National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

RESOLUTION 2012 – 3

In support of the Accident Reporting Terms & Definitions Project, the adoption of standardized terms and definitions by the U.S. Coast Guard, and actions to facilitate their application.

WHEREAS, recreational boating accident data are gathered, reviewed, and submitted by the states and territories to the U.S. Coast Guard’s Boating Accident Report Database (BARD) for use in recreational boating safety analyses and inclusion in the annual Recreational Boating Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the accident report data are fundamental not only for meeting the federal statistical mandates, but also for analyses that affect the understanding of boating safety issues, shape national and state RBS program goals and policies, inform allocations of enforcement and safety education resources, and lead to consideration of equipment modifications; and

WHEREAS, the consistency, completeness, and overall quality of the accident report data affect their interpretation, the efficacy of the analyses, and ultimately, the development of initiatives and interventions in response to findings; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators’ (NASBLA) Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC), and other governmental, non-profit and academic organizations have, in their research, identified variations, ambiguities, and inconsistencies among report terms and definitions and their application at the federal and state levels; and

WHEREAS, ERAC and the U.S. Coast Guard, as one part of a larger set of efforts directed toward clarifying accident reporting, have been engaged in a consensus-based process to achieve acceptance of revised, standardized terms and definitions in five (5) prominent report categories – accident types/events, accident contributing factors/causes, vessel types/sub-types, operation, and activity; and

WHEREAS, this review and approval process, accepted by the NASBLA Executive Board and the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety in 2011, has made a good faith effort to seek the active involvement of ERAC members and U.S. Coast Guard personnel beyond the project team, and of the NASBLA membership generally; and

WHEREAS, the effective use of the standardized terms and definitions will require outreach to personnel involved in all levels of report data collection and data entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators meeting on September 11, 2012 in Mobile, Alabama, does hereby:

1) Support the continuing work of the NASBLA ERAC / U.S. Coast Guard Accident Reporting Terms & Definitions Project; and
2) Request that each list of standardized terms and definitions, upon approval by the NASBLA membership, be forwarded to the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety for expeditious review, clearance, and implementation for use in casualty reporting and input to BARD; and

3) Recommend that NASBLA ERAC and the U.S. Coast Guard, through this Project, coordinate the development of training and guidance on the effective use and appropriate application of the standardized terms and definitions and do so in a format(s) that has potential to reach affected personnel at all levels of accident report data collection, review and entry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Rear Admiral William Lee, Deputy for Operations Policy & Capabilities, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Joseph A. Servidio, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; Captain Paul Thomas, Director of Inspections & Compliance, U.S. Coast Guard; Captain Dave Rokes, Chief, Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard; and Mr. James P. Muldoon, Chairman, National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

Mike Fields, President