

Engineering, Reporting and Analysis Committee (ERAC) 2023 – 2024 Charges Accepted in Principle by NASBLA Executive Board, Nov. 1, 2023

For more information, reference the [NASBLA ERAC 2022-2023 Cycle Summary Report \(v1 Aug. 31, 2023\)](#)

NOTE: This document was presented to board members for consideration during their Oct. 31-Nov. 1 meeting in Lexington. It excerpts entries from the cycle summary report linked above. Each 2023 charge is presented with the preliminary recommendation for 2024 that was incorporated into the cycle report. Recommendations were “updated” in cases where additional information was gained through the ERAC Chair’s more recent discussions with incumbent charge leaders.

The board accepted these charge concepts—all carryovers—with the understanding that as charge teams reconvene, each “recommendation” will be translated into updated charge language reflecting a viable scope of work, timeline, and likely deliverables for 2023-2024.

INCIDENT REPORTING (ERAC-USCG IR&A 2023)

The 2019-2020 Phase One charge—originally considered complete with the August 2020 delivery to the Coast Guard of the NASBLA member-accepted recommendations emerging from the Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Project—was reinstated during the 2021-2022 cycle to accommodate a delay in receipt of Coast Guard policy responses to those recommendations. With continuing activity in this area, as well as the need for ERAC to advise and accept assignments from the NASBLA board on this project, the charge was carried into the 2022-2023 cycle.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle - extend the activity into 2024 with revised charge language. Given the September 27 release and necessary follow-up with the states on the updated CG-BSX 23-01, CH-1 (e.g., before end of CY 23, the release of three products and co-sponsorship of two national webinars with BSX), and given that the policy letter addresses just one of the eight sets of recommendations from the Consensus Recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard (June 2020), there is reason to continue activity in this area through the next committee cycle.

BEST PRACTICES DEVELOPMENT (INCIDENT REPORTING) (ERAC IR&A 2023-1)

Using the Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Project consensus recommendations to the Coast Guard, continue developing “best practices” and other reporting guidance for the states. Review 2022 Best Practices list – working document to identify remaining areas needing work, focusing in the short term on the steps used to determine which incidents require states’ reporting to the Coast Guard for inclusion in the annual Recreational Boating Statistics. Work closely with other ERAC charge teams and the NASBLA staff to adopt the best formats for delivering the information to users (e.g., officers/investigators; incident report reviewers; data entry personnel; etc.). OF NOTE: The language for this charge was developed and approved in fall 2022, in anticipation of, but before the release of CG-BSX Policy Letter 23-01. With the policy release in January 2023, the charge work pivoted to the development of products that could assist states in interpreting, understanding and effectively implementing the details contained in the policy letter by the effective date of Jan. 1, 2024.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle - extend this activity into 2024, with revised charge language. See also, the first entry on Incident Reporting. Given the release of the updated CG-BSX 23-01, CH-1 and complementary changes to the planned deliverables, there are solid reasons to continue

activity in this area through the next committee cycle. Moreover, given the likely need to convey this information through additional products in a variety of formats, there must be close coordination with the activities of the charge team evaluating ERAC-sponsored webpages and other NASBLA-sponsored platforms and outlets for the most effective delivery methods.

REPORTING SYSTEM REDESIGN (INCIDENT REPORTING) (ERAC IR&A 2023-2)

Participate in NASBLA and Coast Guard efforts intended to address the deficiencies in the current online incident reporting system to assure that the design and content of the future system(s) and any other resolutions are responsive to the report data consensus recommendations in the Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Project.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle - extend this activity into 2024, with revised charge language. Apart from the need to respond to the Coast Guard's likely publication of a Federal Register Notice on the near-term data collection revisions, ERAC should participate in any longer-term NASBLA and Coast Guard efforts to address deficiencies in the online incident reporting system—this, to ensure that the design and content of future system(s) are responsive to the term changes already achieved through CG-BSX 23-01, CH-1 as well as the more comprehensive report data recommendations presented in the Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy Project.

HUMAN FACTORS: REFINE DATA COLLECTION/ANALYSIS (ERAC IR&A 2023-3)

Continue to assess the experiences of a pilot program involving states applying aspects of the human performance investigation guidance and supplemental report form (ERAC products v. 2016) to fatal incident investigations in their jurisdictions. Evaluate the collected data, especially as apply to operator distractions; resolve data collection issues; refine the guidance as warranted; issue a report on the findings. Review related tasks expected to be assigned to the National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC) by the Coast Guard and determine whether ERAC might contribute by serving as a resource or by modifying this charge to accommodate additional, relevant activities regarding human performance in recreational boating incidents.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle - extend this activity into 2024, with revised charge language to be more specific as to “doable” activities (i.e., data collection that would not be burdensome). At minimum, ERAC should maintain its relationship with NBSAC as it continues to address human factors in recreational boating incidents. However, ERAC can play a larger role in this area by pushing for targeted state (and eventually, national) collection of related data—especially as it applies to the implementation of the distraction codes developed in 2012 (and reaffirmed in 2020) and associated with the contributing factor “operator inattention.”

NATIONAL RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY SURVEYS (NRBSS)—2018 FOLLOW-UP AND INPUT TO UPCOMING SURVEYS (ERAC S&R 2023-1)

Using the national webinars and participant survey results from the ERAC-sponsored May 2022 events, along with feedback from other forums (e.g., anticipated presentations/discussions at National Boating Safety Advisory Committee (NBSAC), August 2022) and in coordination with Coast Guard staff, develop relevant follow-up activities regarding the 2018 methods and findings. Solicit additional feedback from the states, and on behalf of the states, make recommendations on the content of instruments that will be used for future surveys and on the potential data uses at the state level.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle - extend this activity into 2024, with revised charge language. As CG-BSX has now identified and is negotiating with a grantee as of this writing, there is good reason to maintain a targeted charge in this area over at least the next committee cycle. Moreover, it would be in fulfillment of provision 4.g. of the Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement between the Coast Guard and NASBLA, which states, in part: "...Given the potential for utilizing survey data to evaluate state-to-state program effectiveness, the USCG will openly receive and formally respond to recommendations from NASBLA concerning the design, development and analysis of data collection efforts regarding recreational boating activities, behaviors, priorities, etc." Based on initial discussions with the survey project manager at BSX, ERAC anticipates convening a focus group of interested parties before end of CY 23 to provide input to the survey instruments; serving as a resource to the development of materials for OMB approval of the survey process; and continuing to gather input/develop recommendations as to the survey products likely to be of most use to the states.

INVESTIGATE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INCIDENTS DURING PANDEMIC YEARS (ERAC S&R 2023-2)

Conduct a deeper dive into the factors associated with recreational boating incidents, fatalities and injuries reported during the pandemic years. Review the data from the period 2019-2021 and potentially preliminary data from 2022; and review and draft an annotated summary of studies already conducted on recreational boating and boater behaviors, and on statistics and risk factors identified for other recreational activities and transportation modes during the pandemic years. Evaluate findings for potential product(s) or more specific charge ideas for consideration in the ERAC – Triage – Issues and Trends Monitoring process.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle—extend this activity into 2024, with revised, targeted charge language. The exploration to date has revealed sufficient interest and value to continue, but also a need to settle on a doable scope of work. Of note, ERAC's activity on this topic will be collaborative and not duplicative of any efforts by the Coast Guard to evaluate factors associated with incidents during the years in question.

COMPLETE LIGHTHOUSE REEVALUATION AND DEVELOP ERAC PRODUCT PLACEMENT/MARKETING PLAN (ERAC K&CM 2023-1)

Continue evaluating the current reach of the NASBLA Lighthouse compared to other NASBLA knowledge and learning tools and evaluate those tools for sharing existing and near-future ERAC products. Determine the best ways to make products more user-friendly (e.g., cheat sheets, webinars, how-to videos, and other means), and based on the charge team's work regarding available NASBLA tools, determine the best channels for sharing and posting products for wider use. Gather feedback from users to refine strategies moving forward. When complete, this activity should be reclassified as an ongoing committee function, possibly with a standing workgroup to facilitate additional marketing, distribution and housing of committee materials going forward.

Preliminary recommendation for 2024 cycle—extend this activity into 2024, with revised charge language. Particularly critical given that decisions need to be made about the placement, promotion, and multiple delivery channels for the CG-BSX Policy Letter 23-01, CH-1 guidance products in progress. Upon successful completion of the major tasks, consideration should be given to reclassifying this as an ongoing committee function.