurants, shops, and other attractions. The river itself is now home to a number of commercial enterprises ranging from suppliers and boat dealerships to marinas and restaurants. Because the Occoquan has become home to over 2000 recreational boats, four major marinas, and several smaller ones ORMA was founded to help its stakeholders with a common "voice". The Goals of ORMA are consistent with those of the Towns and businesses which depend on the Occoquan for their livelihood, and ORMA will advance those goals in public forums as appropriate. They are:

- Preserve and enhance the use of the Occoquan River for both commercial and recreational purposes.
- Preserve the beauty and environmental vitality of the

Occoquan through voluntary activities.

- Coordinate events to enhance the responsible recreational use of the Occoquan
- Coordinate resolution of the problem of the [Occoquan River Channel Access \(ORCA\)](#) which appears to be a shoaling in of the outer channel.
- Coordinate the annual Occoquan Blessing of the Fleet event.
- Coordinate information and education programs oriented toward safe boating and other safety matters associated with the river in conjunction with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Fairfax Marine Patrol, PWC Sheriff, Potomac River Rescue Association, and others.
- Support to the town of Occoquan for establishing a river access "Port of Occoquan"



for the boating community to visit and take advantage of the many restaurants, shops, and other activities offered by this beautiful historic town.

ORMA needs your support! Whether you are a business owner or boater, or environmental activist, ORMA is interested in your views, your ideas, and your contributions!

For further information, contact Chris Webster, Coordinator of ORMA

WebsterCw@cox.net