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2022 Executive Board

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS



KENTON TURNER
Indiana
Chair



SUSAN STOCKER
Iowa
Vice Chair



JOE MCCULLOUGH
Alaska
Treasurer



TIM DUNLEAVY
New Hampshire
Board Member



AARON KERR
Wyoming
Board Member



CURT LEWIS
Illinois
Board Member



BRIAN BOWLES
Nevada
Board Member

NASBLA is governed by an Executive Board consisting of the chair, vice chair, treasurer, and four members-at-large. Each member is passionate about boating safety and is using his or her term in office as an opportunity to help further NASBLA's mission in support of safe, enjoyable and secure boating.

a message from the **CEO**



JOHN JOHNSON, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



On behalf of the Executive Board, our members, partners and staff, I am very excited to present the *2022 NASBLA Annual Report*. Although this report represents only a snapshot of this year's key activities, it also reflects the next volume in a story that has been unfolding for more than 60 years. As we stand on the shoulders of and honor the contributions of those who have gone before, we recognize the imperative of continuing and extending the trajectory of this association's historical accomplishments. In short, this has been a banner year for NASBLA!

Among the first national groups to resume in-person gatherings, last fall's annual conference in Pittsburgh reestablished our homecoming-like traditions, introduced us to new friends and colleagues, and showcased one of the great rivers and river systems in our maritime nation. Our hosts in the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, along with hard-working NASBLA staff, laid the groundwork for a highly successful and effective conference program, culminating in a memorable meal and spectacular boat ride at the confluence of the historic Three Rivers! The bar is set higher than ever for this year's hosts in New Hampshire (but I have a sneaking suspicion they're up for the challenge.) Can you say *Winnepesaukee*?

As we left the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers behind, heading west down the Ohio River, our board and staff hosted an outstanding, year-end extravaganza back at headquarters in Lexington last December. Combining four separate events across a single, action-packed week, NASBLA brought together, not only the Executive Board, but also the National Education Standards Panel, the BOAT Program Advisory Board and the BOAT Program Instructor Development Workshop. Despite being located in Kentucky's Bluegrass region for more than 30 years, for the first time ever, the association was fortunate to host the annual BOAT Program Instructor Awards program at the beautiful and historic Keeneland Race Track.

Continuing the return to in-person meetings in the new year, NASBLA was proud to be able to bring the *State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop* back to its pre-COVID expectations and performance, where approximately 40 member-agency representatives, together with dozens of Coast Guard, partners and staff, gathered to roll-up their sleeves and carry-on the sometimes difficult but important work of RBS program coordination, collaboration and cross-pollination. Rounding out the spring line-up of NASBLA-hosted events, the association saw its largest *Leadership Academy* class ever, when as many as 25 participants met in early June to learn from and challenge each other on toward greater achievements as a new generation of RBS leaders begins to emerge.

Also, early in 2022, NASBLA began work on a new national standard for training in boating incident investigations. Although already producing the premier training program in incident investigations, under a nonprofit grant from the U.S. Coast Guard, NASBLA and a team of incident investigation experts from around the country embarked on new standard-setting initiative to raise the bar even higher as we build-out the future in boating incident investigation training principles. The association looks forward to unveiling the new national standard during the annual conference program.

The conference program and business meeting will also provide the first opportunity for our members and others to review the recently updated NASBLA Education Policy, Sections 8, 9 and 10 which will correspond with and compliment the Core Plus National Education Standards finalized in 2021 and adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in June 2022. This important undertaking by the Education and Outreach Committee further advances policy directives to support our member agencies commitment to effective boater education.

This summer's *Operation Dry Water (ODW)* spanned the July 4 holiday weekend, commencing on Saturday morning and running through Monday night. It was a record setting year for our highly successful boating under the influence prevention and law enforcement initiative, as participating agencies across the country made more than 750 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests, the highest number of citations since the program's inception in 2009. In addition to this, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in partnership with NASBLA, U.S. Coast Guard, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, hosted the first-ever national Operation Dry Water kickoff event in Nashville, Tennessee on July 1.

The success of ODW is due in no small part to our ongoing instruction in alcohol detection and enforcement provided by the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program. Through our BUI Train-the-Trainer courses that foster the development of trainers in our member agencies in 2022 alone our state members trained more than 1,300 law enforcement officers in the science and techniques of effective BUI enforcement. And BUI training is just the tip of the iceberg!

Over the course of the last year, the BOAT program has provided as many as 109 direct delivery classes in 15 different training disciplines reaching more than 1,000 officers nationwide, eclipsing all previous high-watermarks for this award-winning national training program. In addition to those impressive numbers, between our BOAT accredited agencies and U.S. Coast Guard local stations, the program has leveraged another 100-plus courses through indirect delivery means. The annual conference will highlight the latest new, five-day BOAT program offering in Manchester with a presentation on the multi-faceted Waterborne Armed Threat Emergency Response (WATER) Course.

Along with the success of the NASBLA conference last fall, I also want to give a shout out to our friends and colleagues in the Life Jacket Association (LJA) and the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA), both of which also enjoyed particularly productive, post-COVID annual meetings over the last several months. LJA convened its annual conference in Clearwater, Florida in May where it undertook significant changes to its bylaws as well as revising and modernizing its Board of Directors and updating its governance structures. SOBA convened in person for the first time since 2019, in Cleveland, Ohio, for a stellar week of education and training. We look forward to welcoming the leadership of both organizations to our Annual Conference in September.

The addition of these two robust associations under the NASBLA umbrella not only strengthens and broadens our association management services portfolio, but also shores up our policy flanks in the areas of life jacket development and innovation, Coast Guard regulatory processes, and recreational boating access, infrastructure and facilities management. We are also pleased to note that, in addition to the services already provided to our sister organization - the Western States Boating Administrators Association - WSBA has joined forces with the Colorado River Law Enforcement Association (CRLEA) as CRLEA becomes a caucus within the regional association and participates in NASBLA's conference registration services.

Finally, I want to thank our sponsors Teledyne FLIR, Raymarine and Kalkomey for their support of NASBLA programs throughout the year, as well as the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) and the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) for their support of the NASBLA Annual Conference. The financial support provided by these key industry leaders is vital to the long-term sustainability and extended reach of our organization. Thank you - we deeply appreciate your support!



**TELEDYNE
FLIR**

Raymarine



kalkomey



As we set the stage for *NASBLA's 63rd Annual Conference* in Manchester, New Hampshire, I also want to extend a special note of gratitude to Tim Dunleavy and the New Hampshire State Police - Marine Patrol for their enduring commitment and perseverance in pushing through the COVID year to re-emerge as this year's conference hosts. This event has literally been more than three years in the making and I am confident we will all be rewarded for their patience. See you in New Hampshire!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John M. Johnson".

John M. Johnson, CAE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

meet the **STAFF**



JOHN FETTERMAN
Deputy Executive
Director



HANNAH HELSBY, CAE
Chief Operations
Officer



TOM HAYWARD
Chief Financial
Officer



ANGELA BALDWIN
Office Manager



RICK BARRERA
Committee Staff



MARK CHANSKI
Education Director



KACI CHRISTOPHER, J.D.
Policy Analyst



DAVE CONSIDINE
BOAT Program Director



PAM DILLON, CAE
Project Specialist



DR. DEB GONA
Research Consultant



SAM LYNCH
Membership Services
Director



MARLENE MASON
Association
Accountant



TAYLOR MATSKO
Communications &
Marketing Director



RON SARVER, CAE
Chief, Knowledge & Learning
Management Systems

2021 FINANCIALS

2021 REVENUE BREAKDOWN

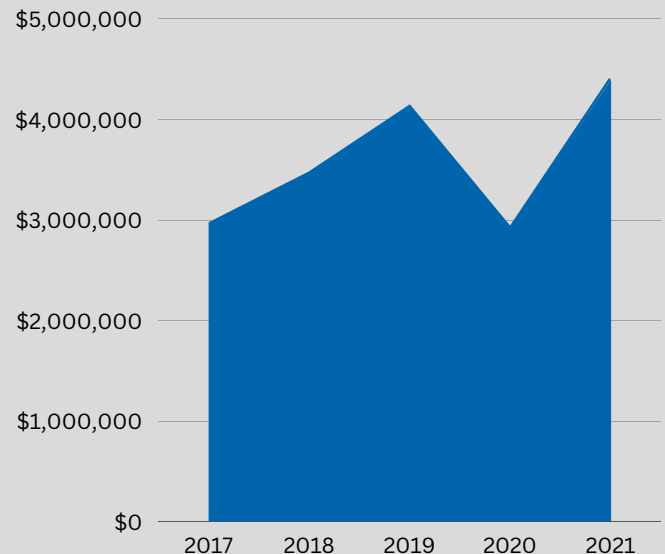
2021 Total	\$4,396,537	
Federal Grants	\$1,642,949	37%
Training Programs	\$1,645,307	38%
Member Dues	\$336,000	8%
Association Management	\$71,929	1%
Sponsor Income	\$77,500	1%
Rental Income	\$287,223	7%
Other	\$335,629	8%

(Audited financial statements and the 2021 990 tax filing are available on the NASBLA website under the "About NASBLA" page.)

2021 saw a robust return of activity to NASBLA, after COVID travel restrictions delayed many BOAT Program courses scheduled in 2020. Revenues for 2021 were \$4,396,537, an increase of 51% from 2020, and a 7% increase compared to 2019. BOAT Program revenue in 2021 increased to \$1,645,307, or 38% of association revenues. Federal grant revenue for 2021 was \$1,642,949, or 37% of overall revenues. A full year of rental income from the Lexington headquarters building provided \$287,223. Expenses for the year were \$3,928,577, up 34% from 2020. NASBLA ended 2021 with net assets of \$1,310,128, the first time that NASBLA net assets have been over the million dollar mark.

5-YEAR REVENUE

Year	Revenue
2021	\$4,396,537
2020	\$2,922,992
2019	\$4,133,907
2018	\$3,469,679
2017	\$2,968,888





top ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. RECORD DELIVERY OF BOAT PROGRAM COURSES

The BOAT Program had a record setting year in course deliveries. In 2022, 209 total courses were delivered to more the 2,900 students nationwide. The BOAT Program also increased the number of instructors delivering the national standard of training with over 380 instructors.

2. NASBLA POLICY FOR COURSE DELIVERY PLATFORMS AND STUDENT ASSESSMENTS FOR A BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION COURSE

With the adoption of the Basic Boating Knowledge - Core Standard and the Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power Standards in 2022, the Education & Outreach Committee updated the existing NASBLA Policy Basic Boating Education Course Approval Sections 8, 9, & 10 to ensure compliance with the current standard.

3. INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING FOR BOATING INCIDENTS STANDARD

The Investigative Training for Boating Incidents Standard are to be used in curriculum development and training of recreational boating incident investigators. Providing commonality for boat incident investigations, general vessel terminology, and more.

4. OPERATION DRY WATER RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

The Operation Dry Water campaign had a record-breaking year with more than 7,800 officers patrolling our nation's waterways. These officers contacted over 350,000 recreational boaters and removed 794 impaired operators from the waterways.

5. THE GUIDE FOR MULTIPLE USE WATERWAY MANAGEMENT (THIRD EDITION)

Produced by NASBLA and the River Management Society, the Guide provides direction for effective waterway management, enhancing the enjoyment of waterways balanced with use. This resource reviews policy development, management practices, and much more.

6. MOU WITH MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

NASBLA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), encouraging cooperation and collaboration between MADD and NASBLA in efforts to reduce and prevent incidents related to boating while impaired.

7. WATERBORNE ARMED THREAT EMERGENCY RESPONSE (WATER) COURSE

The BOAT Program finalized the WATER course. This course addresses the training needs of officers on the water confronted by an unexpected armed threat.

8. LJA AND SOBA BACK TO IN-PERSON ANNUAL MEETINGS

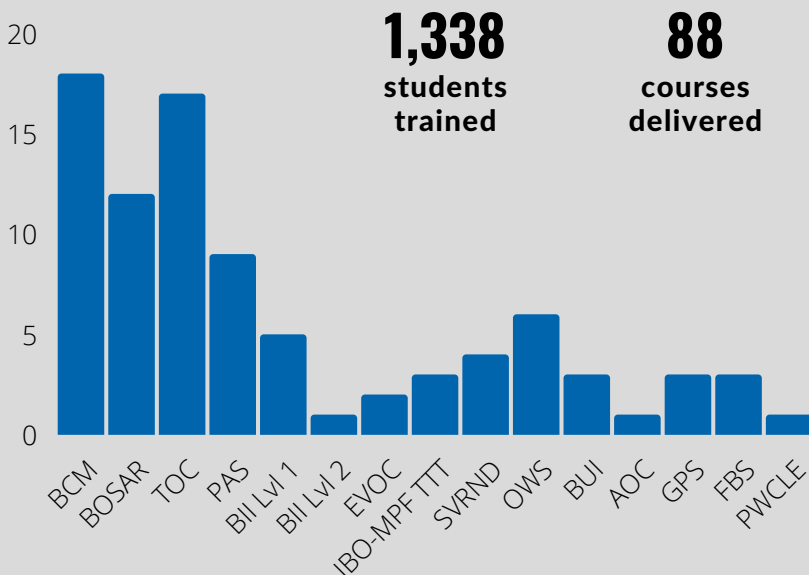
The Life Jacket Association (LJA) and the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) both returned to in-person annual meetings in 2022 with the support of NASBLA staff under an association management services staffing agreement.

BOAT PROGRAM

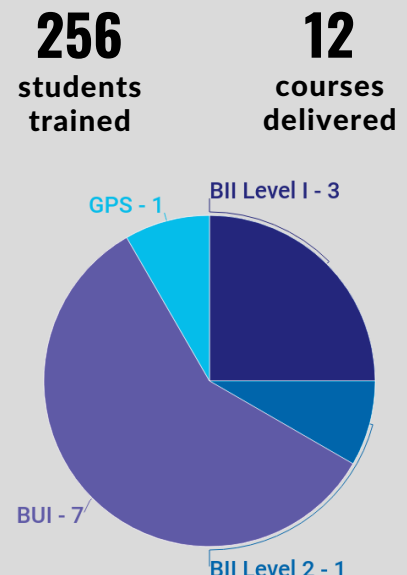
The NASBLA Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program had its best year in 2022, despite the challenges it still faced from the COVID-19 pandemic. The BOAT Program delivered 209 courses, teaching 2,936 students through its direct delivery courses, indirect delivery courses hosted by NASBLA Accredited Agencies, grant funded courses, and partner U.S. Coast Guard small boat unit courses. We currently have 34 lead instructors, 137 direct delivery credentialed instructors, 60 direct delivery break-in instructors, and 153 indirect delivery instructors. The BOAT Program now has 384 instructors!

The BOAT Program launched the Inland Boat Operator & Marine Patrol Fundamentals (IBO-MPF) Train-the-Trainer course, which encompasses training for **solo officers in small boats operating on inland waterways and lakes**. This NASBLA course was developed to train the trainer in core competencies and best practices. The trainer then supplements core course material to include state-specific content and agency requirements. Additional modules can be added by the trainer as needed to address additional state and local issues, needs, and situations. At this time, NASBLA has taught three of the IBO-MPF Train-the-Trainer courses to date, and these trainers in turn have already delivered seven courses back at their agencies.

DIRECT DELIVERY COURSES



GRANT DELIVERY COURSES



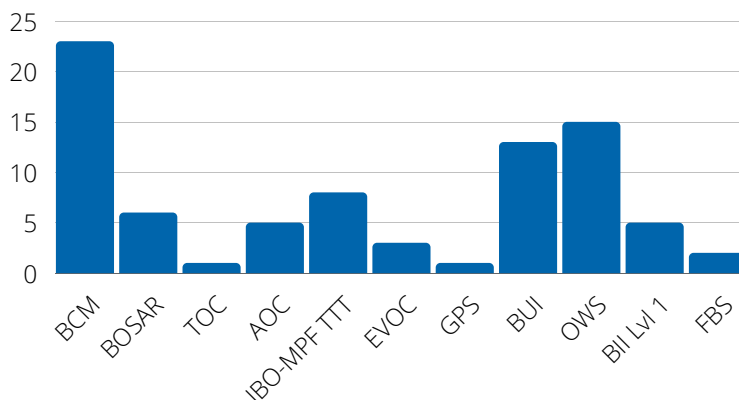


The BOAT Program will also launch the new Waterborne Armed Threat and Emergency Response (WATER) course this fall. The WATER course was developed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This course will focus on the skills and knowledge to survive a violent and/or deadly force situation in the maritime environment. Students will be participating in dry and live fire drills using all applicable personal protective equipment, as well as Simunitions based force-on-force scenarios. This course is considered an advanced course and will be physically challenging. Students should be well versed in the basic operation of patrol vessels and maritime terminology. Students should also be proficient in the operations of their issued firearms to include pistol and patrol rifle. A key element of this course will be the preparation of participants to become proficient in waterborne firearms marksmanship, the use of cover and concealment aboard a vessel, proper vessel positioning and crew movement, shooting positions, disengagement techniques, and medical aid. Successful students will gain recognition in the national qualification database maintained by and through NASBLA.

INDIRECT DELIVERY COURSES - ACCREDITED AGENCIES

82
courses
delivered

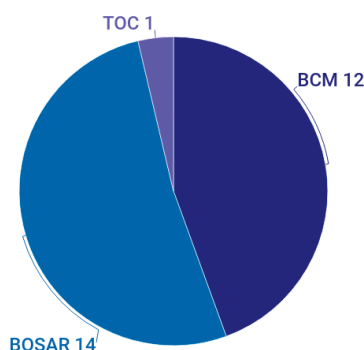
1,022
students
trained



U.S. COAST GUARD DELIVERY COURSES

27
courses
delivered

320
students
trained



TRAINING TOTALS

**RUNNING NUMBERS
FROM JANUARY 1, 2022 -
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

209

**NASBLA BOAT
Program courses
delivered across
the nation.**

2,936

**students trained
by the NASBLA
BOAT Program.**



committee, panel & advisory board **REPORTS**

BOAT PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

Chair: Lieutenant Carmen Rickel,
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
[Click here for the full report.](#)

The BOAT Program Advisory Boat met from December 8 - 9, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. The meeting agenda focused on launching the 2022 BOAT Program year, which turned out to be exceptionally successful.

For the past two years, Lt. Peter Hutchison has served as the USCG liaison between the BOAT Program and station commanders in supporting and delivering training utilizing the NASBLA training curriculum and course materials.

The highlight of the Advisory Board's work this year has been the establishment, review and refinement of the Waterborne Armed Threat Emergency Response (WATER) course. The focus group, led by Josh Underwood of St John's County Marine Unit, made refinements to the final course and presented their discoveries and the final product to the Advisory Board for acceptance. The WATER course is ready for distribution.

The Inland Boat Operator and Marine Patrol Fundamentals Train-the-Trainer course, released last year, has delivered three courses in 2022, involving trainers from 18 states.

ENFORCEMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Lieutenant Jason Luce, *Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife*
[Click here for the full report.](#)

Operation Dry Water - The committee worked with the NASBLA staff to review all published guidance documents posted on the Operation Dry Water website, with particular focus on law enforcement resource documents.

Micro-learning development - Committee members continue to create and solicit micro-learning videos for training purposes, which are posted to the NASBLA YouTube channel and NASBLA E-Learning portal. An additional seven videos were added to the NASBLA micro-learning library this year.

Cut-Off Switch Wear - The committee continues to solicit language currently utilized in several states for the purpose of developing a model national policy template for marine law enforcement agencies to adopt a mandatory engine cut-off switch wear policy.

The Enforcement and Training Committee also developed a presentation to be presented at the 2022 Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual conference as an informational tool for others to learn more about the work being done by this committee.

EDUCATION STANDARDS PANEL (ESP)

Chair: Lieutenant Mark Brown, *Oklahoma Highway Patrol*

[Click here for the full report.](#)



In 2022, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) recognized the following as American National Standards (ANS):

- ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge -- Core
- ANSI/NASBLA 101-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Human-Propelled
- ANSI/NASBLA 102-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Sailing
- ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power
- ANSI/NASBLA 103.1-2022 Supplement - Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Water-Jet Propelled

ESP also published four ANSI-registered Technical reports to help design and implement education and training programs based on the new American National Standards:

- ESP TR 101-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Human-Propelled
- ESP TR 102-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Sailing
- ESP TR 103-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Power
- ESP TR 103.1-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Power, including Water-Jet Propelled

The Standards and Technical Reports took effect on June 1, 2022 and are published for free download.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: Stacey Brown, *Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Boating Education Toolkit – The committee hosted eight Water Cooler virtual meetings. These meetings allowed the boating education community from across the nation to gather, share concerns and exchange thoughts and ideas.

NASBLA Education Policy Sections - With the adoption of the ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Core Standard and the discipline-specific ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022 Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power American National Standards in June of 2022, it was necessary to update the existing NASBLA Policy Basic Boating Education Course Approval Sections 8, 9, & 10. Committee members updated the document to ensure compliance with the current standard. The document will be voted on by the NASBLA membership at the 2022 NASBLA Annual Business Meeting.

Enhanced Recreational Boating Certificate – Committee members worked to develop an outline for an enhanced boating certificate to encourage boaters to take an existing NASBLA Approved Knowledge Course and an existing Verified On-Water Skills-based course.

RBS Boating Safety Instructor Credentialing – Ongoing work is being done to ensure a consistent approach and delivery of Boating Education Programs through the development of a NASBLA Boating Education Instructor Credentialing Program.

ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC)

Chair: Lieutenant Seth Wagner, *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Project – Members of ERAC and the Incident Reporting Policy Workgroup worked collaboratively with the NASBLA Executive Board to review and provide comment throughout the year in response to the draft CG-BSX Policy Letter, Recreational Boating Incident Reporting.

Best Practices Development - In Phase Two of USCG/States/NASBLA ERAC recreational boating incident reporting policy project the charge team continued to make steady progress in identifying potential practices and procedures for effective, future implementation of select incident reporting project recommendations.

NASBLA Lighthouse - ERAC members continued to provide updates to the NASBLA Lighthouse, an accessible, online forum where users and producers of recreational boating data can share data and successful practices and locate viable resources and information applicable to their work.

National Recreational Boating Safety Participation and Exposure Surveys - Two national webinars were conducted targeting the state audience and covering the background, methodology and key findings from the 2018 participation and exposure surveys.

Ongoing Committee Function - ERAC drafted and submitted two responses related to federal policy activity announced in the Federal Register regarding the State Registration Data information collection request and an extension to the Boating Accident Report data collection and form.

PADDLESPOrts COMMITTEE

Chair: Kim Jackson, *Arizona Game & Fish Department*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Outreach to Paddlecraft Liveries & Retailers Best Practices - Working with the Water Sports Foundation an agreement was secured with Absolute Outdoor, Inc to participate with NASBLA's safety messaging for retailers. Absolute Outdoor specializes in water sports and marine products, which is the perfect partnership to provide and cross promote boating safety messages, content, and resources with "big box" retailers.

Paddlecraft Access Inventory - The committee developed and continues to update the NASBLA Paddling Resource Dashboard which has links to state water trails and float trip destinations, and a link to the National River Project. The dashboard also includes paddlesports safety video clips and a link to Rental Operations, Liveries and Outfitters, provided by Rental Boat Safety.

Microlearning - Ramp etiquette and boater conflict is a major issue for law enforcement today. To address this issue the committee developed two microlearning videos portraying how to be a courteous boater, i.e., ramp etiquette for paddlers.

RBS FINANCE & GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Tom Guess, *Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Grant Narrative Writing - The committee developed a package of training tools and reference documents to share with the state for the purpose of educating grant coordinators and reducing administrative time spent on grant narrative writing. The package includes targeted references to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the RBS State Grant Programs, a grant writing template, two example narratives provided by the states and the U.S. Coast Guard, the updated State Guide, two U.S. Coast Guard PowerPoint presentations and a micro-learning video, "Writing a Better Application Narrative".

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund - Information is being collected by the committee from the states in order to build a visual dashboard to support state efforts in promoting state recreational boating safety programs.

Training - Members of the committee worked with the states and the U.S. Coast Guard to identify and outline training needs for state grant administrators and coordinators. Committee members produced an "RBS Grant Form Tool" training video to supplement the training options available to state financial and grants management staff, including the "RBS Budget Tool" video tutorial produced earlier in the year. As a result, a total of twelve training videos are now hosted on the Grants Training section of the NASBLA E-learning Portal.

State Guide - A review of the updated State Guide continues as the committee determines and develops resources that will aid state personnel in understanding and implementing the requirements addressed in the State Guide for the Recreational Boating Safety State Grant Program.

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION REGISTRATION & TITLING (VIRT) COMMITTEE

Chair: Colonel Darren Rider, *Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Adoption of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act - The committee responded in support of the U.S. Coast Guard's Proposed Rule Making Authority for Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels (UCOTA-V). This will allow the U.S. Coast Guard guidelines for State vessel titling systems to align with the UCOTA. Alabama has passed UCOVTA, going into effect in January 2024.

Revising the Model Act for Numbering & Titling of Non-Powered Vessels - The model act was reviewed and updated, with input from the NASBLA Paddlesports committee. The model act was then submitted for approval to be voted on by the NASBLA membership at the 2022 NASBLA Annual Business Meeting under the new title of NASBLA Model Act for Numbering and Titling of Non-Powered Vessels Using the USCG Registration System.

VIRT Webpages & Dashboards - Registration fees and titling information is now available on the VIRT Dashboard, with information continuing to come in from the states.

Manufacturer's Statement of Origin - VIRT worked with ABYC to develop a sample Manufacturer's Statement of Origin through the ABYC Product Interface Project Technical Committee.

Standardized Language for Home-Built Boat Builders - The committee developed standardized language to be used on state documents for home-built boat builders requesting a state HIN. A final draft has been completed and is awaiting U.S. Coast Guard approval.

VIRT Newsletter - The first newsletter was published in January 2022 and continues to be distributed to registration and titling contacts. The goal of the newsletter is to provide readily available resources directly to front-line registration and titling contacts.

Vessel Identification System - Information was sent out to states not currently participating in the Vessel Identification System and the committee continues to identify and address barriers to participation for non-participating states.

Pictorial Guide of Vessels - A pictorial guide of vessels regarding Vessel Type Definitions that are in Federal Law that are defined in 33 CFR 173.2 & 174.3 was developed in conjunction with the ERAC committee.



fiscal year 2022 RBS GRANTS



As a result of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for seven grant projects, detailed below. The time period for these grants is July 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022.

BOAT OCCUPANT INJURY SURVEILLANCE TIER 2-B

In Tier 2-B, the team continued its intensive investigation of existing solutions to current data challenges with respect to recreational boating injuries. Workgroup members collaborated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Syndromic Surveillance team to develop and provide feedback on draft definition query builds for the syndromic surveillance system. These queries could be used by states to examine trends in emergency department visits for boating-related injuries. A virtual Epidemiologist Roundtable for Recreational Boating was held. The team also presented a project summary at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Meeting to recruit epidemiologists and generate interest for the project. The final boat occupant injury surveillance report will provide practitioners with expert recommendations for improving injury surveillance, data analysis, and reporting. Pilot testing of the recommendations will begin in 2023.

BOATING INCIDENT INVESTIGATION COURSES

NASBLA offers boating incident investigation courses which give law enforcement officers the opportunity to advance their skills in incident investigation. With grant assistance, NASBLA successfully conducted three Boating Incident Investigation Level-1 courses and one Level-2 Advanced course. The Level-1 courses took place in Maine, Arkansas and Oregon. The Level-2 course took place in Florida at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy.

BUI AWARENESS & ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OPERATION DRY WATER

Over the course of the three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, July 2 – 4, 2022, 630 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies participated in the Operation Dry Water campaign. From these agencies, 7,865 law enforcement officers conducted patrols resulting in a total of 794 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. The highest recorded blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was four times the legal limit at .321 percent in West Virginia. Officers also contacted more than 350,000 boaters while patrolling our nation's waterways.

BOATING SAFETY DASHBOARDS

The boating safety dashboards project offers data for evidence-based program enhancements. This is facilitated by providing up-to-date, easily accessible, statistical information in a visual format to advise program decision-makers with evidence needed for policy refinements and program planning. This grant project provides NASBLA members with a portal for program measurement and analysis. This year, we developed and implemented a new icon-based navigation system for organizing the dashboards and providing a better end-user experience. Dashboards are categorized into Boating Education, BUI Enforcement, Incident Analysis, Life Jackets, Paddlesports, Registration & Titling, State Law Information and State Performance Data.

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION & ENFORCEMENT COURSES

NASBLA has been conducting boating under the influence courses since 2004. Through this cycle of grant funding, NASBLA conducted three Boating Under the Influence Detection and Enforcement Train-the-Trainer courses and one Officer course. These courses took place in New Mexico, Florida, Rhode Island, California.

STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA AND THE STATES

NASBLA is unique in bringing together nationally the states' recreational boating safety agencies for standardization and reciprocity, a critical function as the states' recreational boating safety programs are responsible for the annual implementation of more than 95 percent of all boating safety expenditures nationwide. This grant provides funding to assist NASBLA in effectively facilitating and continuously communicating model policies, programs, standards, strategies, and best practices developed through NASBLA's policy committees. Grant funding also supports NASBLA's coordination of hands-on cooperative environments such as the NASBLA State RBS Workshop, NASBLA Leadership Academy and NASBLA Annual Conference where state officials can discuss issues, resolutions, policies, and best practices, and improve their management of the RBS programs.





ESP Members & Guests December 2021

NATIONAL BOATING EDUCATION STANDARDS

As a result of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Boating Education Standards grant, four ANSI-registered technical reports were published by the National Boating Education Standards Panel (ESP) to accompany new 2022 American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge. The Technical Reports, available for free download, are:

ESP TR 101-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Human-Propelled - This technical report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational human-propelled boating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Core and ANSI/NASBLA 101-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled (ANS).

ESP TR 102-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Sailing - This technical report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational sail boating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Core and ANSI/NASBLA 102-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Sailing (ANS).

ESP TR 103-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Power - This technical report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational powerboating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Core and ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Power (ANS).

ESP TR 103.1-2022: Technical Report – Basic Boating Knowledge – Core Plus Power, including Water-Jet Propelled - This technical report provides information to help design and implement successful recreational powerboating education and training programs based on ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Core and ANSI/NASBLA 103-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Power (ANS).

NASBLA EVENTS



BOAT Program
Instructor Workshop



Capt. Tim Dunleavy received the
USCG Boating Safety Program's
Award of Excellence



State RBS
Workshop

BOAT PROGRAM NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The 2021 Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program National Instructor Development Workshop was held in Lexington, Kentucky, December 7 – 9, 2021. Over the course of the two days, instructors learned about a variety of topics including the Inland Boat Operator & Marine Fundamentals Course, financial updates and policies, 2020 and 2021 BOAT Program reviews, course audits and more.

Each year, NASBLA recognizes the BOAT Program Instructor of the Year at the Instructor Workshop. Since NASBLA was unable to recognize the 2020 BOAT Program Instructor of the Year in 2020, both the 2020 and 2021 Instructors of the Year were honored at this year's event. The 2020 Instructor of the Year Award was presented to Jay Chesser for his exceptional performance of duties and responsibilities within the NASBLA BOAT Program. NASBLA then recognized Maine Marine Patrol Officer Thomas Reardon as the 2021 BOAT Program Instructor of the Year for his constant willingness to assist in any capacity.

Additionally, NASBLA's industry partners were invited to present their products and recent advancements to the instructors to ensure that they are well-versed in the products that are available. Some of the industry partners included in this year's event were FLIR Marine and First Watch. The 2022 BOAT Program National Instructor Development Workshop will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, December 13 – 14.

STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY WORKSHOP

The 2022 NASBLA State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop took place in Lexington, Kentucky, March 2 – 3. State agency representatives, including boating law administrators, education and enforcement coordinators, along with members of the U.S. Coast Guard, attended the 2022 State RBS Workshop, and 38 states were represented at the two day-meeting. Presentations were given on the topics of state grant programs, Boating Incident Investigation Standards, rental boat casualties, first responder training, and American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge. This annual meeting provides boating authorities an opportunity to attend informative sessions on current and emerging issues affecting boating program management and engage in open dialog with their colleagues on topics specific to state recreational boating safety programs.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All six NASBLA Policy Committees met immediately following the NASBLA State RBS Workshop on March 4, 2022, in Lexington, Kentucky. The six committees that convened following the Workshop were Education & Outreach, Enforcement & Training, Engineering, Reporting & Analysis (ERAC), RBS Finance & Grants, Paddlesports, and Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT). Each committee reported out on the progress of current charges and discussed priorities for the next committee year.

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

NASBLA hosted its eleventh annual Leadership Academy, June 5 - 10, in Lexington, Kentucky. This year, 26 students attended the Academy where they had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics surrounding the Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) community. This was the largest class to date to complete NASBLA's Leadership Academy. Academy participants spent the week hearing from NASBLA, U.S. Coast Guard representatives and subject matter experts on topics such as the National Recreational Boating Safety State Grant Program, waterway management, lessons of leadership, partnerships in the recreational boating community and a catalogue of NASBLA resources available to members. Graduates of the class will be recognized at the NASBLA Annual Conference during the Business Meeting on September 30 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

OPERATION DRY WATER

To kick off the 2022 Operation Dry Water weekend, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in partnership with NASBLA, U.S. Coast Guard, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, hosted the first-ever national Operation Dry Water press event in Nashville, Tennessee. The press conference took place on Friday, July 1, at J. Percy Priest Lake.

During the three-day heightened enforcement and awareness weekend, 630 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were on heightened alert for those in violation of boating under the influence laws and other boating safety infractions. From these agencies, 7,865 law enforcement officers conducted patrols resulting in a total of 794 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests.

Committee Meetings



Leadership Academy



Operation Dry Water Press Event



Operation Dry Water 2021 AWARDS



Officer Josh Landrum



OPERATION DRY WATER OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The 2021 Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year is Officer Josh Landrum of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). Over the Operation Dry Water weekend, Officer Josh Landrum made eight arrests for boating under the influence. He worked each day of the 2021 Operation Dry Water weekend, logging more than 15 hours per day. Throughout the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, Officer Landrum checked 77 vessels, contacted 122 boaters and issued 27 citations.

TOP AGENCY AWARD: SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE

The 2021 **Top Agency – Small Category** award was presented to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department from the state of California. During the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deployed three officers who made 17 boating under the influence arrests.

The **Top Agency – Medium Category** award went to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office in the state of Idaho. Over the course of the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office deployed 16 officers who made 11 boating under the influence arrests.

The **Top Agency – Large Category** award for 2021 was presented to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Wisconsin DNR deployed 111 officers who made 43 arrests for boating under the influence throughout the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend.

MEDIA AWARD

The 2021 Operation Dry Water Media Award winner is the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Utilizing an integrated communications plan, this group promoted the Operation Dry Water campaign and increased awareness about the dangers of boating under the influence. They contacted multiple television, radio, and news agencies to get the word out about this important initiative, and shared video and educational messages through the agency's e-newsletter and social media platforms. At a statewide media event held at Lake Norman, representatives helped to answer the media's questions and guided them to officers for interviews to help tell the story of law enforcement's efforts.



After hosting its first-ever virtual Annual Conference in 2020, NASBLA held its 62nd Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from September 26 – 29, 2021. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission welcomed our members back as we reconvened for the first major in-person event since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference kicked off on Sunday, Sept. 26, with Opening Ceremonies followed by multiple sessions Monday and Tuesday focusing on program administration, law enforcement, education and outreach, training and more. The annual NASBLA Awards Banquet took place as well, recognizing educators, law enforcement and outstanding individuals who are making a positive impact on recreational boating safety.

The NASBLA Business Meeting on Sept. 28, covered a variety of topics including a report from the U.S. Coast Guard, the MOU signing with the Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing (C-PORT), policy committee reports and the election of the slate of officers. Lieutenant Kenton Turner was elected Chairman of the nonprofit organization for the 2021-2022 year. Susan Stocker was elected Vice Chair and Joe McCullough was elected Treasurer.

There were 45 states and territories represented at the 2022 NASBLA Annual Conference. This event brought local, state and federal recreational boating safety professionals, industry leaders and nonprofits together to explore solutions, challenges, new ideas and technologies that can help recreational boating professionals and boaters promote and maintain a safe and enjoyable environment on the water.

2021 national AWARDS

To accomplish its mission, NASBLA pursues a multitude of strategic objectives. Numerous individuals and organizations assist NASBLA in various ways in these undertakings. To show its appreciation for this invaluable assistance, NASBLA recognizes outstanding individuals and groups during its Annual Conference for their contributions to recreational boating safety through its awards program.

CHAIR'S AWARDS

Each year, the NASBLA Chair selects individuals to honor with special recognition for their contributions during the past year to boating safety and NASBLA. In 2021, NASBLA Chairman Tim Dunleavy presented the Chair's Award to two distinguished individuals. The first Chair's Award was presented to **Captain Kenneth Ryan**, New Jersey's Boating Law Administrator, for his service as the BOAT Program Advisory Board Chair. **Amanda Pérez**, BoatUS Foundation's Director of Education, was also recognized for her services to NASBLA and the National Boating Education Standards Panel.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 2021, NASBLA had the honor of presenting four Lifetime Achievement Awards to members of its community. During the 62nd NASBLA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, NASBLA presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to **Lieutenant Mark Brown**, Oklahoma's Boating Law Administrator, for dedicating his entire professional career to the advancement of recreational boating safety on the state, national and international level. **Penny Kanable**, Wisconsin's Boating Law Administrator, also received the award in recognition of her 41-year career devoted to boating safety and elevating the boating program in Wisconsin to new heights.

Additionally, two more Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented at the 2021 Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program National Instructor Development Workshop which took place December 8-9 in Lexington, Kentucky. **Peter D. Louzao** and **Bradley Williams** both received the Lifetime Achievement Award for their dedication to the advancement of recreational boating safety at the state, national, and international level.



23 Captain Kenneth Ryan
Chair Award



Lieutenant Mark Brown
Lifetime Achievement Award



Bradley Williams
Lifetime Achievement Award



Captain Matt Majors
Garner Leadership Award



Vicki Rhodes
NASBLA Award



John Alexiou
Boating Safety Award

GARNER LEADERSHIP AWARD

NASBLA presented the William B. Garner Leadership Award to **Captain Matt Majors**, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), at the 2021 NASBLA National Awards Ceremony. For over 14 years, Capt. Majors has been leading the mission to educate TWRA wildlife officers in boating under the influence (BUI) detection and apprehension. Capt. Majors became an Advisory Board Member for his state chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and helped spread awareness of the impacts of impaired boaters on the waterways. During the 2021 state legislative session, MADD supported a bill that aligned the BUI penalty with the current DUI penalty. The bill, which includes a minimum of 48 hours in jail, passed in the legislature without any opposition. Without Capt. Majors' passion and perseverance to enforce, train and educate on the dangers of impaired boaters, Tennessee BUI penalties would have likely remained unchanged.

NASBLA AWARD

The 2021 NASBLA Award recipient is **Vicki Rhodes** with the of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Division of Fish Management (ret.). Vicki dedicated two-thirds of her life to boating safety. Not only did she work tirelessly for 46 years as the Supervisor in the Registration Section for Delaware DNR, but also served on the NASBLA Vessel, Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT) Committee for 30 years and spent 28 years as a member of the Association of Marine Investigators. As a member of the NASBLA VIRT Committee, Vicki was always willing to take on the responsibility of overseeing charges and making sure committee work was completed on time.

BOATING SAFETY AWARD

NASBLA presented the 2022 Boating Safety Award to **John Alexiou** with the City of Monterey Fire Department. Mr. Alexiou has been passionately involved with ocean and boating safety since 1990. He currently manages Monterey Fire's Marine Safety Operation and has been instrumental in developing and leading training for the department, as well as many other state and local agencies. In addition to this, Mr. Alexiou volunteers to run the Marine Safety Operation as a full-time Engineer with the City of Monterey Fire Department. Since 2013, he's upgraded the training and standards for fire boat pilots, pump operators and deckhands to meet the marine safety needs of the Monterey Bay region.

PAMELA S. DILLON BOATING EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

The 2021 Southern Region Educator of the Year award recipient is **Sergeant Johnathan Beardsley**, of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Conservation law enforcement and public education were dramatically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sgt. Beardsley led the first virtual education classes in the district which gave the public an opportunity to access instructor-led courses while staying safe.

Sara Smith of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, has been named the Southern Region Educator of the Year for 2021. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all in-person education programs, Smith effortlessly changed stride to continue educating. She amplified social media output on all department platforms, increased radio interviews and created additional videos.

The 2021 Northern Region and National Educator of the Year award recipient is **Jerry Desmond** of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP"). Prior to joining DEEP, Desmond retired as captain of police after serving 34 years with the Stonington Police Department. As the COVID-19 lockdowns begun, Desmond spearheaded the DEEP effort to create a virtual boating education platform so that agencies could continue to offer training.



Jerry Desmond
National Educator of the Year
In Memoriam

BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Conservation Officer Arnaud Kpachavi, of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, has been named the 2021 Northern Region Officer of the Year. Ofc. Kpachavi has become a vital component of the department's efforts in boating and water safety. He actively participates in numerous boating enforcement details across the entire state. He understands the division's missions in boating and water safety, and exceeds district goals in BWI arrests every year.

Sergeant Ken Mencl, with the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office, has been named the 2021 Western Region Officer of the Year. Sgt. Mencl is the supervisor of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office in Idaho. Over the last two years, he, along with his fellow SROs, made significant strides in making the marine program one of the strongest programs in the state. Despite the setback due to COVID-19, these officers increased the number of educational classes by over 407%.

The 2021 Southern Region and National Officer of the Year award recipient is **Texas Game Warden Hani Raja Ataya** with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Warden Ataya is stationed in Orange County, Texas, and regularly patrols all of its major waterbodies for recreational water safety enforcement. Warden Ataya's patrol efforts for boating safety led Region 4, and most of the state, with an impressive 692 boat patrol hours. During those patrols, he issued 129 written warnings and 72 citations explicitly for water safety violations.



Texas Game Warden
Hani Raja Ataya
National Boating Officer of the Year

fiscal year 2023 **RBS GRANTS**



Among the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' (NASBLA) core values is collaboration with a broad community of stakeholders. To assist in moving the association forward, NASBLA works annually to construct nonprofit grant project proposals to meet the needs of its members through research, training, innovation and standards development. As a result of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for eight grant projects, detailed below.

EFFECTIVELY PROSECUTING BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CASES: ENHANCED TRAINING FOR COURTROOM PREPARATION

As part of this grant project, NASBLA will collaborate with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) to develop a training module which will enhance courtroom preparation for prosecutors of boating under the influence (BUI) cases brought forth by state and local officers. NASBLA, in partnership with the NDAA, intends to bridge the gap between successful and unsuccessful prosecution of BUI by assisting prosecutors in better preparing themselves for courtroom testimony. This training, in preparation for the adjudication of BUI cases, will strengthen officers' ability to successfully recall and communicate to a judge and jury the facts and informed opinions that resulted in the decision to arrest made by the officer. This project was awarded funding for one year.

STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA & THE STATES

NASBLA has been awarded funding to partner with and support the states, the U.S. Coast Guard and the recreational boating safety (RBS) community by fostering standardization and reciprocity among state boating safety statutes, regulations, and rules, and how they are administered and enforced. NASBLA, through the states and a well-established volunteer policy committee structure, will develop or update model state boating safety policies, standards, and best practices as well as guidance for their administration and enforcement. Through this grant project, NASBLA will facilitate hands-on coordination of state efforts and the establishment of cooperative environments, to include workshops and conferences where state officials can discuss issues, resolutions, policies, and best practices, and improve their management of the RBS programs. This project was awarded funding for three years.

NATIONAL BOATING EDUCATION STANDARDS

The goal of the National Boating Education Standards project is to develop American National Standards for recreational boating education, providing nationwide uniformity for course developers used to cultivate safer boating behavior on the water across the nation. This project is designed to improve measurable standardization and foster reciprocity among state boating education statutes, regulations, and rules governing the boating public. This grant project was awarded funding for one year.

OPERATION DRY WATER CAMPAIGN

Grant funding will be used to deliver the Operation Dry Water (ODW) campaign. Operation Dry Water is a year-round national boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign with the mission of reducing the number of alcohol- and drug-related incidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol and drug use on the water. The campaign takes place in every U.S. state and territory with participation from local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. As a result of the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, hundreds of impaired operators will be removed from the waterways and thousands of boaters will be educated about safe boating practices. This grant project was awarded funding for three years.

BOATING INCIDENT INVESTIGATION & GPS FORENSICS COURSES

NASBLA has received funding to improve the reliability of incident reporting and data collection through the effective training of law enforcement and incident investigators. NASBLA will continue to deliver Boating Incident Investigation and GPS Forensic courses. Officers calls for service to investigate boating incidents continue to rise with the increase in recreational boating activity nationwide. This emphasizes the importance and the demand for professionally trained officers' investigators in the technical role of incident investigation across the nation. Additionally, GPS technology has continued to advance. Information that can be garnered from these devices can be extremely valuable to the impartial investigator in determining what was happening prior to, during, and after the incident. This project was awarded funding for three years.





STAGED BOATING COLLISIONS & VIDEO DOCUMENTATION

As a result of this grant, NASBLA will conduct a Staged Boating Collision project to support the delivery of the Boat Incident Investigation and Reconstruction courses. This project will design and capture through video a collision scenario likely to occur on the water in a recreational boating setting. Crashed vessels will be used for hands-on learning during the Advanced Boating Incident Investigation courses. Video documentation will also be incorporated into the course curriculum through development of teaching aides. This project was awarded funding for one year.

BOAT OCCUPANT INJURY SURVEILLANCE TIER 3: TESTING & REFINEMENT OF TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS & SURVEILLANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

NASBLA will work to build on the ongoing development of Technical Solutions & Surveillance Recommendations through the Injury Surveillance Workgroup process. This grant project will build on the two prior tiers and commence the final tier of an initiative focused on using a public health approach to enhance boat occupant injury surveillance, prevent occupant injuries and enhance safety. Tier 3 will pilot test the recommendations and will focus on three key areas: data access, data linkages, and partnerships. This grant project was awarded funding for one year.

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION & ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Under funding from this grant, NASBLA will conduct a series of training courses to combat boating under the influence of alcohol (BUI) and drugs (BUI-D). NASBLA will deliver Boating Under the Influence Train-the-Trainer courses designed for marine law enforcement officers who wish to teach other officers the BUI Course, including the seated battery of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) transition. This grant project was awarded funding for three years.

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RAYMARINE

Raymarine is a world leader in high performance marine electronics for the recreational boating and light commercial marine markets. Raymarine's products are engineered to deliver the very best in visual navigation information and with a legacy of marine navigation technology spanning over 80 years,



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

KALKOMEY

Kalkomey is all about creating outdoor enthusiasts. Kalkomey's platform connects millions of people with the outdoors every year. Established in 1995, Kalkomey partnered with state agencies to provide boater education.



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Annual Conference

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 19 - 22, 2023

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We thank you for your ongoing support
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National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
2022 Annual Report
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