

## **NASBLA ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC) CY 2015**

### **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 NASBLA's five policy committees, ERAC has been tasked with identifying, evaluating, and analyzing 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 boating 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 has also been directed to actively seek ways to advance the quality, relevance, accuracy, consistency, applicability, and completeness of the data and information.

### **IN PRACTICE, THE COMMITTEE:**

- Takes on targeted research questions. ERAC charge teams analyze available, relevant accident report data and other boating-related statistics to identify risk factors, patterns and trends in recreational boating accidents;
- Works in partnership with NASBLA's member states, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other key agencies and organizations in the 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 on clarifying accident reporting criteria and procedures;
- Identifies and examines boating safety program and equipment design efforts that could mitigate risk factors identified through the committee's analyses;
- Receives reports from or actively participates in the efforts of relevant task forces, subcommittees, and panels of NBSAC, ABYC, NMMA, and UL, among others; and
- Strives to interact with other NASBLA policy committees and panels and stay 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 their efforts.

ERAC members are assembled into project teams, taking the lead on specific, assigned charges, and completing significant monitoring and resource activities. The bulk of committee activities are conducted online and via teleconference. However, ERAC also conducted an in-person, all-day meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, in Lexington, Kentucky.

## ERAC CY 2015 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER COMMITTEE LEADERS and STAFF

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## ERAC FY 2015 CHARGES

Pages 4-6 present charges in five areas:

- Regarding Rulemaking and Policy Guidance (p. 4);
- Guidance/Training/Resources on Accident Reporting, Data Entry, Data Use (pp. 4-5);
- Compilation and Analysis of Accident and Other Boating Related Data/Information (p. 5); and
- Trend Monitoring (p. 6)
- Engineering- and Equipment-Related Issues (p. 6)

Within those five areas, charges are designated as “Standing,” “2014 Carryover,” and “New 2015.”

## REGARDING RULEMAKING AND POLICY GUIDANCE

### STANDING CHARGES

**A-1 Accident Report Terms/Definitions Rollout Guidance.** As part of the rollout of the standardized accident report terms and definitions and in follow-up to the committee's issuance in CY 2013 of basic guidance for states to consider in transitioning to the new terms, continue responding to questions that arise with their implementation in the states. Identify issues that may result from any accident reporting rulemaking and policy guidance proposals as may be issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2015. See related Standing Charges A-2 and B-1.

**A-2 Input to U.S. Coast Guard Policy/Rulemaking.** Continue providing input to U.S. Coast Guard policy and rulemaking proposals related to ERAC's areas of interest, including but not limited to proposals that would revise, clarify, and improve the accident reporting system, criteria, and processes. Facilitate the sharing of information with—and the gathering of feedback from—NASBLA's member states on such proposals and related efforts. Use various committee forums including The NASBLA Lighthouse "On the Horizon" and discussion portals.

### 2014 CARRYOVER CHARGE

**A-3 ESD Issues/Guidance. Carryover through mid-CY 2015.** In coordination with and in support of the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) and other organizations' efforts to mitigate electric shock drowning(s) (ESDs) and other electrical shock injuries and deaths, finalize and distribute relevant guidance for use by officers and investigators, BLAs, and state legislators, and assemble and promote the availability of other resources for easy access by these users.

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## GUIDANCE/TRAINING ON ACCIDENT REPORTING, DATA ENTRY, DATA USE

### STANDING CHARGES

**B-1 Reference and Resource Modules.** Continue refining the content of the Accident Report Terms & Definitions Reference and Resource Modules (v2013.2) as needed, and with an eye toward the content, outcomes, and implications of any rulemaking and policy guidance proposals as may be issued by the U.S. Coast Guard in 2015 (see related Standing Charges A-1 and A-2). Work with NASBLA management to identify additional platforms for distribution. Explore the potential for creating additional modules with content targeting other core aspects of accident reporting including, but not limited to quality narrative writing, what information is required in BARD, and reportability, among others. See related 2015 Charges B-4 and B-5.

**B-2 The NASBLA Lighthouse forum.** Continue developing content detail and the components of The NASBLA Lighthouse, the forum launched in Oct. 2014 to share products and best practices and discuss recreational boating data and research challenges with other researchers and data users in the governmental, academic and non-profit communities. Ensure migration of all existing components and files to NASBLA's new association management software/web platform in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter CY 2014/1<sup>st</sup> quarter CY 2015. Refine protocols and instructions for the administration and maintenance of the webpage and moderation of the forum discussions.

## GUIDANCE/TRAINING ON ACCIDENT REPORTING, DATA ENTRY, DATA USE (CONTINUED)

### 2014 CARRYOVER CHARGE

**B-3 Statistical Report Template. Carryover through mid-CY 2015.** Complete work on the standardized statistical report template—a tool designed for states to more easily and accurately compile and report out their state-level recreational boating accident and related statistics.

### NEW 2015 CHARGES

**B-4 Quality of Accident Report Narratives.** Building from a base of examples, scenarios, and partial narratives developed as resource material for the Accident Report Terms & Definitions Reference and Resource Modules (see Standing Charge B-1), develop content for a product intended to improve the quality of accident report narratives. Determine the most effective method(s) for delivering this information on writing quality narratives to officers/investigators and state personnel involved in reviewing accident reports. Determine the extent to which collaboration with the NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee might be required (see related 2015 Charge B-5).

**B-5 Documenting Alcohol/Drug Involvement in Accidents [two-cycle project].** Develop content 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). See related work in Standing Charge B-1, the Reference & Resource Modules. Collaborate with the NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee in the 2016 cycle regarding the formatting and delivery of the content to the law enforcement community.

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## COMPILATION & ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENT & OTHER BOATING RELATED DATA/INFORMATION

### 2014 CARRYOVER CHARGES

**C-1 NRBS Priority Research Topics. Carryover through CY 2015.** Continue assessing the data, findings, and other issues associated with the U.S. Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Survey (NRBS). Serve the states' interests in providing input to future survey planning as opportunities arise.

**C-2 Human Factors-Applying Best Practices for Gathering/Examining Data. Carryover through CY 2015.** In follow-up to the 2014 development and release of the charge package "*Human Performance Investigation in Recreational Boating Accidents: Best Practices for Gathering and Examining Human Factors Data*," actively recruit a sample of states willing to employ the tool. Conduct a follow-up examination of the collected data. Add all materials associated with the charge work since 2012, this product, and other human factors-related literature to The NASBLA Lighthouse through its "Get Equipped" and "Library" portals.

**D-2 Advanced Spatial Analysis-Advisory Role on Project. Carryover (with 2014 charge number) through 1<sup>st</sup> quarter CY 2015.** Review the outcomes of the research project, *Advanced Spatial Analysis of Accident Risks in Recreational Boating*, and coordinate with NASBLA staff to ensure that the principal investigator's results are shared with the NASBLA membership in 2015.

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## TREND MONITORING

### STANDING CHARGE

**D-1 Triage emerging issues.** Implement the Procedure v10092014 “Evaluating new and emerging issues/topics for committee action” a formal method for the committee to continuously and effectively identify and “triage” emerging recreational boating issues and hot topics that are within ERAC’s sphere.

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## ENGINEERING- AND EQUIPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

### NEW 2015 CHARGES

**E-1 Scope/nature of issues [initial year, exploratory project].** Explore the scope and types of engineering- and equipment-related issues that ERAC should formally incorporate into its work on recreational boating accidents and accident reporting and toward the mitigation of risk factors. In this exploration, identify current and emerging issues important to the states, and monitor the efforts of and interact with key groups including, but not limited to, the Boats & Associated Equipment Subcommittee of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). Make recommendations as to the approach or structure the committee could use to organize future work in this area and priority issues for possible 2016 charge work. (See related 2015 Charge E-2).

**E-2 Basic flotation issues re canoes/kayaks [initial work].** In conjunction with the committee’s efforts in Charge E-1, conduct initial background research and data collection to assess the extent and nature of basic flotation issues, especially as they apply to canoes and kayaks. Make recommendations as to any follow-up project(s), either for completion in 2015 or for consideration as 2016 charge work.

**E-3 Data on vessel theft-related issues.** In conjunction with the committee’s efforts in Charge E-1, explore the availability of relevant data on vessel theft-related issues, including electronic theft protection technologies, from sources such as the International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) and industry partners. Share the data and any findings with the NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee in the event the committee wishes to further explore the topic(s) in a future cycle.