

U.S. Coast Guard-States-NASBLA ERAC

National Collaborative Project on Recreational Boating Incident Reporting

Process for achieving a consensus product

Steps one through 4 were completed during the 2018-2019 committee cycle. The highlighted step 5 signifies activity currently underway as of the committee report issuance.

1. Project workgroup representing key stakeholders deliberates on topics (scope of topics set by the Coast Guard), resolves internal differences on issues, and develops small group consensus recommendations;
2. Consensus recommendations go to a first level of "external" reviewers (in this case, full ERAC, NASBLA Executive Board, CG-BSX leadership and key staff) for review and feedback during a structured comment period;
3. Project workgroup addresses feedback received, advises commenters of resolutions, and refines consensus recommendations and all supporting materials;
4. Revised consensus recommendations and supporting materials go back out to the next level, a wider set of "external" reviewers/stakeholders (in this case, all states via the state Boating Law Administrators, along with reviewers from first period) for review and feedback during a second structured comment period;
5. Project workgroup addresses all feedback requiring some consideration/action on its part, advises commenters of resolutions, and refines consensus recommendations and all supporting materials as needed;
6. Revised consensus recommendations and supporting materials go back out to the states/stakeholders, with opportunity for further (and presumably, final) discussion of content changes;
7. Assuming there is general agreement with the revised recommendations, a final product (containing all recommendations) is released to the NASBLA Executive Board to put forward to the NASBLA membership for a formal vote of acceptance;
8. Assuming there is a formal acceptance by NASBLA membership, the product—the consensus recommendations package—is delivered to the Coast Guard to inform the direction it will take in drafting both regulatory and policy language for the national reporting requirements, structure and systems;
9. In a follow-up action, a call for the states, individually—that is, not as a singular, NASBLA resolution—to petition the Coast Guard to initiate a regulatory project based on/referencing the consensus recommendations that had been accepted by the NASBLA membership.