



NASBLA
VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION & TITLING NEWSLETTER
Latest news, updates & information

Volume 4, Issue 3

NASBLA's Registration & Titling Dashboard Survey Third Request

The [Vessel Identification, Registration, and Titling \(VIRT\) Committee](#) is still awaiting survey responses from the following states and territories - [Connecticut](#), [Idaho](#), [Illinois](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Montana](#), [North Mariana Islands](#), [New Jersey](#), [US Virgin Islands](#), [New York](#), [Oklahoma](#), [South Carolina](#), and [Washington](#).

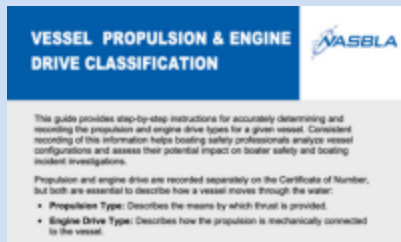
The survey is designed to update the registration and titling details for each territory/state on the [NASBLA Registration & Titling Dashboard](#). **Please complete this survey by August 22.**



Take Survey

Pictorial Vessel Propulsion & Engine Drive Classification Improving Consistency of Recording the Propulsion & Engine Drive Types for Vessels

A newly released [pictorial guide](#) from NASBLA and the VIRT Committee provides a step-by-step instruction for accurately determining and recording the propulsion and engine drive types for a given vessel. Consistent recording of this information helps boating safety professionals analyze vessel configurations and assess their potential impact on boater safety and boating incident investigations.



Vessel Propulsion and Engine Drive Classification Guide

Best Practices for Managing Digital Certificate of Number Data Improving Consistency and Usability of Digital CON Data

A newly released [best practices guide](#) from NASBLA and the VIRT Committee outlines standardized approaches for collecting and managing Certificate of Number (CON) data. The guide is intended to

help agencies enhance the quality, consistency, and usability of vessel registration data—critical for supporting law enforcement, informed policy-making, and nationwide recreational boating safety efforts.

Best Practices for Managing Digital Certificate of Number Data

Best Practices for Self-Imported Vessels

The NASBLA VIRT Committee has developed a [Best Practice Document for Self-Imported Vessels](#). This document provides a process for states to validate self-imported vessels through an affidavit. Affidavits can be valuable for law enforcement in addressing the illegal importation of vessels by ensuring that recipients of these vessels provide a lawful statement attesting to the legal means of entry of the vessel.

Review [Self Imported Boats Best Practice Affidavit](#) to reference the VIRT Committee’s recommended affidavit language and essential elements for validating self-imported vessels.

Additional Resource:

- [Reference Guide Importer](#)

Best Practices for Self-Imported Vessels

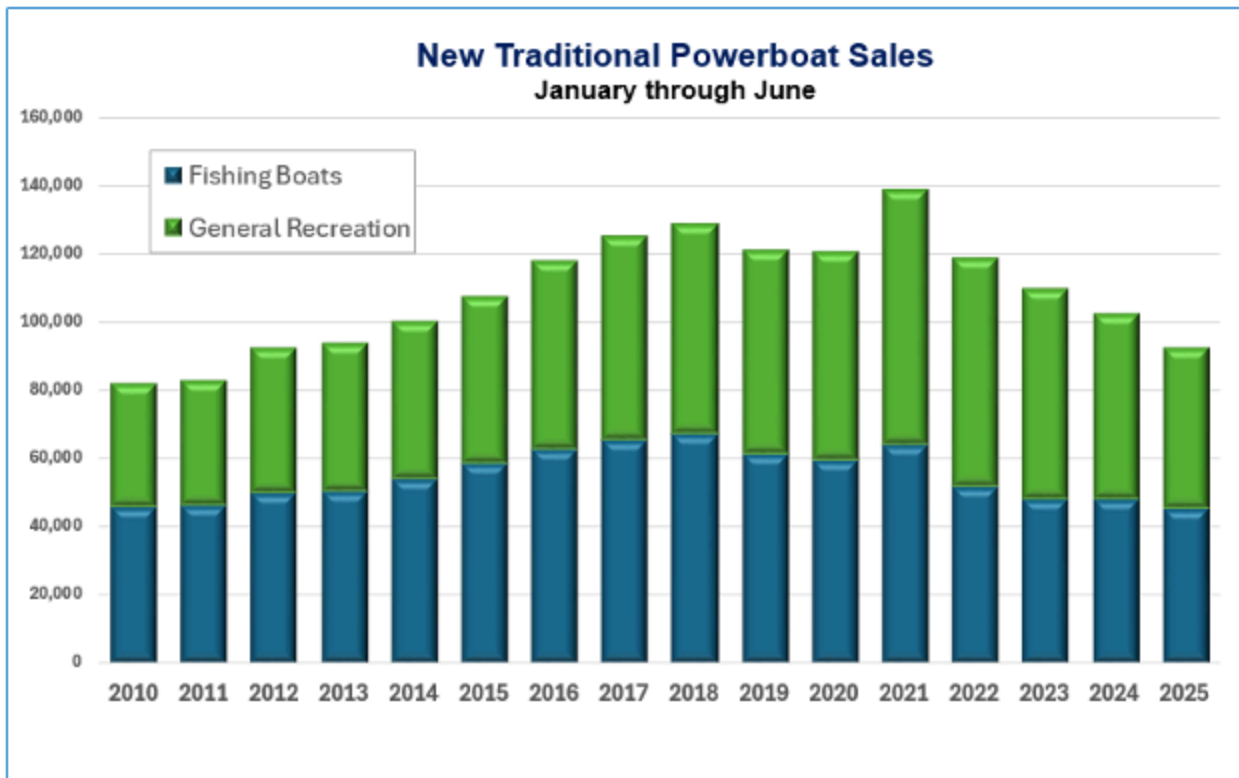
Registration & Titling Statistics

Jack Ellis, InfoLink

New Boat Buyers are Taking a Breather

New Boat Buyers are Taking a BreatherFollowing a surge in boat purchases during the pandemic, new boat sales in the U.S. have slowed significantly. This slowdown is partly due to shifting demographics, as older consumers age out of boating, but more recently by growing economic uncertainty. Many potential buyers are now taking a wait-and-see approach to large discretionary purchases, a trend further compounded by higher interest rates and the increasing cost of boat ownership. In fact, during the first half of 2025, new traditional powerboat sales returned to levels last seen about 13 years ago.

In response, the boating industry is working feverishly to attract the next generation of boat buyers. However, at the current rate, boats are being retired (i.e., scrapped) faster than they are being replaced. As a result, the overall number of boats on the water is expected to continue declining — unless this trend is reversed.

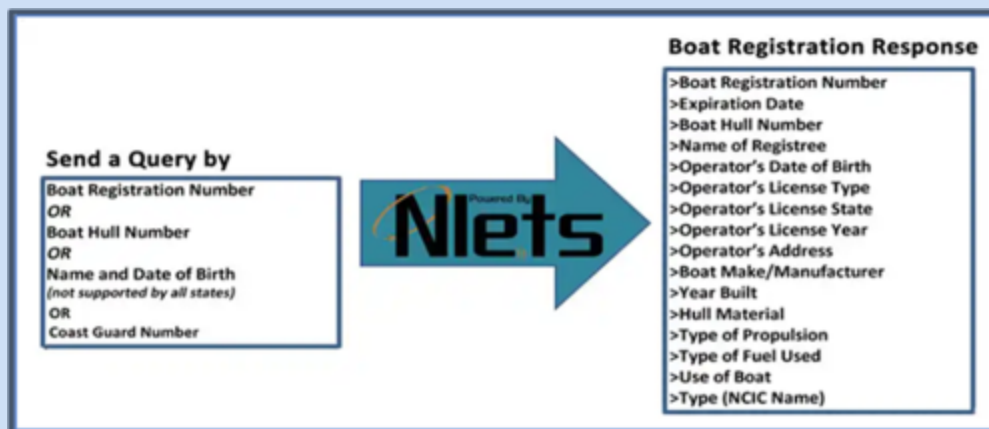


U.S. Coast Guard Update VIS and NLETS Results

The Vessel Identification System (VIS) is a centralized database containing information on state-numbered and titled vessels, as well as Coast Guard–documented vessels. Law enforcement officers access VIS data through an NLETS Boat Query (BQ). If a state does not participate in VIS, NLETS will return only Coast Guard–documented vessel records, with owner information redacted.

We seek your assistance

The Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety (CG-BSX-21) is aware of issues with NLETS data. If your BQ query does not return all data fields listed in the Boat Registration Response, please take a screenshot of the results and email it to VISInfo@uscg.mil so corrective action can be taken.



How Would You Register This?



If this came across your registration specialist's desk – how would YOU register it?

Registration & Titling Spotlight

Jason Scott

This month's feature focuses on **Jason Scott**, Watercraft Registration Supervisor, with the **Arizona Game and Fish Department**.

Jason joined the VIRT Committee in 2024 and will now serve as Arizona's primary representative.

What is a fun fact you would like to share about yourself?

I have six children and am planning to have more — ultimately aiming for planetary domination.

How long have you worked for the state?

I have worked for the state for six years.

What is your current position?

Watercraft Unit Supervisor.

In what area do you think you could most help other state R&T divisions?

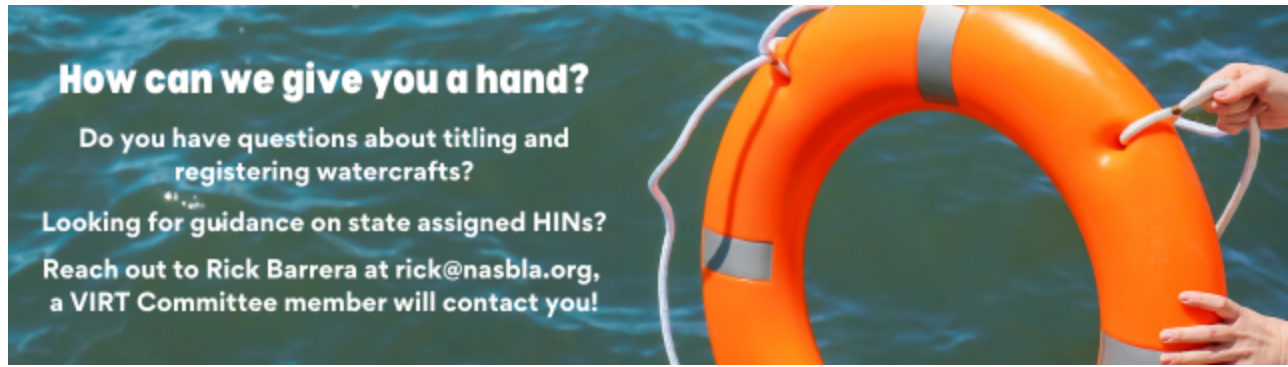
I am new to watercraft registration, so I do not believe I have much to contribute yet.

What is your favorite VIRT resource?

The NASBLA Dashboards.



[Read More](#)



VIRT Resources

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