



**2019-2020 Initial Charges & Membership Roster**  
**As approved by NASBLA Executive Board, Oct. 24, 2019 – updated January 2020**

**Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC)**

**Seth Wagner (FL) – Chair**

**John Girvalakis (MA) – Vice Chair**

**Dan Heskett (KS) – Board Liaison**

See last page for full membership roster

**COMMITTEE CHARTER IN SUPPORT OF NASBLA’S MISSION AND SERVICE TO THE MEMBERSHIP:**

As one of NASBLA’s standing policy committees, ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating incidents; 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 the 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 review and evaluate report data and other boating-related statistics to identify risk factors, patterns and trends in boating incidents;
- **Partners for data improvement.** 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 incident data;
- **Promotes uniformity.** On behalf of the States, and in the interest of uniformity and shared understanding, collaborates with the U.S. Coast Guard to clarify reporting criteria and procedures;
- **Seeks to mitigate risk factors.** Identifies and examines boating safety program, equipment design, and related efforts that could mitigate risk factors identified through the committee’s analyses;
- **Stays informed.** Monitors the activities of and receives reports from subcommittees and panels of NBSAC, ABYC, and NMMA among others, to identify and inform about issues of mutual interest; and
- **Works across committees.** 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.

## Monitoring & Evaluation – Ongoing Committee Functions

The following activity was conducted as a standing committee charge in the 2018-2019 and recent past committee cycles. This year, it has been reclassified as an ongoing committee function, just as the “Triage,” also described below, was reclassified in 2016.

**ONGOING: Monitor and give input to USCG policy / regulatory proposals and actions:** Monitor, research as needed, and provide feedback to Coast Guard policy initiatives and regulatory proposals on incident reporting and other areas related to ERAC’s charter, whether published in the Federal Register or issued through other official mechanisms. Inform the States and encourage them to provide feedback. Coordinate NASBLA’s organizational responses to such proposals and use [NASBLA’s Federal Register webpages](#), the [NASBLA Lighthouse On the Horizon](#), and NASBLA Connect discussion forum to provide resources and promote open discussion among the States. (NASBLA Goals 4 and 5) (RBS Initiative 2, CoA, milestone 13)

**Why it’s important:** Agency notices, proposed rules, final rules and other formal and informal policy guidance issued by the U.S. Coast Guard can significantly impact recreational boating and RBS programs in the states. In recent years, ERAC has taken a lead in monitoring, analyzing, [chronicling proposed policy and regulatory actions](#), and communicating with NASBLA members about their significance to the states and other RBS stakeholders and about the importance of weighing in, especially through formal comment submission processes that require the Coast Guard to publicly respond to the feedback it receives. Over the past two years, ERAC’s focus has been on providing and soliciting direct input to the recreational boating incident reporting policy project in partnership with the Coast Guard and the States (see continuing charges **ERAC IR&A 2020-1A** and **1B**). This activity should be considered an integral part of the committee’s work and not a discrete charge.

**ONGOING: 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 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 assigned at the beginning of each cycle.

### Investigation, Reporting & Analysis 2019-2020 Charges (thru p. 4)

**USCG/ERAC IR&A 2020-1A (see related IR&A 2020-1B next page): Complete phase one of USCG/STATES/ERAC collaborative recreational boating incident reporting policy project:** Complete all outstanding project work from first phase, including: advising commenters of workgroup’s disposition of their suggested revisions and questions; refining—and distributing to the States—all consensus recommendations and supporting materials; conducting two national teleconferences; delivering final product to the NASBLA Executive Board for release to BLAs for vote of acceptance on product and a follow-up call for the States to petition the Coast Guard to initiate a regulatory project. (NASBLA Goal 5, Obj. 5.1, Strategy 5.1.5) (RBS Initiative 2, CoA 5, milestone 13; and Initiative 3)

**USCG/ERAC IR&A 2020-1B (see related IR&A 2020-1A previous page): Coordinate ERAC and STATE participation in and complete phase two of the project:** Coordinate ERAC and State member participation in phase two project workgroup and complete work on second phase of the project, including: collaborating with the Coast Guard and States on recommendations for design of the future online reporting system / database to accommodate the project’s policy and regulatory recommendations; and developing best practices and guidance to accompany implementation of the policy recommendations. (NASBLA Goal 5, Obj. 5.1, Strategy 5.1.5) (RBS Initiative 2, CoA 5, milestone 13; and Initiative 3)

**Why these are important:** Updated, consistent, clear, published policy and procedures are critical to the states’ ability to capture and report boating incident data to the Coast Guard and to the Coast Guard’s ability to fulfill its statutory obligations to gather and report accurate and timely statistics on recreational boating incidents. The regulatory and policy recommendations emerging from this consensus-based, national project are intended to create more certainties about reporting requirements, improve uniformity and consistency in collecting and processing incident data, and advance the RBS programmatic and policy interests of both the Coast Guard and the states.

**ERAC IR&A 2020-2: Promote and provide instruction on BARD-based, State-level statistical report template:** In coordination with the Coast Guard, for an additional cycle, continue the rollout-related activity on the BARD-based template that went live late October 2018. Develop instructional webinar on the template. Refine the product and instructions based on user experiences and need, and assist states in report development upon request. Maintain instructional materials and links to other template resources on the NASBLA Lighthouse [Get Equipped dedicated subpage](#). (NASBLA Goals 3 and 5, Obj. 5.1, Strategy 5.1.5; and Obj. 5.2) (RBS Initiative 3)

**Why it’s important:** Many states want or need to identify recreational boating accident-related issues or answer questions posed by the public or legislators, but do not have the resources, time or expertise to easily and accurately build statistical reports on their own from BARD queries. Even states that produce basic reports seek ways to improve their products and reduce production time and effort. Working with the Coast Guard, ERAC developed the contents for a template to give states the ability to more easily and accurately generate state-level statistical reports from the accident report data they enter into BARD. The report template allows users to generate an editable Microsoft® Word document with narrative, summary statistics, and detailed tables.

**ERAC IR&A 2020-3: Continue pilot program and refine best practices for collecting and evaluating human factors data:** Continue working with Florida and Oregon in applying aspects of the [human performance investigation guidance](#) and [supplemental report form](#) (v. 2016), especially as they relate to distractions. Evaluate the collected data, resolve data collection issues, and refine the guidance and form as needed. For practical application among the current pilot and additional States, determine how best to analyze and apply the results in a practical way. Continue building the [human factors product webpage](#) and resources in the Lighthouse. (NASBLA Goals 3 and 5, Obj. 5.1, Strategy 5.1.5) (RBS Initiatives 2 and 3)

**Why it’s important:** Getting to more conclusive evidence about the role of human performance errors in recreational boating accidents—and developing interventions—calls for consistently-collected data and information identifying the contributors **and** getting at why and how failures

occurred. Over five years ago, ERAC began working to understand the factors that might be associated with performance failures, and has since refined guidance and a supplemental report form for use by officers and investigators in states that want to augment their investigations. Now, as the public health approach to injury prevention is being introduced to recreational boating safety program planning and initiatives at the national and state levels, the collection and analysis of information that gets at underlying characteristics and distinguishable patterns of boater behavior becomes even more critical.

### **Knowledge & Content Management 2019-2020 Charge**

**ERAC K&CM 2020-1: Continue developing the NASBLA Lighthouse:** Maintain the existing portals of the [NASBLA Lighthouse](#) and grow content in line with protocols developed for NASBLA's knowledge and learning management systems (KMS and LMS, respectively). Ensure ERAC's continuing involvement in NASBLA-wide discussions and implementation of those systems. Once decisions are made as to where and how the Lighthouse fits into the larger KMS and LMS schemes, and if it is retained as a distinct online resource, then this activity should be reclassified as an ongoing committee function. (NASBLA Goal 5) (RBS Initiative 2)

**Why it's important:** [The Lighthouse](#) was envisioned by a 2010 ERAC charge team as an accessible, online forum where users and producers of recreational boating data could gather to share data and successful practices, forego "reinventing the wheel," and locate viable resources and information applicable to their work. The need for contextual narrative and meaningful "packaging" of resources and the timely sharing of information and interpretations of complex boating safety issues has not waned; with increasingly constrained time and resources at all government levels and across all sectors, such a value-added resource has even more merit.

### **RBS Statistics & Research 2019-2020 Charge (new)**

**ERAC S&R 2020-1: Evaluate the results from the latest National Recreational Boating Safety Participation and Exposure Surveys (NRBSS; anticipated initial report release ~~late Oct.~~ end of December 2019):** Assess the methods, published findings, and raw data associated with the 2018 version of the NRBSS, with a special focus on the Exposure Survey. Develop product(s) that can assist the States in applying the data to their RBS programs. Determine whether the data can be used to reinstate previous ERAC efforts, such as evaluating the use of exposure hours as the denominator for calculating fatality rates and assessing the impact of out-of-state boaters on a State's injury and fatality rates. Add to the resource material on the [Lighthouse page dedicated to the NRBSS](#). (NASBLA Goal 5, Obj. 5.1 and 5.2; and Goal 2) (RBS Initiative 3)

**Why it's important:** Beginning with the 2011-2012 surveys, ERAC has had an interest not only in the data and findings, but also the methods, scope, and survey instruments used in the national surveys. The primary reason was to be in a better position to more accurately and effectively interpret the 2012 survey findings for NASBLA's State members, especially as they related to the generation of State-level exposure hours. Another was to use the knowledge about the workings of the survey to offer the Coast Guard constructive input both for analyzing the released survey data and toward the administration and design of future surveys. The change in approach and methods for administering and housing the 2018 NRBSS results carry the potential for improved accessibility to and manipulation of the data. However, the changes also carry the potential for inappropriate comparisons within and across surveys and misuse of the data in attempts to answer important boating safety research questions. Despite the

lapse in time between these national surveys, the hope is that ERAC can draw upon its experience with the previous round to once again assist the States and offer constructive suggestions to the Coast Guard for future surveys in accordance with provisions in the MOU/Agreement between the Coast Guard and NASBLA (effective Feb. 17, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2020).

### **Engineering & Equipment 2018-2019 Charge Follow-ups and Cross-Committee Activity for 2019-2020**

**In follow-up to ERAC E&E 2019-1:** Examining basic flotation issues associated with canoes and kayaks and assisting the NASBLA Paddlesports Committee regarding flotation standards (to work with ABYC on updating H-29).

While there is no carryover of this as a formal charge for 2019-2020, the committee will continue monitoring standards activity via updates from ABYC and participate as needed.

**In follow-up to ERAC E&E 2019-2:** Legislative guidance regarding marine carbon monoxide detection systems.

While there is no carryover of a formal charge in this area, in the 2019-2020 cycle, there will be a deliberate effort to make the States' BLAs and officers/investigators aware of the availability and content of the 2019 [legislative considerations document](#) and the 2018 [response/investigation checklist](#). Moreover, [the CO resource webpage](#) and related library holdings will be updated as part of the maintenance of the Lighthouse.

**As Liaison to Enforcement & Training Committee TT 2020-3 Model Act for Towed Water Sports:** Given the evolution of towed watersports activity, the Enforcement Committee has added a charge to evaluate and potentially revise NASBLA's [Model Act on Safe Practices for Boat-Towed Watersports](#). The original model act and subsequent updates were joint efforts of Law Enforcement and Boats & Associated Equipment (one of the ERAC predecessor committees). In this round, an ERAC member will be designated as a liaison to ensure that updated terminology and policy recommendations and best practices associated with **USCG/ERAC IR&A 2020-1A / 1B** are factored into the assessment and any revisions that might be warranted.

## 2019-2020 ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC) ROSTER \*

**initial appointments approved Oct. 24 2019 – roster/email updates Oct. 30/Nov.13 and Jan. 2020**

### COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

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### COMMITTEE STAFF

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### U.S. COAST GUARD REPRESENTATIVES

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\*\*Along with Susan Weber, also serve as USCG representatives to USCG/ERAC collaborative reporting project workgroup

### NASBLA PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE

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\* Other project partners include: Cody Jones (Texas) and Stacey Brown (Virginia) for incident reporting project workgroup