

## **NASBLA ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC) 2016**

### **NASBLA'S MISSION:**

To strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury, and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure, and enjoyable boating environment.

### **IN SUPPORT OF NASBLA'S MISSION AND SERVICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP:**

As one of four policy committees, ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating accidents; be used to inform the development of state- and national-level safety policies, programs and campaigns; and, ultimately, be used to measure their effectiveness.

To ensure that the results of boating accident research and analyses are valid and reliable, ERAC also actively seeks ways to advance the quality, relevance, accuracy, consistency, applicability, and completeness of the data and information.

### **IN PRACTICE, ERAC:**

- Takes on targeted research questions. ERAC teams analyze accident report data and other boating-related statistics to identify risk factors, patterns and trends in boating accidents;
- Works in partnership with the States, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other key agencies and organizations in the recreational boating community to improve the criteria, processes, and training associated with reporting, collecting, entering and using accident data;
- On behalf of the States, and in the interest of uniformity and shared understanding, collaborates with the U.S. Coast Guard to clarify accident reporting criteria and procedures;
- Identifies and examines boating safety program, equipment design, and related efforts that could mitigate risk factors identified through the committee's analyses;
- Monitors the activities of and receives reports from subcommittees and panels of NBSAC, ABYC, NMMA, and UL, among others, to identify and inform about issues of mutual interest; and
- Also interacts with other NASBLA committees and panels and stays informed about projects of mutual interest—not only to add value to ERAC products, but also to determine how ERAC can effectively serve as a resource to them.

ERAC members work in project teams, taking the lead on charges approved by the NASBLA Executive Board, and engaging in significant monitoring and resource development activities in topic areas under the committee's jurisdiction. The bulk of committee activities are conducted online and via teleconference. However, ERAC also conducts one in-person, all-day meeting each cycle. In 2016, the meeting will be held Friday, Feb. 19 in Lexington, Kentucky.

## ERAC 2016 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER (as of Feb. 1, 2016)

**CHAIR: Glenn Moates, Tennessee**  
615.781.6684, [glenn.moates@tn.gov](mailto:glenn.moates@tn.gov)

**VICE CHAIR: Kris Wahlers, Colorado**  
303.791.1954 x 4127, [kris.wahlers@state.co.us](mailto:kris.wahlers@state.co.us)

### SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Special Projects: Penny Kanable, Wisconsin**  
608.228.9352, [Penny.Kanable@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Penny.Kanable@wisconsin.gov)

**Engineering & Equipment Issues: Joe McCullough, Alaska**  
907.269.8704, [joseph.mccullough@alaska.gov](mailto:joseph.mccullough@alaska.gov)

**Accident Reporting & Analysis: Seth Wagner, Florida**  
850.617.9455, [seth.wagner@MyFWC.com](mailto:seth.wagner@MyFWC.com)

### COMMITTEE STAFF

**Deborah Gona, PhD, Research Consultant**  
859.421.9258, [deb@nasbla.org](mailto:deb@nasbla.org)

**Board Liaison: Eleanor Mariani, Connecticut**  
860.434.8638, [eleanor.mariani@ct.gov](mailto:eleanor.mariani@ct.gov)

**Immediate Past Chair: Tamara Terry, Ohio**  
614.265.6408, [tamara.terry@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:tamara.terry@dnr.state.oh.us)

### U.S. COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES

**HQ Primary: Susan Weber**  
202.372.1103, [Susan.M.Weber@uscg.mil](mailto:Susan.M.Weber@uscg.mil)

**11<sup>th</sup> District RBS Specialist: Paul Newman**  
510.437.5364, [Paul.L.Newman@uscg.mil](mailto:Paul.L.Newman@uscg.mil)

### NASBLA PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE

**Gary Haupt, Boating Accident Investigation Training, [gthaupt@gmail.com](mailto:gthaupt@gmail.com)**

### STATE MEMBERS

**John Girvalakis, Massachusetts**  
[john.girvalakis@state.ma.us](mailto:john.girvalakis@state.ma.us)  
**Rachel Bullene Graham, Oregon**  
[rachel.b.graham@osmb.state.or.us](mailto:rachel.b.graham@osmb.state.or.us)  
**Penny Kanable, Wisconsin**  
[Penny.Kanable@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Penny.Kanable@wisconsin.gov)  
**Eric Lundin, Connecticut**  
[Eric.Lundin@ct.gov](mailto:Eric.Lundin@ct.gov)  
**Joe McCullough, Alaska**  
[joseph.mccullough@alaska.gov](mailto:joseph.mccullough@alaska.gov)

**Glenn Moates, Tennessee**  
[glenn.moates@tn.gov](mailto:glenn.moates@tn.gov)  
**Johanna Naughton, California**  
[Johanna.Naughton@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Johanna.Naughton@parks.ca.gov)  
**Amy Rigby, California**  
[Amy.Rigby@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Amy.Rigby@parks.ca.gov)  
**Seth Wagner, Florida**  
[seth.wagner@MyFWC.com](mailto:seth.wagner@MyFWC.com)  
**Kris Wahlers, Colorado**  
[kris.wahlers@state.co.us](mailto:kris.wahlers@state.co.us)

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Caroline Bell / Larry Bowling, NTSB**  
[Caroline.Bell@ntsb.gov](mailto:Caroline.Bell@ntsb.gov) / [Larry.Bowling@ntsb.gov](mailto:Larry.Bowling@ntsb.gov)  
**Alexander Cascione, USCG Auxiliary**  
[alexcascione@msn.com](mailto:alexcascione@msn.com)  
**Pete Chisholm, Mercury Marine**  
[pete.chisholm@mercmarine.com](mailto:pete.chisholm@mercmarine.com)  
**Brian Goodwin, ABYC**  
[bgoodwin@abycinc.org](mailto:bgoodwin@abycinc.org)  
**Ernest Marshburn, USPS**  
[marshburne@ecu.edu](mailto:marshburne@ecu.edu)  
**Dan Maxim, USCG Auxiliary**  
[Postsf@aol.com](mailto:Postsf@aol.com)  
**Dick Snyder, Mercury Marine (ret.)**  
[dick\\_snyder@mercmarine.com](mailto:dick_snyder@mercmarine.com)

**Fred Messmann, NSBC**  
[deputy@safeboatingcouncil.org](mailto:deputy@safeboatingcouncil.org)  
**Eugene Molteni, USPS**  
[Eugene.molteni@verizon.net](mailto:Eugene.molteni@verizon.net)  
**Bruce Rowe, Forever Resorts**  
[browe@foreverresorts.com](mailto:browe@foreverresorts.com)  
**Ted Sensenbrenner, BoatU.S. Foundation**  
[teds@boatus.com](mailto:teds@boatus.com)  
**Karen Steely, Aaron Foundation**  
[steelyks@yahoo.com](mailto:steelyks@yahoo.com)  
**Robert Sweet, USPS**  
[aep@mindspring.com](mailto:aep@mindspring.com)

In conjunction with a leadership transition that occurred in January 2016 and in accord with interests expressed by the NASBLA Executive Board during its 2015 committee cycle discussions, the current and immediate past leaders of ERAC developed a subcommittee structure to be implemented for the remainder of the 2016 cycle. The intent is to bring ERAC into conformity with the operations of other NASBLA policy committees while creating as little disruption as possible mid-cycle. On Jan. 29, 2016, the board considered and accepted the proposed restructuring.

The 2016 charges that in previous versions of this charge document had been presented under broad headings<sup>1</sup> associated with ERAC's major activity areas are now rearranged into four formal subgroups with chairs. Teams associated with the charges remain the same and the original charge numbers have been retained for the sake of continuity in tracking during the current cycle.

ERAC will evaluate the subcommittee structure as part of its review of 2016 charge progress, 2017 charge development, and 2017 member recruitment. Changes to the number of subcommittees—and their descriptive labels—may be proposed to the board as part of that process.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

This subgroup is made up of 2016 charges and various committee outreach activities that prior to the committee's restructuring had been headed up by ERAC committee leaders. They are committee-wide in scope and engage members across ERAC (or other committees) as warranted.

Administrative Team: ERAC Chair Glenn Moates, TN, and Vice Chair Kris Wahlers, CO, in consultation with Board Liaison Eleanor Mariani, CT; assisted by Deborah Gona, committee staff.

**Issues and trends monitoring and disposition:** The Triage developed by the committee as a result of a 2014 charge and implemented in early 2015 is now a committee procedure for the year-round capture and timely disposition of issues and topics that come to ERAC from internal and external sources. The [NASBLA ERAC Procedure v01092015](#) is used to assign the triage team, process the issues, and recommend an appropriate course of action—whether that be a request to the NASBLA Executive Board to approve a formal charge, a communication to the states on a matter of immediate concern, continued monitoring, or some other action (including “no” action in the near term). Per the established procedure, the team is comprised of the ERAC Chair, Vice Chair, Board Liaison, and two at-large Committee Members.

ERAC-2016-A1 **Accident Report Terms and Definitions Guidance to the States (standing):** In follow-up to the approval by NASBLA members of standardized accident report terms and definitions (2012, 2013) and the committee's issuance in 2013 of basic implementation and use guidance, continue to facilitate the states' efforts to assimilate the standardized terms. Respond directly to questions from states or make appropriate

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<sup>1</sup> A. Regarding rulemaking and policy guidance; B. Guidance/training/resources on accident reporting, data entry and data use; C. Compilation and analysis of accident- and other boating-related data and information; and Issues and trends monitoring (including the triage procedure and engineering/equipment issues related monitoring).

referrals. Identify issues that may result from casualty reporting policy guidance or regulatory proposals issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2015-2016.

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting, and Obj. 10, R&D; and NASBLA's strategic goal of providing standards that support uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-A2 Input to U.S. Coast Guard Policy and Regulatory Proposals and Actions (standing):** Coordinate NASBLA's research on—and actively prompt the states to respond to—U.S. Coast Guard policy initiatives and regulatory proposals on accident reporting and other areas within ERAC's jurisdiction. Monitor the Federal Register, review relevant documentation, coordinate and develop information resources for NASBLA member states, and facilitate their discussion of and response to the proposals. Use the standard NASBLA channels and the specialized committee forums including The NASBLA Lighthouse "On the Horizon" and discussion forum portals.

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting, and Obj. 10, R&D; and NASBLA's strategic goal of providing standards that support uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-B2 The NASBLA Lighthouse Forum (standing):** Continue to support and grow the content detail, components and protocols of The NASBLA Lighthouse, the committee's publicly-accessible, online resource and discussion forum currently housed on the NASBLA website and Connect platform. Identify best practices for driving users to the webpages and increasing active membership and participation in the discussion and library components. In the event of an organizational transition to a new AMS/web platform in 2016, ensure the migration of all existing Lighthouse components and files.

[Note: in follow-up to **ERAC-2015-A3 Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) Issues/Guidance**, integrate the committee's 2015 ESD products and key resource organizations' documents, tools, and links into the continuing development of the Lighthouse "Get Equipped" dedicated subpage and library portals.]

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategies 10.4 re: continuing to assess/improve/train on BARD data, and 10.5 re: analyzing BARD data); NASBLA's strategic goals of offering professional development and training, and providing models/standards that support best practices and uniformity.*

## ACCIDENT REPORTING & ANALYSIS

This subgroup is made up of 2016 charges that address various aspects of accident reporting, data entry and use, and the analysis of collected data. Subcommittee Chair: Seth Wagner, FL

**ERAC-2016-B3 State-Level Statistical Report Template (carryover):** In coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard (as it works with the BARD contractor to build the product into the system), complete the development and implementation phases for this standardized template. Enlist two or three states beyond those represented on ERAC to test the product for use in compiling and reporting out their state-level accident and related

statistics. Develop additional instructional materials as needed. Maintain all resources on the Lighthouse “Get Equipped” dedicated subpage.

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategies 10.4 re: to assess/improve /train on BARD data, and 10.5 re: analyzing BARD data); NASBLA’s strategic goals of offering professional development and training, and providing models/standards that support best practices and uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-B4 Quality of Accident Report Narratives (carryover):** Complete content development for a product (or set of instructional products) intended to improve the quality of accident report narratives. In consultation with NASBLA’s Enforcement & Training Committee, identify the most effective method(s) for delivering this information on writing quality narratives to officers/investigators and state personnel involved in reviewing accident reports. (See related charges 2016-B1 and 2016-B5.)

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting, and Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategy 10.4 re: continuing to assess/improve/train on BARD data); NASBLA’s strategic goals of offering professional development and training, and providing standards that support uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-B5 Documenting Alcohol/Drug Involvement in Accidents (carryover):** Complete content development for a product intended to lead to more uniformity in officers’ and investigators’ capture of alcohol or drug involvement in recreational boating accidents (i.e., the check-off for involvement, apart from the identification and capture of alcohol or drugs as causative/contributing factors). In consultation with NASBLA’s Enforcement & Training Committee, identify the most appropriate formatting and delivery of the content to the law enforcement community. (See related charges 2016-B1 and 2016-B4.)

REF: *National RBS Plan Obj. 6, Boating Under the Influence (esp. strategies 6.1 re: measuring alcohol and drug use, and 6.6 re: improving accuracy of reporting alcohol and drug use); Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting, and Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategy 10.4 re: continuing to assess/improve/train on BARD data); NASBLA’s strategic goals of offering professional development and training, and providing standards that support uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-C2 Human Factors: Applying Best Practices for Gathering/Examining Data (carryover):** Work with the three states identified in 2015 to pilot use of the human performance investigation guidance and tool included in the charge package developed by ERAC in 2014. Examine the data collected by the pilot states, release the analyses and lessons learned, and refine the existing guidance and tool as needed. Add to and maintain all related resources at the Lighthouse “Get Equipped” and library portals.

REF: *National RBS Performance Goal for reducing casualties; RBS Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting (esp. strategy 9.15 re: suitability of accident causation models), and Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategy 10.5 re: analyzing BARD data); NASBLA’s strategic goals of providing models supporting best practices; research that evaluates/sustains RBS program efforts.*

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

This subgroup is made up of 2016 charges that address specific, targeted research questions on issues within the committee's jurisdiction or involve project development of a more time-limited nature.

Subcommittee Chair: Penny Kanable, WI

**ERAC-2016-B1 Terms and Definitions Reference and Resource Modules (standing):** Refine/update the content of the Accident Report Terms & Definitions Reference and Resource Modules (v2013.2) as needed or as may be required as a result of casualty reporting policy guidance or regulatory proposals issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2015-2016. Work with NASBLA management to identify additional platforms (beyond the current PowerPoint package) for distribution to users. Determine whether additional modules based on content associated with 2015-2016 charges B4 and B5 or other topics should be developed.

*REF: National RBS Plan Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting (esp. strategy 9.16 re: assisting the states in training/ education/outreach efforts on accident notification and reporting regulatory/policy revisions), and Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategy 10.4 re: continuing to assess/improve/train on BARD data); NASBLA's strategic goals of offering professional development and training, and providing standards that support uniformity.*

**ERAC-2016-C1 National Recreational Boating Survey (NRBS) Priority Research (carryover):** Continue assessing the data, findings, and other issues associated with the U.S. Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Survey. Complete the examination of outstanding issues identified in ERAC's 2015 research brief "Recreational Boating Fatality Statistics: *an exploration of fatality rate calculations and comparisons.*" Determine the feasibility (and implications) of recalculating the fatality rate numerator on the basis of the victim's state of origin rather than the accident location. Collaborate with the Coast Guard, as possible, on other research topics emerging from the survey. Serve the states' interests in providing input to future survey planning as opportunities arise.

*REF: National RBS Performance Goal for reducing casualties; RBS Obj. 9, Boating Accident Reporting, and Obj. 10, R&D (esp. strategy 10.5 re: analyzing BARD data); NASBLA's strategic goals of conducting research and providing models that support best practices and inform decision makers.*

## ENGINEERING & EQUIPMENT ISSUES

In its initial form, this subgroup is expected to serve primarily as an enhanced monitoring body as there are no current, approved charges in this area. At the end of the 2015 cycle, charge teams were wrapping up explorations of topics under the terms of a series of "E" charges that had been recommended through the 2015 Triage process and that ultimately were approved by the NASBLA Executive Board in February of that year. The 2015 charge team results and any recommendations emerging from that activity or from the continued monitoring of issues in this area will be evaluated by ERAC as part of the Triage. Recommendations for committee charges will be forwarded to the board for formal consideration and approval. Subcommittee Chair: Joe McCullough, AK