



By Golly, there's Gold in That 'Thar Data!

Engineering, Reporting &
Analysis Committee (ERAC)

2022-2023 Wrap Up


2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
DENVER, COLORADO

Good morning to everyone in Denver – and I hope you are having a great time at the annual conference!

My name is Tammy Terry, Natural Resources Administrator for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Watercraft in the state of Ohio, and current Chair of NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee. This isn't my first go-round as chair, having served several years back. But I came back into the role after Seth Wagner of Florida who chaired the ERAC committee from 2019 through our March meeting moved over to the Coast Guard. Special thanks to Seth for getting things off to a great start in this cycle. 😊

For those of you I already know, I missed catching up with you this week but hope to see you at the spring State RBS Workshop in Lexington - and for those of you I have yet to meet, I can't wait to do that in the spring as well.

So... I have heard that Denver was founded on some initial finds of gold in the area, so I am going to share with you some of the data 'gold' that the Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee has discovered over the past year so that you can go back home this week with at least some 'gold' in your pocket of your own to share. 😊

Let's get started...

Where does ERAC 'pan for gold'?



- Looks for patterns and trends in boating incidents to try to mitigate risk factors
- Partners with the States and the U.S. Coast Guard to improve incident report and other recreational boating safety data
- Actively promotes uniformity and best practices
- Stays informed about other organizations' activities of mutual interest (e.g., NBSAC, ABYC, NMMA)
- Serves as participants on or resources to other NASBLA committees, panels, and grant projects


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For those of you who might still be unfamiliar with NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee – otherwise known as ERAC – let me fill you in on where we explore areas to prospect:

- We look at patterns and trends in boating incidents – primarily through US Coast Guard BARD data, but in some cases other data as well – to try to identify ways to mitigate risk factors in recreational boating
- Sometimes, that isn't possible because of the quality of the data. So, we partner with the states and the Coast Guard to improve incident reporting and other recreational boating safety data as well – in many cases by trying to ensure that everyone involved is as consistent as possible in their reporting standards and sharing best practices to make sure everyone is working off the same playbook so to speak
- We also try to stay informed about other organizations' activities – for example what is going on at the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, ABYC, and NMMA to name a few – in the interest of plugging in to assist or offer support where we can
- And our committee staff and members often serve as participants on – or resources to – other NASBLA committees, panels, and grant projects as needed

All in all, we are engaged in many activities – and the data that we like to dig our hands into often serves as very important objective evidence that can be used to make improvements in recreational boating safety – that's one reason that we see that work as 'gold' and I for one am deeply grateful to all of our committee members who go into "the mines" to get this important work done – they are truly 'gold' as well 😊.



What “lodes” were explored in the 2022-2023 cycle

- ✂ Investigation, Reporting and Analysis
 - 🟡 Extension of Charge on Phase I – Incident Reporting Project
 - 🟡 Best Practices Development (Incident Reporting)
 - 🟡 Reporting System Redesign (Incident Reporting)
 - 🟡 Human Factors: Refine Data Collection / Analysis


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In 2022-2023, we had several areas that we explored, and I want to mention the most important items today – for the full report, with all of the background and status details, please see our ERAC committee charges, products and reports page on the NASBLA website. I’ll share a link to that page at the end of this presentation.

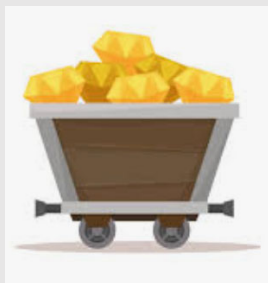
[pause ...]

And – a shameless plug here – if you are a BLA, if you enter data into BARD, if you collect incident report data because you are an officer or investigator, if you are a boating safety education coordinator who uses data to make decisions, if you work in the boating industry, if you consider yourself a recreational boating professional and just find any of today’s topics of interest, we would love to add you to the ERAC Team – you don’t have to be a quote unquote data analyst to join our ranks... We need people who are interested in improving our collective ability to gather and use data and information to drive important decisions. Like any other team, we benefit from a diversity of backgrounds in our members, so please don’t be scared away by our committee title. Reach us through the contact information at the end of this presentation or catch an ERAC member on site.

So... our first group of charges centers on the heart of ERAC’s work: Investigation, Reporting and Analysis – and we had (4) charges as listed here in the 2022-2023 cycle.

These were our most time-consuming charges in this cycle, so I want to dig into each of these with you in a little bit of detail...

Extension of Charge on Phase I – Incident Reporting Project



- ✕ Follows-up on Consensus Recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard (June 2020)
- ✕ CG-BSX Policy Letter 23-01 27 Jan 2023 Recreational Boating Incident Reporting – and feedback on CG-BSX's Change 1 to the policy
- ✕ Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Letter Session Presentation to NASBLA's State RBS Workshop, March 3, 2023
- ✕ Co-sponsor with CG-BSX for Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Webinars, March 15 and 20, 2023



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The first “charge” is important work from prior charge cycles that needed to be carried over to completion.

If you have been involved for any length of time with recreational boating safety, you know that updated, consistent, clear, published policy and procedures are critical to the states’ ability to capture and report boating incident data to the Coast Guard and to the Coast Guard’s ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to collect and report accurate and timely statistics on recreational boating incidents. Regulatory and policy recommendations that emerge from consensus-projects should create more certainties about reporting requirements, improve uniformity and consistency in collecting and processing incident data, and advance the RBS programmatic and policy interests of both the Coast Guard and the states.

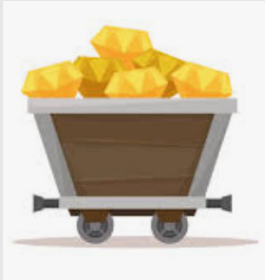
This was demonstrated in the mega-recreational boating incident reporting project that ERAC, the States and the Coast Guard engaged in from late 2017 through 2020. That year consensus recommendations were accepted by NASBLA membership, sent on to the Coast Guard, and resulted in incorporation of some of them in CG-BSX Policy Letter 23-01 in January of this year.

To help get the word out on this new policy letter, and to begin to surface some of the questions we suspected the states might have, presentations and webinars were conducted in March.

Many of the questions that were raised during those events are being addressed in the Best Practices charge I’ll cover next. But I think it’s critical to mention that as a result of some of the questions raised, the Coast Guard has chosen to update the Policy Letter.

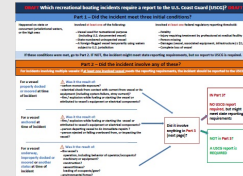
The activity in this area will continue through the next charge cycle as the rollout of the changes articulated in the Policy Letter are intended to go into effect in January 2024, and we want to continue monitoring Coast Guard intentions on the rest of the recommendations that will require regulatory action.

Best Practices Development (Incident Reporting)



✕ Which Recreational Boating Incidents Require a Report to the U.S. Coast Guard?

- Decision flow chart / matrix
- Supplemental detail



✕ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) emerging from the policy letter

✕ Checklist of Implementation Tasks for the States



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Our Best Practices Charge is in follow up to the consensus recommendations and the Policy Letter.

Our charge team spent a good amount of time parsing the Policy Letter to ensure a common understanding – translation, if you will – of its provisions. This in the hope that we would be able to assist the states in applying the details come January 2024. We will be making some additional adjustments now that the Coast Guard is issuing an update to the Policy, but our plan is still to be ready to release three products by year's end.

- The first is a set of two complementary tools that address the question of 'Which Recreational Boating Incidents Require a Report to the US Coast Guard?'
 - The first is a decision tool that refreshes a similar graphic originally developed as part of the 2020 consensus recommendations
 - This is a one page, double-sided document intended to be used as a quick reference in the field for use primarily by officers/investigators so they have an efficient way to reference the pertinent details in the moment and on scene
 - The second related resource to accompany the decision tool will include additional details for more intensive desk review of the incident reports.

We had hoped to have already had drafts of these items out to targeted users in order to gather more feedback on their utility, but delayed release pending the Coast Guard's resolution of questions and issues both through their update of the Policy Letter and development of responses to Frequently Asked Questions about it.

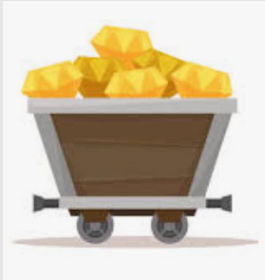
- The second item - Frequently Asked Questions - is another product the charge team will be refining in conjunction with the Coast Guard.

- And finally, the charge group is putting together a checklist for the states to remind them of key elements that will need to be addressed prior to January 2024 when the Policy Letter goes into effect

- This includes details related to training, forms, digital systems, and other considerations that states should take into consideration prior to the new year

This was a very busy charge area this year, and since our plan is to release these products by year's end, we're just working right through from the current charge cycle into the next. Non-stop.

Reporting System Redesign (Incident Reporting)



- ✂ Monitor CG-BSX efforts to make changes to BARD in alignment with policy letter provisions and updated incident type terms
- ✂ Continue to monitor future Coast Guard efforts on BARD and offer recommendations on design and support moving forward

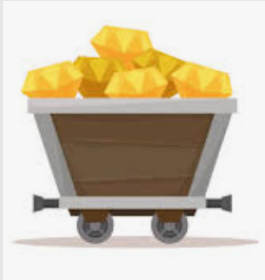


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The Coast Guard will be making near-term modifications to their Boating Accident Reporting System (BARD) to accommodate the policy and terminology changes outlined in the Policy Letter. Let me diverge for a moment and just express how pleased we were to finally see the policy letter's incorporation of the incident type terms and definitions that had originated in an ERAC/Coast Guard collaboration from ELEVEN years ago.... [pause ... lol]

Back to this charge ... While ERAC has already expressed our commitment to offer support, input, and recommendations to this effort, there was no real activity on the charge to date—at least not as currently written for this cycle. However, on behalf of the states, ERAC will collaborate with and be supportive of the upcoming Coast Guard efforts to rollout the near-term BARD changes, especially with the looming effective date of the policy letter. But we will also assist and participate in future efforts by the Coast Guard or NASBLA to address deficiencies in the current system.

Human Factors Refine Data Collection and Analysis



- ✂ Preliminary analysis of operator distraction data collected in Florida
 - 🟡 Will be looking for possible participation by other states in data collection into next cycle
- ✂ ERAC leadership and staff participation in Prevention through People (PTP) Subcommittee of the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC)
 - 🟡 The PTP was tasked with assembling foundational information and making recommendations to the Coast Guard on actions that can be taken to reduce incidents attributed to human factors



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And that brings us to our final charge in the Investigation, Research and Analysis group of charges – in this case, related to Human Factors.

Getting to more conclusive evidence about the role of human performance errors in recreational boating accidents—and developing interventions—calls for consistently-collected data and information identifying the contributors and getting at why and how failures occurred. For ERAC, investigation into this area began in 2012 and continues into our present and future charge cycles.

For this cycle, our former Chair was able to provide a preliminary analysis of operator distraction data collected in Florida – and as part of that effort, he noted the importance of getting some other states involved in data collection in this area going forward as well – so, if you are interested in doing so in your state, get in touch!

Also associated with this charge, ERAC leadership and staff provided resources to the Prevention through People (PTP) Subcommittee of the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC). The subcommittee has been tasked with assembling foundational information and making recommendations to the Coast Guard on actions that can be taken to reduce incidents attributed to human factors.

We expect that this charge work will continue into the next cycle, looking at additional data collection sources and most especially maintaining relationships and offering support to NBSAC's efforts in this area and as possible to related activities in the National RBS Strategic Plan



What other “lodes” were explored in the 2022-2023 cycle

✂ RBS Statistics and Research

- National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys (NRBSS)—2018 Follow-up and input to upcoming surveys
- Investigate factors associated with incidents during pandemic years

✂ Knowledge and Content Management

- Complete Lighthouse reevaluation and develop ERAC product placement/marketing plan



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Whew! That was a lot to cover, but wipe your brow and hold your hat for just a moment longer as we offer you just a few extra gold nuggets that the committee has to offer you from this year as well...

Listed here are the two additional areas of focus for the committee in the past year and the relevant charges associated with:

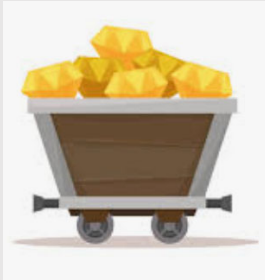
- RBS Statistics and Research

AND

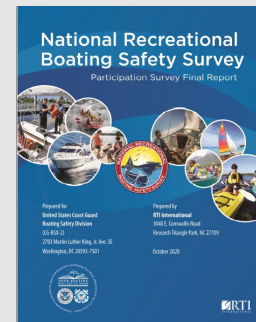
- Knowledge and Content Management

There are additional treasures being dug up in each of these areas by the committee as well... so let's dig in...

National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys (NRBSS) 2018 Follow-Up and Input to Upcoming Surveys



- ✂ Took first steps toward what will be a major activity in new cycle—gathering input from other stakeholders and making recommendations to CG-BSX on the contents of the survey instruments for the next round of surveys.



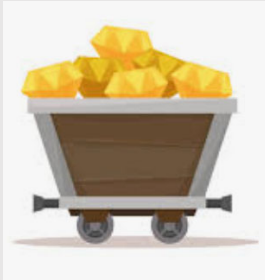
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In the area of RBS Statistics and Research, the first of our two charges focused on the National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys – otherwise known as the NRBSS.

The charge team’s primary intention has been and continues to be to use their understanding of the surveys’ workings to assist the states in interpreting the survey findings. But, having exhausted most of the data mining that could be done on the 2018 data available, this year, the team turned attention to the future and what support could be offered to the Coast Guard as they begin initiating efforts for the next iteration of the survey.

Our understanding is that the Coast Guard is working through their administrative processes with intent to engage a vendor in October. This charge team will then re-engage in providing recommendations, as well as collaborating with the Coast Guard in pursuing input from NASBLA membership and other stakeholders in this important boating data source.

Investigate Factors Associated with Incidents During Pandemic Years



- ✂ Challenge—settling on a scope of work
- ✂ Wide range of potential data resources identified—from incident statistics to boat sales
- ✂ Data mining to begin in next cycle



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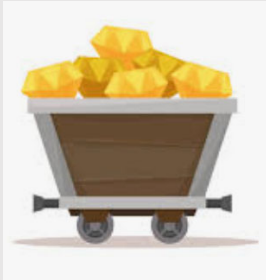
Also included in the RBS Statistics and Research realm, is a charge on a topic that has dominated so many aspects of life – the pandemic. In this case, factors that might have been associated with recreational Boating Incidents during the quote unquote pandemic years.

This charge encompasses a pretty large area of work. Not only is there a range of potential resources for investigation, but also opportunities to learn more about the dynamics of boating during the pandemic and anticipate the impact of any future world-changing events.

With so much detail to work with, this charge team took some time in this charge cycle to do some out-of-the-box thinking about how to approach the data resources that could be used in their efforts, with intention to really begin digging into them in the next committee cycle.

As mentioned previously – if this piques your interest, based on what you observed in your own states and organizations, give us a call and we can loop you into this work going forward.

Complete Lighthouse Reevaluation and Develop ERAC Product Placement/Marketing Plan



- ✂ Ongoing updates to Lighthouse web pages
- ✂ Work to continue into next cycle



<https://www.nasbla.org/lighthouse/nasbla-lighthouse>



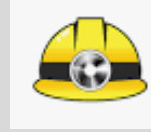
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And, finally, our last charge falls into the area of Knowledge and Content Management... and focuses on a complete re-evaluation of the Lighthouse Platform on NASBLA's web page and developing product placement and a Marketing Plan for sharing all of the 'gold' that ERAC has to offer. We don't want to leave it buried in the ground where it can never shine for you, and especially if you are still a bit overwhelmed – or even still uncertain about – what ERAC does, this might be an area where you are interested in engaging with our efforts...

This group has continued to update content as needed, has identified and will implement some immediate tweaks to the existing Lighthouse pages and will be coordinating with the Best Practices team as guidance tools on incident reporting roll out.

Over the years, our committee has developed a LOT of great products and information to share, but we also recognize that we have not yet found the best methods to connect all of that 'gold' with all of you – and in order to better serve the membership we will continue to explore those areas and opportunities as we move into the next charge cycle.

THANK YOU to our ERAC Members 2022-2023



Leadership

Chair Seth Wagner, FL*
Chair (Vice Chair) Tammy Terry, OH**
Board Liaison Joe McCullough, AK
ERAC Staff Deborah Gona, PhD

* First portion of committee cycle

** Chair for second half of committee cycle

U.S. Coast Guard

Susan Weber, CG-HQ
Jeff Decker, CG-HQ
Jonathan Hsieh, CG-HQ
Seth Wagner, CG-HQ

State Members

Joanna Andrade, CA
Samm Teixeira, CA
Bryan Baronet, TX
George Birdwell, TN
Paul Littman, NY
Deb Green, OH

Matt Majors, TN, NASBLA BII
Program Manager

Associate Members

Pete Chisholm, Mercury Marine
Brian Goodwin, ABYC
Caroline Mantel,
BoatHistoryReport.com
Eric Lundin, Individual Member
Gene Molteni, USPS
Ted Sensenbrenner, BoatUS Fdn.
Karen Steely, Aaron Fdn.



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To wrap up, I have to give a standing ovation to all of our committee staff, leadership, Coast Guard representatives, state members, and associate members – they are the true ‘gold’ on our committee... offering their time and talents to our committee work while still taking care of their paid work back at home – many thanks to everyone on the team – and if you meet one of them at the conference, be sure to ask them for more information on ERAC if you are interested in becoming more involved with our committee work.

FOR THE REST OF THE STORY, SEE OUR 2023 REPORT

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/advocacy/erac/charges>

AND VISIT OUR WEBPAGES

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/erac>

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/advocacy/erac/charges>

<https://www.nasbla.org/lighthouse/nasbla-lighthouse>

<https://www.nasbla.org/lighthouse/get-equipped>



National Association of
State Boating Law Administrators

Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee
(ERAC)

Committee Activity Report for 2022-2023 Cycle

v1 Aug. 31, 2023



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For more detail on the projects reported out today, please check out our full committee report found on the web pages listed

And be sure to visit our other web pages for additional information on all of ERAC's committee work over the last several years...

Pause...

GOT QUESTIONS?

TAMMY TERRY, Chair tamara.terry@dnr.ohio.gov

DEB GONA, ERAC Staff deb@nasbla.org

THANK YOU!

Engineering, Reporting &
Analysis Committee (ERAC)

2022-2023 Wrap Up



In closing, PLEASE reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or anything piques your interest – we really DO want to hear from you...

Thank you for your time today – and safe travels back home this week – see you in Lexington in the spring!