

## Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC) Initial 2016 Charges<sup>1</sup>

### Regarding rulemaking and policy guidance

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

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.

RE the disposition of **2015 ERAC charge A3 Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) Issues/Guidance**: a separate “A3” charge is not proposed to be maintained in the 2016 cycle. Instead, the development and maintenance of ESD resources—including the 2015 committee products currently in final stages of review and completion, and key resource organizations’ documents, tools, and links—will be integrated into the continuing development of the NASBLA Lighthouse “Get Equipped” and library portals (see related 2016-B2).

### Guidance/training/resources on accident reporting, data entry, and data use

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 any 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.

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<sup>1</sup> List reflects the initial charge selections of and other actions by the NASBLA Executive Board on July 21, 2015, and additional clarifications of board intent, as of Aug. 7, 2015.

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 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.

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 NASBLA Lighthouse “Get Equipped” portal.

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 2016-B1 and -B5.)

ERAC-2016-B5 **Documenting Alcohol/Drug Involvement in Accidents (carryover)**: Complete content development for a product intended to lead to more uniformity in officers’/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 2016-B1 and -B4.)

## Compilation and analysis of accident- and other boating-related data and information

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.

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 NASBLA Lighthouse “Get Equipped” and library portals.

### Trend monitoring

The **2015 ERAC charge D1 “Triage”** is proposed to roll into the 2016 cycle as a ***committee process*** intended to ensure the year-round capture and timely disposition of issues and topics that come to ERAC through various internal and external sources.

### Engineering-/equipment-related issues monitoring

For the remainder of the 2015 cycle, ERAC has functioning charge teams exploring engineering-/boats and associated equipment-related topics under the terms of the “E” series of charges (E1, E2, E3) recommended through the triage process and ultimately approved by the NASBLA Executive Board in February 2015. If follow-up projects are identified through the 2015 charge work and information gathering or other topics are identified through the committee’s general monitoring of this area in accord with its charter, then the ERAC triage process will once again be used to recommend appropriate mechanisms for addressing them. If, at such time, the recommendations involve formal committee charges, then they will be forwarded to the board for consideration.