

**In March 2018, the USCG/States/NASBLA ERAC Incident Reporting Policy Project Workgroup reviewed and proposed some modifications to entries in this Activity list as it developed recommendations regarding Data Elements/Fields/Definitions for national collection. In January 2020, in response to feedback from the second (external review) comment period conducted March-August 2019, the workgroup reversed a prior recommendation to delete the term “Towing a Watersports Participant”; the original term and definition have been restored (p. 6). The workgroup recommends adoption of the full list with modifications as presented on the pages that follow. [Note: in line with other edits to these lists, the term “incident” would replace “accident” throughout.]**

**ACTIVITY\***  
**USE OF THE VESSEL and**  
**IMMEDIATE ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT**  
**-- as approved – Sept. 3, 2013**

This list presents the activity work product voted on and approved by the NASBLA membership in a process authorized under NASBLA’s Bylaw III, Section 8.<sup>†</sup> The framework for this report category—two levels of selections, with one set associated with the vessel and the other associated with the operator and any victims—is presented on page 2. Additional explanation for applying the options is presented on page 3. The list of terms and definitions for all entries begins on page 4. Bracketed information at the end of each definition indicates whether the entry is a new one or revises an existing term or definition currently used at the national level in BARD. In the case of specific entries under “immediate activity at the time of the accident,” an additional notation has been made to indicate their applicability only to an operator (or a victim who was the operator) or only to a victim (or victims) other than the operator.

All entries were vetted through the project review process, up to and including the project team’s modification of the June 2013 proposal on Activity that was released to the States on July 11, 2013; the refinements were in response to suggestions and requests for clarification received from NASBLA members in the final review and comment period conducted July 11-29, 2013. See **History**, below, and **Overview of Process** on page 7 of this document.

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\* **History:** All entries were vetted through a multi-stage review process involving the project team (subgroup of NASBLA Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC), including additional U.S. Coast Guard subject matter experts); the full ERAC; the NASBLA Executive Board; and the broader NASBLA community via two open comment solicitations – the first, Feb. 22-March 24, 2013, and the second, July 11-29, 2013 (following the release of a revised version of the list on July 11). Comments also were received from NASBLA membership during a Feb. 28, 2013 session conducted as part of the NASBLA Spring BLA Workshop (recorded and made available online), and a July 15, 2013 national teleconference/webinar (recorded and made available online). List reflects **all changes**, including the project team’s resolution of feedback received during the July review. Changes resulting from the July feedback were: 1) expansion of the examples included in the definition for “Commercial” (in the Use of the Vessel component) and amendments to the definition itself to account for both legal and illegal commercial purposes; 2) amendment of the definition for “Towing a Watersports Participant” to include and capture the activity of a person acting as an observer; and 3) modification of the reference to the strength of the current and removal of the “class of river (Class 3+) in the definition of “Whitewater Sports Participant.”

<sup>†</sup> **Voting process:** Voting was authorized under NASBLA Bylaw III, Section 8 (Conducting Interim Business). A Request for Vote was initiated in an Aug. 2, 2013 email to all Boating Law Administrators by John Johnson, NASBLA CEO, on behalf of the NASBLA Executive Board. The original 30-day voting period had an Aug. 31, 2013 deadline for receipt of ballots by email, fax, or postal mail; the deadline was extended to Sept. 3, 2013 to accommodate a holiday weekend. By the Sept. 3 deadline, 44 NASBLA member States had cast ballots, with 43 in the affirmative for this product (and two other work products moving through the process simultaneously).

## ACTIVITY

### USE OF THE VESSEL (page 4)

Recreational
<del>Commercial</del> <b>Profit-Making Activity</b>
Marine Event Activity
<del>Occupational</del> <b>Official Public Service</b>
None; not in use
Unknown (Explain)

### IMMEDIATE ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (operator & victims) (page 3 for additional information on applying this list and pages 4-6 for definitions)

Docking Vessel	Fishing
Assisting in Docking Vessel *	Hunting
Leaving Dock	Riding in or on Vessel (no other activity)
Assisting in Leaving Dock *	Vessel Racing
Launching Vessel	Scuba Diving *
Retrieving Vessel	Swimming or Snorkeling *
Boarding Vessel	Vessel Being Towed
Departing Vessel	Towing Another Vessel or Object
Starting Engine	Towing a Watersports Participant
Operating Vessel	Towed Watersports Participant *
Assisting in Operating Vessel *	<b>Whitewater Sports Operator</b>
Fueling Vessel	Whitewater Sports Participant
Making Repairs	Other (Describe)
	Unknown (Describe)

\* Term applies only to a victim who was not the operator

**IMMEDIATE ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (operator & victims)**  
**Special note on applying the list of options shown on previous page**

Since Immediate Activity is *intended* to be collected for the operator and victim(s), there may need to be some adjustments to the hard copy report or screen options available for selection based on “whose” information you are trying to capture. Practically speaking, the following options from the list would apply to:

**An Operator or a Victim who was the Operator**

- Docking Vessel
- Leaving Dock
- Launching Vessel
- Retrieving Vessel
- Boarding Vessel
- Departing Vessel
- Starting Engine
- ~~Operating Vessel~~
- Fueling Vessel
- Making Repairs
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Riding in or on Vessel
- Vessel Racing
- Vessel Being Towed
- Towing Another Vessel or Object
- Towing a Watersports Participant
- Whitewater Sports ~~Participant~~ **Operator**
- Other (Describe)
- Unknown (Describe)

**A Victim who was NOT the Operator**

- Assisting in Docking Vessel
- Assisting in Leaving Dock
- Launching Vessel
- Retrieving Vessel
- Boarding Vessel
- Departing Vessel
- Assisting in Operating Vessel
- Fueling Vessel
- Making Repairs
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Riding in or on Vessel
- Scuba Diving
- Swimming or Snorkeling
- Towed Watersports Participant
- Towing a Watersports Participant
- Whitewater Sports Participant
- Other (Describe)
- Unknown (Describe)

## ACTIVITY: USE OF THE VESSEL AND IMMEDIATE ACTIVITY AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT

### USE OF THE VESSEL

*These options represent an expansion of the current USCG BAR form request for selection of  
“Recreational” or “Commercial” use of the vessel*

#### **Recommended (overall):**

- **In designing the revised BARD/data collection system, find a way to capture the general purpose of the trip and related demographics (hunters, anglers, etc.)**

**Recreational:** *Vessel was being used for recreational purpose.* [Creates definition]

**Recommended term label and definition revisions:** ~~Commercial:~~ **Profit-Making Activity:** **State-numbered vessel** *was being used for legal or illegal commercial purpose. Includes but is not limited to carrying passengers for hire; fishing, crabbing, or shrimping in support of one’s business; towing a vessel for a fee; moving cargo; theft or smuggling.* [Creates definition]

**Marine Event Activity:** *Vessel was being used for or in an official, noticed, permitted, registered or sanctioned event. Includes but is not limited to a fishing tournament, watersports competition, race, regatta, poker run, parade, or similar event. Specify the type of event: \_\_\_\_\_* [New term and definition]

**Recommended term label revision:** ~~Occupational:~~ **Official Public Service:** *Vessel was being used by or for Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Fire, Survey, Research or other official business at the time of the accident.* [New term and definition]

**None; not in use:** *Vessel was not being used at the time of the accident (for example, a marina fire; an unoccupied vessel was struck by another vessel).* [Revises existing term label (“None; not in operation”) and creates definition]

**Unknown (Explain):** *Insufficient information to determine vessel’s use at the time of the accident. Explain \_\_\_\_\_.* [Creates definition]

### IMMEDIATE ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT

#### **Recommended (overall):**

- **Collect activity by operator and victim(s)**
- **Create one master list of activities to simplify the selection**
- **Limit reporting of activity to just one selection**
- **In designing the revised BARD/data collection system, find a way to efficiently document all of this activity information**

*These options revise the current list of Activities and are intended to be selected for the operator and for victim(s) other than the operator. Some options realistically would apply 1) **only** to an operator (or a victim who was the operator) OR 2) **only** to a victim other than the operator; those entries are so marked.*

**Docking Vessel:** *Guiding the vessel into the dock, pier, or wharf.* [Revises existing term label (“Docking/Undocking”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Assisting in Docking Vessel:** *Assisting in guiding the vessel into the dock, pier, or wharf.* [Revises existing term label (“Docking/Undocking”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.]

**Recommendation:** add examples to definition to make clear that it involves actions like handling lines, etc., and that the person’s location (in the vessel, on the dock, etc.) does not factor in.

**Leaving Dock:** *Guiding the vessel away from the dock, pier, or wharf.* [Revises existing term label (“Docking/Undocking”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Assisting in Leaving Dock:** *Assisting in guiding the vessel away from the dock, pier, or wharf.* [Revises existing term label (“Docking/Undocking”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.] **Recommendation:** add examples to definition to make clear that it involves actions like handling lines, etc., and that the person’s location (in the vessel, on the dock, etc.) does not factor in.

**Launching Vessel:** *Launching the vessel into the water.* [Revises existing term label (“Launching/Loading”) and creates definition]

**Retrieving Vessel:** *Removing the vessel from the water.* [New term and definition]

**Boarding Vessel:** *Getting into or onto the vessel.* [New term and definition]

**Departing Vessel:** *Acting on their own free will, person gets out of or off of the vessel.* [New term and definition]

**Starting Engine (maintains existing term label; creates definition):** *Starting the engine.* [Creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Recommend deletion of “Operating Vessel” because of redundancy; operator would be identified by their operator record; “Riding in or on vessel” can be selected if operator was not engaged in any other immediate activity at time of incident.** ~~**Operating Vessel:** *Maneuvering the vessel.* [New term and definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]~~

**Assisting in Operating Vessel:** *Assisting in maneuvering the vessel.* [New term and definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.]

**Fueling Vessel:** *In the process of fueling the vessel.* [Revises existing term label (“Fueling”) and definition]

**Making Repairs:** *Making repairs to the vessel or associated equipment.* [Revises existing term label (“Repairs”) and creates definition]

**Fishing:** *Engaging in any fishing activity.* [Creates definition]

**Hunting:** *Engaging in any hunting activity.* [Creates definition]

**Riding in or on Vessel (No other activity):** *Onboard the vessel and not involved in or assisting in any other activity at time of accident.* [Replaces existing term label (“Boating/Relaxation”) and creates definition]

**Accident Reporting Terms and Definitions Project –  
Building consensus around standardized terms and definitions in accident report categories  
NASBLA’s Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee and the U.S. Coast Guard**

**Vessel Racing:** *In a competition of speed.* [Revises existing term label (“Racing”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Scuba Diving:** *Engaging in scuba diving activity during or just prior to the accident.* [New term and definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.]

**Swimming or Snorkeling:** *Engaging in swimming or snorkeling activity during or just prior to the accident.* [Revises existing term label (“Swimming/Snorkeling”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.]

**Vessel Being Towed:** *Operator of a vessel being towed by another vessel.* [Revises existing operation term label (“Being Towed”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Towing Another Vessel or Object:** *Towing a vessel or object; does not include towing person(s) engaged in towed watersports.* [Revises existing operation term label (“Towing”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to an operator or a victim who was the operator.]

**Towing a Watersports Participant:** *Towing person(s) engaged in towed watersports or acting as an observer. Specify the type of watersport: \_\_\_\_\_* [Revises existing operation term label (“Towing”) and creates definition.]

**Recommended definition revision: Towed Watersports Participant:** *Being towed **by or surfing the wake of a vessel** in a watersport activity. Specify the type of watersport: \_\_\_\_\_. **[Clarify operator or participant status regarding jetlevs, depending on whether person is controlling both thrust and direction of travel.]*** [Revises existing term label (“Towed Watersports”) and creates definition. This entry applies only to a victim other than the operator.]

**Recommended new term and definition mirroring “Whitewater Sports Participant” (below): Whitewater Sports Operator:** *Operating a vessel traveling in white water “rapids” where the water conditions were rough and the current strong.*

**Whitewater Sports Participant:** *Onboard a vessel traveling in white water “rapids” where the water conditions were rough and the current strong.* [Revises existing term label (“Whitewater”) and creates definition]

**Other (describe):** *Activity does not fit any of the descriptions above. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_* [Creates definition]

**Unknown:** *Insufficient information to determine activity. Explain: \_\_\_\_\_* [Creates definition]

**Accident Reporting Terms and Definitions Project –**  
***Building consensus around standardized terms and definitions in accident report categories***  
*NASBLA’s Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee and the U.S. Coast Guard*

**Overview of Process:** The review process for this Accident Reporting Terms and Definitions Project was accepted by the NASBLA Executive Board and the USCG Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety in mid-June 2011. For each category of report terms:

- Achieve project team consensus on terms/definitions through series of teleconferences and interim work;
- Share team consensus list with and get feedback from full ERAC committee and NASBLA Executive Board and the U.S. Coast Guard (for initial, Office-level review);
- Share the resulting, refined list with and get feedback from the States/Territories using a structured, open comment period;
- Review responses to assess need for additional team refinements to the entries;
- Submit final consensus list to the NASBLA Executive Board for delivery to and vote by the NASBLA membership;
- Transmit to the U.S. Coast Guard for final review and clearance through its appropriate internal channels.

On September 11, 2012, NASBLA membership approved Resolution 2012-3 (In support of the Accident Reporting Terms and Definitions Project, the adoption of standardized terms and definitions by the U.S. Coast Guard, and actions to facilitate their application), and under its provisions, the first two work products in the series – Accident Types/Events and Accident Contributing Factors/Causes.

On September 3, 2013, NASBLA membership approved the final three work products in the series – Operation, Activity, and Vessel Sub-Types (for optional use with authorized Vessel Types).