



Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT)

Final Report to NASBLA Executive Board

Charge Activity Status

Next Cycle Recommendations

Date: July 20, 2026

Michelle Johnston, UT, Chair

Caroline Mantel, Boat, Report, Vice Chair

David Trader, WV, Ex. Board Liaison

NASBLA Vessel Identification & Titling Charter

The VIRT Committee recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data. The VIRT Committee works to advance boating safety by analyzing and advocating for thorough precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration and titling.

Work with the U. S. Coast Guard to standardize "Best Practices" that states/territories should be using.

Charge leaders are assigned to each charge and members either volunteer for charge(s) or are assigned to charge(s).

VIRT 2026-1

Assist the states and work with NCCUSL through their Enactment Committee while promoting and supporting adoption of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. Review resources on the NCCUSL website and suggest updates as needed. Identify new support materials needed and produce as necessary. Increase access and visibility of the NCCUSL website and all available resources for NASBLA members.

Needs Statement: Supporting UCOTVA is essential in making changes to positively influence consumer safety by creating consistency among states in regard to titling and identifying vessels that have been deemed unsafe, preventing them from being sold without disclosure. By having the support of the VIRT Committee, we are able to brainstorm potential sponsors within states and assist NCCUSL by identifying more productive points of contact and feedback. Members of VIRT can also help identify what the specific hesitations are within registration and titling departments in order to try to overcome those objections more quickly. VIRT recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, and UCOTVA helps to ensure that vessels chain of ownership is intact from owner to owner and state to state.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Oklahoma & Tennessee had bills introduced but died in committee. Tennessee will try again next year.
- ✓ **Implementation:** States would be adopting UCOTVA.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** As States adopt UCOTVA, it would be the start of a nationwide consistent way of titling recreational vessels.
- ✓ **Status:** Currently there are eight states & three territories that do not title in some form. Mississippi is optional.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. This charge is one the VIRT Committee has been working on for years with NCCUSL. This has been and will continue to be a high priority for VIRT.

VIRT 2026-2

Develop a Power Point Training Tool for Registration & Tilting Frontline Users

Needs Statement: A Frontline Training Program would be used to assist States in training new and existing R & T employees of what information is required under 33CFR, part 174 that would include definitions listed under 174.3.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Standard Training for all R & T employees nationwide.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Power Point will be sent out to all R & T Newsletter enrollees, BLA Brief and will be posted on the VIRT Web site under "Resources."
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Intent is to provide frontline line users of what is required under 33CFR, part 174 and more consistent registration information.
- ✓ **Status:** Final review going on now. Will send it to the Ex. Board for their review before it is sent out. Charge should be completed by August 31, 2026.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Completed. Do Not carry over.

VIRT 2026-3

Reorganize the VIRT web page to be similar to how the NASBLA Policy Page is set up. Make the Policy Documents go to the Main NASBLA Policy Page. Create a section for Policy, Best Practices and Model Acts

Needs Statement: A VIRT web page that is consistent and more accurate.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** An updated VIRT Web page that is easier to use.
- ✓ **Implementation:** The VIRT Web page updated with assistance from Garrison Toy.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** A VIRT Web page that is more concise and easier to use and locate information.
- ✓ **Current Status:** Charge completed June 30, 2026.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge completed. Do not carry over.

VIRT 2026-4

Review and Promote Use of HIN Verification & Validation Power Point that was developed in 2016 to reflect the BSX-23 Policy 23-2, “Compliance Guidance For Hull Identification Numbers that went into effect September 2023.”

Needs Statement: Revise and promote the use of the “HIN Verification & Validation” Power Point that was developed in 2016 as a “Registration & Titling 101” educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling personnel. This charge has evolved to include the Policy Letter written by the USCG to corroborate the information in PowerPoint. The policy was developed and approved by the USCG in 2023. The PowerPoint will be revised to reflect the BSX-23 Policy 23-2, “Compliance Guidance For Hull Identification Numbers” that went into effect September 2023.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** A revised and more comprehensive HIN Power Point and HIN Policy.
- ✓ **Implementation:** The NASBLA VIRT Committee in conjunction with the USCG will continue to promote the HIN Power Point that has been developed and via Conference Presentations, NASBLA Connect, NASBLA Web Page, BLA Workshops, NASBLA Leadership Academies and send out the HIN Power Point and any revisions to each BLA and Registration & Titling Contacts each year. NASBLA to promote via the Web, direct emails to the BLA’s, conference topics, BLA Workshop and the Leadership Academy.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Greater consistency with HIN validation, assignment and other HIN related best practices and policies amongst states.
- ✓ **Current Status:** In conjunction with VIRT, the USCG is in the process of revising the HIN Verification & Validation PowerPoint to reflect the Coast Guard Policy that went into effect in September 2023. The HIN Policy itself is waiting on revisions from the USCG that VIRT submitted last year that will require another update.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. Work will continue to finalize the slides to match the policy. Any revisions in the policy that come from the Coast Guard will need to be added as they happen.

VIRT 2025-5

(Charge Not Funded by the CG for This Cycle. Ex Board Approved Charge Only if Funded.)
Ron Sarver Working on a VIRT Dashboard that will not be interactive but will have all states & territories information.

- A. Continue the Dashboard Survey update that was started in 2025 and update the county registration data and add a new Dashboard for Yearly Registration Data
- B Look into the Possibility of Adding a New Dashboard to the VIRT Dashboards with the USCG Yearly Registration Stats.

Needs Statement: Continue the survey update that was started in 2025 and update the county registration data and add a new Dashboard to VIRT for Yearly Registration Data.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Registration Fees/Titling Information will be updated.
- ✓ **Implementation:** As state information changes, updates will be completed on a regular basis.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** States and the public will have a central location to access states/territories basic registration and titling information/requirements.
- ✓ **Status:** Not funded by the USCG. Dashboard site has been taken down. Ron Sarver has got a static Dashboard up and running for now that will house all the R & T information by state/territory that he captured when the Dashboards were discontinued. This sight is now live as of July 16, 2026, and located at <https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/advocacy/virt>. Announcements will be going out in a BLA Brief and the August VIRT Newsletter.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. Charge needs to be re-written to how the Dashboards will be functioning in the future. NASBLA will be applying for another grant next year.

VIRT 2026-6

Continue to work with NASBLA staff on the VIRT Newsletter to be distributed to all registration & titling contacts.

Needs Statement: This Newsletter addresses specific R & T issues and includes updated and accurate VIRT information that is sent directly to R & T contacts in each state/territory.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** First Newsletter went out in May; second newsletter went out in August. Both were also included in a BLA Brief and were posted to the VIRT Web page.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Delivered to all R & T contacts and all BLA's via email.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** VIRT Information getting into the correct hands of people who actually deal with the issues of numbering & titling on a daily basis.
- ✓ **Status:** Charge completed for the year with 2 newsletters being sent out – one in May and one in August.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year as this is an ongoing charge for VIRT.

VIRT 2026-7

Review & Revise the NASBLA Model Procedure for Abandoned or Salvaged Recreational Vessels

Needs Statement: Model Procedure was adopted and approved by NASBLA Membership in 1998. This charge was put on hold in 2024 & 2025 when legislation was introduced at the federal level. Legislation has not moved forward in two years. VIRT will continue to monitor and take appropriate action when needed.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Updated Model Act to Reflect Current Definitions & Best Practices
- ✓ **Implementation:** Once approved by the NASBLA Membership at the fall 2026 Business Meeting, it will be sent out in a BLA Brief and posted on the NASBLA VIRT Web.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Will assist states as a fundamental starting point in developing their own laws, policies and procedures.
- ✓ **Status:** Charge completed once the NASBLA membership approves it at the fall 2026 Business Meeting.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge completed.

VIRT 2026-8

Provide support for states participating in VIS.

Needs Statement: Continue to provide support for states participating in VIS. Identify and address barriers to participation for non-participating states. Identify a most wanted list of states the committee would like to focus on getting enrolled in VIS.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** New states becoming members of VIS.
- ✓ **Implementation:** A State notifies the Coast Guard that they would like to participate and then a MOU must be signed with the Coast Guard and then access is granted. Goal is to have all States and U.S. Territories signed up.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Additional states participating in VIS.
- ✓ **Status:** Kentucky joined VIS in June of 2026.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. Ongoing charge for VIRT.

VIRT 2026-9

Standardize the information that is required for an outboard motor MSO like the vessel MSO that VIRT helped develop in 2023. Work with IAMI on how best to publish & distribute.

Needs Statement: A standardized MSO for outboard motors is needed so states, marine dealers and lenders can capture the proper information that is needed in order to title an outboard motor and to also record liens on an outboard motor.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** A Standardized MSO for outboard motors
- ✓ **Implementation:** Once approved it will be sent out in a BLA Brief, posted on the ABYC Web site and the NASBLA VIRT Web page.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Standardized MSO for outboard motors.
- ✓ **Status:** Currently in the hands of the ABYC Technical Review Group. Projected time frame for their approval is May 2027.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over.

VIRT 2026-10

VIRT does have **Best Practice for Self-Imported Vessels**. This was a 2024 charge that was completed. VIRT is going to update and add information to it.

Develop reference materials for State to Use in determining whether a vessel is self-imported or imported by another. Collaborate with Customs to get appropriate example paperwork to inform the user. Have BSX define when a vessel has importation issues

Needs Statement: Self-imported boats and importation of various crafts is becoming a more prominent issue and there are zero references in which to work from. Development of this reference material will help guide an officer in making an informed decision in particular since the state is responsible for the issuance of HIN.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Updated and current information for states and territories to reference
- ✓ **Implementation:** Once completed and approved, it will be sent out in a BLA Brief, the VIRT Newsletter and posted on the NASBLA VIRT Web page
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** More consistency in the procedures for self-imported vessels
- ✓ **Status:** USCG will be doing a presentation at the 2026 NASBLA Conference. As for the document itself, there have been issues in getting prudent information from government sources.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over.

VIRT 2026-11

Develop a Best Practice Document for State-Assigned HINs with a standardized framework for states to adopt when issuing state-assigned HINs. The Best Practice Document will establish a uniform requirement that the fourth character of a state-assigned HIN be a letter code representing the specific reason for issuance (e.g., “H” for homebuilt, “M” for manufacturer error, “X” for missing HIN, etc.). conduct survey to find out which states could adopt this Best Practice.

Needs Statement: Currently when a State Assigned HIN is issued, there is no way to identify whether the state assigned has been issued for a homebuilt boat, a manufacturer error or a missing HIN.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Will establish a uniform way of identifying why a State assigned HIN was issued.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Will be sent out in a BLA Brief, VIRT Newsletter and posted on the VIRT Web page
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Standard way for states to adopt when issuing s state assigned HIN.
- ✓ **Status:** Survey was sent out in a BLA Brief in Late June. Currently results are being reviewed, and a recommendation will be made to the Ex. Board for approval in next year’s committee cycle.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

COMMITTEE LEADERS and STAFF

Michelle Johnston, Chair

Utah

801-374-7290, mjohnston@utah.gov

David Trader, NASBLA Ex. Board

West Virginia

304-558-2784, David.W.Trader@wv.gov

Rick Barrera, Committee Staff

NASBLA

859-225-9487, Rick@nasbla.org

Caroline Mantel, Vice Chair

Boat History Report

800-441-7599, Caroline@boathistoryreport.com

U.S. COAST GUARD

Kristen Williams, C.G. Headquarters

202-372-1067, Kisten.a.williams@uscg.mil

Will Hillyer, C.G Headquarters

202-372-1077, William.Y.Hillyer@uscg.mil

Jason Latiolais, C.G. Headquarters

202-372-1052, Jason.M.Latiolais@uscg.mil

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jack Ellis

Info-Link

305-661-3030, Jack@info-link.com

Caroline Mantel

Boat History Report

1-800-441-7599, Caroline@boathistoryreport.com

Ben Murray

NMMA

301-793-2001, Bmurray@nmma.org

Mike Sayre

Marine Retailers Assoc. of Americas (MRAA)

202-935-2930, sayre@MRAA.com

Tina Cardone

CPort

954-261-2012

tcardone@cport.us

Steven Treat

Grand River Dam Authority

918-944-6036

Steven.treat@grda.com

Denise Burroughs

California

916-549-9414, denise.burroughs@dmv.ca.gov

STATE MEMBERS

April Hughes

Arizona

623-236-7403, Ahughes@azgfd.gov

Gloria Palencia

Wisconsin

608-220-1142, Gloria.Palencia1@Wisconsin.gov

Michelle Johnston

Utah

302-739-9916, mjohnston@utah.gov

David Dunlap

Alaska

907-269-3750, david.dunlap@alaska.gov

Grant Brown

Colorado

303-791-1954, grant.brown@state.co.us

Priscilla Smith

Alabama

334-517-2947, priscilla.smith@alea.gov

Mariah Kanode

Ohio

614-265-6504, Mariah.Kanode@dnr.Ohio.gov

Karen Fahy

New Jersey

609-713-9476, Karen.Fahy@njsp.gov

Devin Torres

Guam

671-475-8508, Devin.torres@gpd.guam.gov

Jason Dennerline

Arizona

623-236-7382, jdennerline@azgfd.gov

Susie Crist

Tennessee

615-781-6553, Susie.spriggs@tn.gov

Madison Cook

Florida

850-617-9485, Madisonb.cook@myfwc.com

Becky Peralez

Texas

512-389-8786, Rebecca.Peralez@tpwd.texas.gov

Chris Charles

Indiana

317-232-4805, CCharles@dmv.IN.gov

Daniel Brown

Georgia

706-557-324, Daniel.Brown2@dnr.ga.gov

Larissa Voss

Wyoming

907-777-4638, Larissa.voss@wyo.gov

Harmony Sibley

Nevada

775-688-1507, hsibley@ndow.org

Leslie Mackey

Alabama

334-242-0454, Leslie.Mackey@revenue.alabama.gov

Mia Twinam

Colorado

720-622-4154, mia.twinam@state.co.us

Josett Cruz

Guam

671-475-8449, josett.cruz@gpd.guam.gov

Dawn Coburn

Delaware

302-739-9082, Dawn.coburn@delaware.gov

Tigh Savercool

Pennsylvania

717-525-5868, Tsavercool@pa.gov

Jason Scott

Arizona

623-236-7403, jscott@acgfd.gov