

Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC) Report to the NASBLA Membership
NASBLA Business Meeting, Sept. 17, 2025 --- ERAC Chair Tamara Terry, Ohio (remote delivery)

Thank you, Mister Chair. Thank you also to the entire NASBLA Executive Board, including our committee liaison, for their support. And many thanks and great appreciation to our ERAC members and partners who shared their valuable time and expertise on six charges this past year—charges that involved everything from providing feedback to the Coast Guard on their upcoming national recreational boating survey to working on guidance intended to result in more consistent recording of vessel ownership types on incident reports.

We have no action items from our charges that will require a separate membership vote today. However, I would like to take a few minutes to highlight charge activities that furthered two long-standing goals of the committee.

- **The first goal is the effective gathering and presentation of timely committee-developed guidance tools, resources, and policy products for producers and users of recreational boating incident reports and other boating data.** Toward this goal, one of our teams had been working over the past year and a half to reformat and reorganize the Lighthouse section of the NASBLA website. With such a significant reorganization scheduled to be completed this summer, our Best Practices team—collaborating with the Lighthouse charge group—updated eight major ERAC products originally developed in the 2015-2018 timeframe. The intent was to ensure that the content on the redesigned pages would reflect recent policy changes and be relevant in today's boating environment.
 - The redesigned Lighthouse with those updates went live August 17. With more intuitive titling and navigation, and a less text-heavy presentation, we believe that new and current users alike will be able to more quickly locate what they are seeking. We invite you and your colleagues to look around those pages, and in the interest of continuous improvement of this online resource, we ask that you give us feedback about what is good and helpful and what might make it even better.

[Before I briefly address the second goal, I want to express our hope that you found the session on incident report narratives that preceded this business meeting to be informative. Its foundation is in one of the “good practices” documents originally released in 2016 and that was updated in 2025.]

- **A second long-standing goal of the committee is our improved understanding of key human performance indicators through the consistent collection of data, especially as they relate to distractions associated with the top contributing factors in recreational boating incidents.** To bolster the collection of distraction data via codes tied to “operator inattention” and “improper lookout,” our Human Factors charge team coordinated collection methods and instructions between two states initially, brought a third online, and now anticipate a fourth and potentially fifth pilot state as we head into 2026. We sponsored a session on this topic at the Spring RBS Workshop and—in this final quarter of 2025, in the Lighthouse—will release a tool with the instructions and the supplemental incident report form to assist more states that would like to use the codes to collect the distraction data through various means.

For more information on our accomplishments, and in the interest of time, I refer you to the full committee report for this cycle as it covers the status of all ERAC charges and other activities as of mid-August and outlines preliminary recommendations for the 2026 committee cycle.

This concludes the Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee report for the 2024-2025 cycle.

On behalf of the committee, I move for NASBLA membership acceptance of this report.

Thank you.