



National Boating Standards Panel (BSP) 2023 NASBLA Annual Report

Leadership - Walt Taylor (federal member) serves as the Panel Chair for 2023. Mark Brown (state member) is the Chair-appointed Vice Chair. Jeff Clauson, BLA from Nebraska, serves as the NASBLA Executive Board Liaison. The Panel receives grant support from the U.S. Coast Guard for its work. Tom Dardis serves as the Grant Technical Manager and regularly participates with the Panel.

Membership - Panel members are appointed by the NASBLA Executive Board for three-year staggered terms representing five interest categories. Members and interest categories for the 2023 Panel include:

State Boating Agency: Paul Alber, Stacey Brown, Chelsea Hofmeier, Melissa Miranda

Federal Boating Agency: Ethan Coble, Walt Taylor

Non-Government/Nonprofit Organization: Bob Brandenstein, Jennifer Dadamo, Gail Kulp

Commercial: Elbert Ashbaugh, Edward Cossette

Public: Mark Brown, Eric Lundin, Kelli Toth, Brianna Creed

Investigative Training for Boating Incidents – The Executive Board voted to have NASBLA Standard 500-2022: Investigative Training for Boating Incidents become an American National Standard. Given the Panel’s experience working with ANSI, the Board tasked the BSP with administering this Standard through the ANSI process. The Panel collaborated with the members of the Boating Incident Investigation Workgroup as subject matter experts to adjudicate public comments and make revisions. Panel work will continue on this task as the ANSI process proceeds.

ESP to BSP – Until 2023, the Panel worked exclusively to develop and manage boating education standards. When the Panel was tasked with administering NASBLA Standard 500-2022 through the ANSI process, it was the first training standard managed by the BSP. The inclusion of this standard expanded the scope of work of the Panel. As a result, the NASBLA Executive Board voted to change the Panel name from the National Boating Education Standards Panel (ESP) to the National Boating Standards Panel (BSP). This change is evidenced in the revised Panel Rules, reaccredited by ANSI, and will increase NASBLA’s presence in boating safety standardization.

K-12 Life Jacket Education Standard – The Panel created a workgroup to develop the first K-12 Life Jacket Education Standard. Kelli Toth was selected to lead this group. The group convened multiple times a month to curate a standard covering the following life jacket/PFD related

topics: attitudes and values, choosing a life jacket/PFD, fitting a life jacket/PFD, using a life jacket/PFD, and setting and situation. The development of this Standard will continue in 2024.