



A Note from the SOBA President

[Preston Smith](#)

Dear colleagues, friends, and associates,

Since the last time we spoke the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) board members have been working diligently to develop the upcoming 2021 SOBA Education and Training Symposium, slated for **August 30 – September 1, 2021**. Last week we launched the [Call for Proposals](#) for the symposium. Please consider participating in the conference as a vendor or being part of the conference by presenting on one of the topics listed in the call for session proposals.



The SOBA Awards Committee has also announced that we are [now accepting nominations for projects, people, groups, or committees](#) that should be recognized through the SOBA national awards program. It is very important that we as members of SOBA, identify those individuals or highlight projects and efforts that deserve recognition.

Lastly, I would like to extend a welcome to Hannah Helsby, SOBA's new Executive Director. In January of 2021, SOBA signed a management staffing agreement with the [National Association of Boating Law Administrators \(NASBLA\)](#) for service related to administrative support, financial management, communications coordination, and conference management. After many years of maintaining a successful staffing agreement with National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), SOBA has now teamed up with NASBLA to continue to grow and serve the SOBA membership. Hannah Helsby is NASBLA's Deputy Executive Director of Communications, Education, and Programs for NASBLA, and she has enthusiastically jumped in as our new Executive Director. Hannah and the entire NASBLA team have been quick to bring all hands on deck to organize and document our monthly board meetings, maintain our electronic communications, help in planning and production of the annual symposium, as well as



provide direction, expertise, and a wide range of NASBLA resources to help grow our association. The SOBA Board is very excited to have Hannah and for our partnership with NASBLA.

For historical perspective, in 2007, SOBA and NASBLA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help each other's mission by forming an agreement of mutual cooperation and collaboration in the support of recreational boating and boating access objectives for the benefit of boaters throughout North America. While we appreciate and recognize the work of NMMA, it is with great joy that the board, with assistance from Bernice McArdle, was able to enter into an accord with such a fine organization as NASBLA.

Thank you to our SOBA members and partners for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any board member if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. I can be reached at 804-864-7468 or preston.smith@vdh.virginia.gov.

Best Regards,
Preston Smith
President, States Organization for Boating Access

2021 SOBA Education & Training Symposium

[Save the Date](#) | [Call for Session Proposals](#)

The 2021 States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) Education & Training Symposium will take place virtually, **August 30 – September 1, 2021**.

The SOBA Education & Training Symposium brings together state boating officials, consultants, engineering firms, manufacturers, suppliers, publishers and other businesspersons interested in boating access.

Call for Session Proposals

Help us shape this year's Education & Training Symposium! We are looking for presentations that will bring innovative ideas and information to those in our community. This request for proposals will help us build meaningful content for our Education & Training Symposium agenda. **The deadline for session proposals is May 31, 2021.**

This year's Education & Training Symposium will take place virtually. SOBA will work closely with speakers to assist in providing presentations virtually!

[Submit a Session Proposal](#)



2021 SOBA National Awards Program

[Deadline for Nominations: June 30, 2021](#)

SOBA is now [accepting nominations](#) for its 2021 Awards Program. Some of the awards

open for nominations include the William H. Ivers Award, Outstanding Service Award, Professional Service Award and more! This nomination period is open **through June 30, 2021**.

Recognize the outstanding work of your peers or your state!

SOBA's Awards Program allows you recognize the outstanding achievements of your staff, peers, and the many cooperators and partners you have worked with.

All award nominations can be submitted through the [online nomination form](#).

All project initiatives should be completed when your nomination information is submitted. If you have any questions about the SOBA Awards Program, please contact [Mike Wichrowski](#).

Submit a Nomination

Call for SOBA Board Member Nominations

Deadline for Nominations: June 30, 2021

The Call for Nominations is now open for SOBA's 2022 Executive Board of Directors, and we are specifically seeking additional candidates for at-large Board Member positions.

SOBA has a seven-member Board, which includes the Past President. Nominations may be submitted for President, Vice President, Treasurer and three Members-At-Large. Terms for officers and at-large positions are one year (renewable) beginning after the Education & Training Symposium.

A slate of officers and an at-large Board members for 2022 will be elected at SOBA's Annual Education & Training Symposium during the business meeting on Monday, August 30th. The Nominating Committee will select the slate based on nominations received from member states.

Individuals nominated to serve on the SOBA board must be employed by a member state agency, and be able to secure a letter of support from their agency.

The SOBA board is a working board and members are expected to participate in monthly conference calls, travel to up to three face-to-face meetings, which includes the board meeting at the annual conference, and take on committee or task force assignments.

Serving on SOBA's Board of Directors is a unique opportunity to help the organization face new challenges arising from reauthorization, contribute to nationally renowned technical resources, help shape how federal programs are administered, work with the leaders of other boating industry organizations, and affect long-term positive change within the world of boating access. It allows you be on the cutting edge of boating access matters, and be a part of the decision making process, on a national level, that drives SOBA's strategic goals and direction.

Board service also offers you the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, to develop valuable skills in non-profit governance, gain unique experience and make lasting connections with a team of other passionate and motivated professionals.

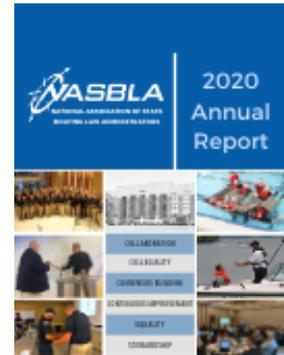
Please consider serving on the Board and submitting a nomination for the 2020 SOBA Board. Nominations close **Wednesday, June 30th, 2021**. Please send your nominations to Janine Belleque SOBA Past President and Chair of SOBA's Nominating Committee: Janine.Belleque@oregon.gov.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

News & Updates

NASBLA releases its 2020 Annual Report

The [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators \(NASBLA\)](#), a national nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety, has released its [2020 Annual Report](#). The report covers a wide range of achievements by NASBLA and its members, stemming from NASBLA policy committees, grant projects, annual events, national awards and more. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.



2020 Annual Report

Over 1,100 first responders trained in 2020 by NASBLA BOAT Program

As the end of 2020 quickly approaches, the [NASBLA Boat Operations and Training \(BOAT\) Program](#) reflects on some of the challenges and successes of this difficult year. Considering the obstacles associated with course delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, the BOAT Program worked tirelessly to reschedule and deliver safe and effective courses to its students. The goal of the BOAT Program remained the same – to deliver a national standard of training, qualification, credentialing and typing to marine law enforcement and emergency first responders.

In March, the BOAT Program decided to postpone 32 courses because of the restrictions and health concerns related to COVID-19, and to ensure the safety of all of the instructors and first responders. During this time NASBLA analyzed the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations and guidance for law enforcement, public safety agencies and health workers to formulate an *"Instructor Health Guidance Policy"*. This policy is still in effect and is the minimum requirement for any NASBLA course delivery.

[Read More](#)

NASBLA recognizes Assistant Commander Cody Jones for service as Chairman

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), I am writing to thank you and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the outstanding leadership demonstrated by Assistant Commander Cody Jones during his recent term as Chairman of the NASBLA Executive Board during 2019–2020.

As the association's first-ever Chairman of the Board (formerly NASBLA President), Asst. Commander Jones set a high bar for all those who will follow in his footsteps. Taking over the NASBLA helm in what would turn out to be one of most challenging years in our nation's and association's history, Asst. Cmdr. Jones exhibited tremendous foresight and governance capabilities in helping the board and members navigate the difficult course brought on by the coronavirus.

[Read More](#)

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Ron Regan, Executive Director

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies appreciates this opportunity to share a few things about its recent work against a backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Association has maintained a robust agenda despite the challenges provided by remote meetings.

Last September, the Association welcomed Ms. Sara Parker Pauley, Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation, as its President. Ms. Parker Pauley is the first female president of the Association in a history dating back to 1902.

We have a new strategic plan that was approved last September during our Virtual Annual Meeting. The revised Mission Statement reads “To advocate for the roles, responsibilities, and authorities of our member agencies to manage fish and wildlife as public trust resources for current and future generations.”

The new plan has six goals, one of which addresses relevancy, diversity, and inclusivity. Under President Parker Pauley’s leadership, the Association is driving some very forward-looking conversations about the relevancy of our conservation institutions with the help of Colorado State University and Harvard University. We are looking at opportunities to expand upon the surge of interest in the outdoors, in nature, as a result of the pandemic, by new hunters, new anglers, and other new outdoor recreationists. And, we are connecting dots between the essential work we all do to promote public health and quality of life through the lens of One Health initiatives.

Our new strategic plan is also charting a course of increased focus on national science priorities, landscape conservation at regional scales, and the contributions of State Wildlife Action Plans to both sets of work. The on-going discussion about 30 x 30, for example, – that is, conserving 30% of America’s lands and waters by 2030 – is ripe for engagement.

Recovering America’s Wildlife Act is front and center on the national legislation front. This historic legislation would devote \$1.3 billion dollars annually to state fish and wildlife agencies in support of State Wildlife Action Plans (including outdoor education and recreation) and an additional \$97.5 million for tribal fish and wildlife managers to conserve fish and wildlife on tribal lands and waters.

Prepared by: Kirstin Wakefield and Kathleen Davis, MARACOOS
Mike Danko, NJSGC



ASSOCIATION *of* FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

National Sea Grant Program

Hooked on Ocean Acidification Seminars

The “Hooked on Ocean Acidification” seminar series was held virtually in February and March, in an effort to connect recreational anglers, educators, and natural resource managers with regional scientists studying the impacts of ocean and coastal acidification in Mid-Atlantic waters. The four sessions covered how acidification can affect recreationally important fish and shellfish, the potential for seagrasses to buffer acidic waters and help with reef restoration, and the models being developed to forecast

changes in OA and hypoxia in the Chesapeake Bay. State and regional efforts to monitor and mitigate acidification were also highlighted.

Hooked on Ocean Acidification was sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Acidification Network (MACAN) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (MARACOOS), in collaboration with our partners at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO), and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC).

More information and seminar recordings can be found at <https://midacan.org/news/f/hooked-on-ocean-acidification-series-for-recreational-anglers>.

The National Sea Grant Program recently announced a funding opportunity for all Sea Grant programs. The funding is for conducting workshops and professional meetings. If your state has a boating, tourism or other related issue or topic that would benefit from a workshop or professional meeting you are encouraged to contact your state Sea Grant program and work with them to apply for funds. Applications are due **May 11, 2021**. Links to Sea Grant programs can be found at seagrant.noaa.gov and the funding announcement is available [here](#).



National Marine Manufacturers Association

30 x 30 Initiative

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) joined its boating and fishing colleagues in submitting [comments](#) to the White House, Department of Interior, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, outlining priorities for the recreational community with the 30 by 30 initiative. President Biden issued an executive order in January to identify steps to conserve at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. In the comments, NMMA highlighted the conservation and economic benefits of the industry and urged the administration to protect recreational access while balancing conservation efforts.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Update

We hope you and yours are faring well this spring and have plans to enjoy some outdoor recreation in the near future! Below are some updates from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program.

Boating Programs' Updates

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program:

The BIG program offers two levels of funding, Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 may be competitive within the States and provides a maximum Federal award of \$200,000 per State annually. Tier 2 funding can be up to \$1,500,000 per project and is nationally competitive.

The Service received 24 Tier 1 applications from 18 States and 18 Tier 2 applications from 9 States requesting FY 2021 federal funding. The Tier 1 applications requested approximately \$3.2 million and the nationally competitive Tier 2 applications requested approximately \$18.9 million.

WSFR's recommendations for funding the FY 2021 applications are currently undergoing the Service's approval and announcement processes. We hope to announce the funding by the time this newsletter is published or shortly thereafter.

We anticipate publishing the FY 2022 BIG Tier 1 and Tier 2 NOFOs through GrantSolutions and Grants.gov in early June, 2021 with a deadline of sometime in September 2021.



Clean Vessel Act Grant (CVA) Program:

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program provides matching grants to the States, the District of Columbia, and insular areas for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout stations and waste reception facilities for recreational boaters and also for educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper disposal of their sewage.

The Service published the FY 2021 CVA NOFO (F21AS00153) on July 23, 2020. The closing date for applications was November 23, 2020. There are 22 applications from 15 states requesting \$14,724,494.58 in federal funding. We are finalizing the approval package and plan to send it to the Service Director soon for review and approval. We anticipate announcing the funding by the end of May 2021.



Boating Access Subprogram:

The Boating Access subprogram provides grant funds to the States, the District of Columbia and insular area fish and wildlife agencies for projects that acquire, develop, renovate, maintain, or improve facilities that provide public access to the waters of the United States for recreational boating.

States in each legacy Region must collectively spend at least 15% of their Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) apportionments on Boating Access projects over a set 5-year period. The Service [announced the FY 2021 SFR final apportionment](#) on February 25, 2021 and it provides \$414,260,452 in federal funds for eligible activities. A breakdown of the apportionments by state may be found [here](#).



Training Branch Updates

Happy Spring (at least for many of us)! The WSFR Systems & Training Branch hopes that everybody is off to a fantastic start to 2021. There have been some important updates in the world of Federal financial assistance since the last SOBA newsletter. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently revised parts 25, 170, and 200, and added a new part 183 to its Title 2 - Grants and Agreements of the Code of Federal Regulations. These revisions were published in the Federal Register on August 13, 2020 and became effective on November 12, 2020, with the exception of the revisions to 2 CFR 200.216

and 200.340, which became effective immediately upon publication in the Federal Register. The revised regulations ([2 CFR 25](#); [2 CFR 170](#), [2 CFR 183](#); and [2 CFR 200](#)) can be viewed via the electronic Code of Federal Regulations website.

The revisions were implemented under three broad purposes. First, to support the implementation of the 2018 President’s Management Agenda, cross-agency “Results-Oriented Accountability for Grants” performance goal and other Administration priorities. Second, to meet statutory requirements and align 2 CFR with other authoritative source requirements. And lastly, to clarify existing requirements and reduce certain administrative burdens. While the revisions are quite extensive, let’s go over a few of the more significant changes that may be most impactful for SOBA members and their financial assistance awards.

2 CFR 25 – Universal Identifier and System for Award Management

- 2 CFR 25.205(a) was revised to restrict Federal awarding agencies from making a financial modification to an existing award to a recipient whose SAM registration is no longer active at the time of the financial modification. This is an important reminder to recipients to ensure that your SAM registration remains current and active throughout the entire period of performance of your grant award.
- 2 CFR 25.300 is a new section that clarified that a recipient may not make a subaward to a subrecipient unless the subrecipient has obtained and provided to the recipient a unique entity identifier (UEI). Recipients must notify their subrecipients of this requirement. Subrecipients are not required to obtain a full SAM registration in order to obtain a UEI.

2 CFR 170 – Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information

- 2 CFR 170.200 was retitled and revised to formalize the requirement for Federal awarding agencies to report Federal grants that equal or exceed the micro-purchase threshold (\$10,000), with a few exceptions, to the public-facing, OMB-designated government-wide website USASpending.gov.
- 2 CFR 170.220 was revised to raise the threshold for recipient subaward reporting from \$25,000 to \$30,000. This raised threshold was to align FFATA implementation requirements between the Federal financial assistance and acquisition communities.
- Appendix A to Part 170 was revised to clarify that recipients must also report on subawards provided to Federal agencies, where the Federal agency is the subrecipient.

2 CFR 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

- 2 CFR 200.1 was revised to incorporate all definitions in alphabetical order as opposed to each definition being its own section of the regulation. This consolidation will help to facilitate the addition of future definitions.
- The term “recipient” was revised to mean an entity that is usually, but not limited to, non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award directly from a Federal awarding agency. This change recognizes that Federal agencies may be recipients of Federal financial assistance.
- 2 CFR 200.101 was revised to allow Federal awarding agencies to apply 2 CFR 200 Subparts A–E to Federal agencies who are recipients and/or subrecipients.
- 2 CFR 200.216 was a new provision to the regulation. It became effective immediately upon publication on August 13, 2020. It prohibits recipients and subrecipients from obligating or expending award funds to procure or obtain; or enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain certain covered telecommunications equipment, services, or systems.
- 2 CFR 200.317–327 were revised to incorporate many changes and updates to the procurement standards and requirements for recipients and subrecipients using Federal financial assistance. 200.318 was revised to clarify that non-Federal

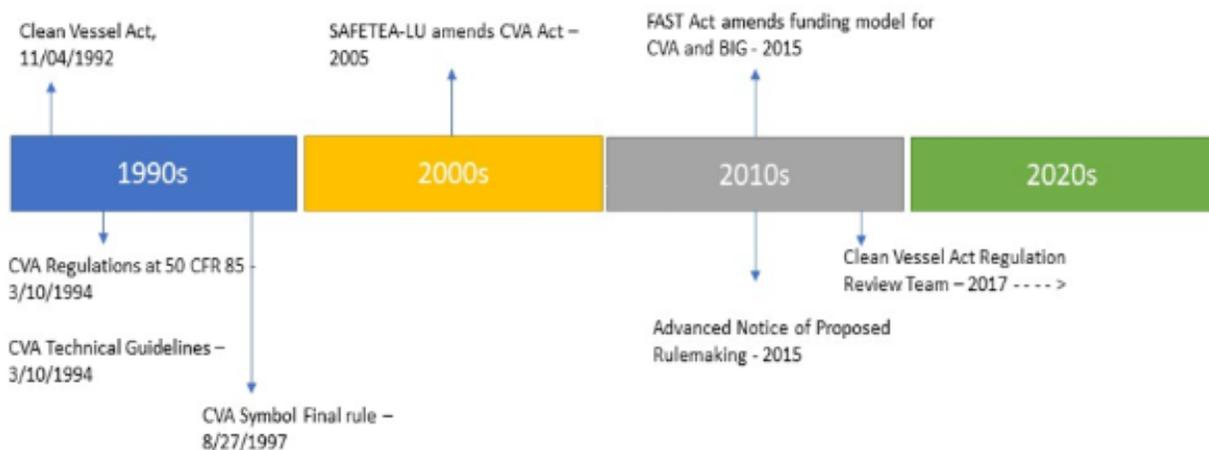
entities must have and use documented procurement procedures which must conform to applicable State, local, and tribal laws and regulations. 200.320 was revised to raise the micro-purchase threshold from \$3,500 to \$10,000 and the simplified acquisition threshold was increased from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

- 2 CFR 200.340 was revised, and became effective immediately on August 13, 2020, to clarify the conditions under which the Federal awarding agency may terminate a Federal award.
- 2 CFR 200.344 was revised to increase the time recipients have to submit all closeout reports (financial and performance) from 90 days to 120 days after the end date of the period of performance. In the case of subawards, subrecipients must submit all financial, performance, and other required reports, no later than 90 days after the end date of the period of performance.
- 2 CFR 200.414 was revised to expand the use of indirect costs using the de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs to all non-Federal entities that do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate. State and local government departments or agencies that receive more than \$35 million in direct Federal funding are still prohibited from using the de minimis rate since they must submit their indirect cost rate proposal to their cognizant agency for indirect costs.

We are optimistic that the WSFR Systems & Training Branch will be able to resume in-person financial assistance training classes this coming fall/winter. Please visit the [WSFR Training Portal](#) to find future training dates and locations as they become available. If you have suggestions for new or additional content, please do not hesitate to contact [Ryan Oster](#) by email or phone at 304-596-3641.

WSFR Policy Updates

Below is a graphic depiction of the journey of CVA from 1992 – present. As we may sometimes hear when referencing timelines, it is not necessarily the dates on either side that tell the real story, but the “dash in between.” In this case, it is so true. From the inception of the Clean Vessel Act until now, the Federal/State partnership has resulted in an immense amount of success in building a pumpout infrastructure throughout the U.S. and territories, educating thousands of boaters and the public on the benefits of proper disposal of vessel septic waste, and supporting clean and productive recreational waters. Give yourselves applause – your hard work and innovation makes a difference!



The authorizing law established the program, and the Service regulation supports the law and gives States direction on how to benefit from the program. The Service will continue the pursuit of updating the CVA regulations. We apologize for not meeting our goal of February virtual events but are planning a virtual CVA Forum for June, co-hosted by SOBA.

Please send recommendations for topics to: Lisa_Van_Alstyne@fws.gov and Brad_Gunn@fws.gov. Look for further announcements on the WSFR Wiki and through the

SOBA ListServe.

WSFR Headquarters Boating Grant Contacts:

Lisa E. Van Alstyne
Fish & Wildlife Administrator – Policy Team Lead
Lisa_Van_Alstyne@fws.gov
703.358.1942

Christy Vigfusson
Branch Manager, Branch of Policy and Programs
Christy_Vigfusson@fws.gov
703.358.1748

Brad Gunn
Fish and Wildlife Biologist — Grants (National Lead for Boating Access, BIG and CVA)
Brad_Gunn@fws.gov
703.785.3829

States Organization for Boating Access

1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40513
859.225.9487
info@sobaus.org

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1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513