**WHAT WAS THE PROCESS THAT LED TO THE SELECTION OF THE BOATS USED TO COLLECT EXPOSURE HOURS FROM THE 2012 NRBS TRIP SURVEY?**

To measure boats and boaters in the United States, the National Recreational Boating Survey (NRBS) fielded three surveys—Boat, Trip, and Participation—across multiple years. The 2011 Boat and 2012 Trip survey components are relevant to the explanation of the boat selection process that follows.

When the Coast Guard set out to collect and calculate national estimates of exposure hours, its universe of interest was all Boats Owned in the US. However, only a subset of all owned boats could be surveyed to collect those exposure hours. Through the sampling phases depicted in the chart below, the target universe of boats was narrowed first to the subset of boats selected for the 2011 Boat Survey and then further narrowed along the way to the selection and capture of boat trip data from the 2012 Trip Survey Respondents. The stages in the selection process, the loss of boats at each stage, and the “reconstruction” of the original target population (i.e., all boats owned in the US) from the Trip Survey data are described in this brief and in “Weighting of Trip Survey Data,” an abridged explanation of the process that is described in full detail in the Methodology Report of the 2012 Trip Survey.
A subset of boats from the target universe of Boats Owned in the US was selected for the 2011 Boat Survey component of the NRBS. Basic data were collected from the owners of these Boats selected for the 2011 Boat Survey, including the boat types, the number owned by the households, and some additional boat characteristics.

In the Boat Survey, owners also were asked if they would be interested in participating in the 2012 Trip Survey. Not all boat owners agreed to participate, however, and even for those who did agree, their consent did not guarantee selection for the panel.

Further into the process, some boat owners who had consented to and were selected to participate in the Trip Survey panel eventually declined to participate or were not reachable. The Boats Selected for Monthly Interviews represent the actual participants selected for the panel.

Even then, some of the selected boat owners who were contacted and took the calls, decided not to answer the survey questions or did not have time to answer them; as a result, more boats were lost at this stage as the Trip Survey Non-respondents did not provide the data the Coast Guard was seeking.

The Trip Survey Respondents were the interviewees who actually provided the boat trip data used to reconstruct the original target population of all Boats Owned in the US and produce the national estimates of exposure hours.
The weighting of the data collected from the **Trip Survey Respondents** consisted of applying to each boat surveyed an adjustment factor to compensate for the loss of some boats at each stage of the selection process (i.e., the step associated with each **shaded rectangle** on the chart required a specific adjustment).

The description of these adjustments, as well as questions and additional explanations resulting from the ERAC C1 charge team’s April 4, 2014 conference call, can be found in the document, “Weighting of Trip Survey Data.”

1 The chart was included in an initial version of “Weighting of Trip Survey Data,” the summary report developed by Dr. Philippe Gwet, U.S. Coast Guard, for use by the 2014 C1 charge team of NASBLA’s Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC). The first rectangle in the chart subsequently was revised in this brief and in the summary report to correct the number of boats owned in the US for 2012. (Back to narrative)

2 The narrative here, prepared by Dr. Deborah Gona, NASBLA Research Consultant and staff to ERAC, is based on Dr. Philippe Gwet’s explanation of the selection and weighting process to the ERAC 2014 C1 charge team during the team’s April 4, 2014 conference call. (Back to narrative)

3 A summary report developed by Dr. Philippe Gwet, U.S. Coast Guard, for use by the 2014 ERAC C1 charge team. (Back to narrative)