

Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC)

2023 Highlights

Committee Leadership and Staff

Seth Wagner, FL, Chair

Tamara Terry, OH, Vice Chair

Dr. Deb Gona, NASBLA Research Consultant

Fri., March 3 Meeting: Lexington A and Virtual

Recreational Boating Incident Reporting Policy

Three of ERAC's charges relate to the 2020 reporting project recommendations and the Jan 2023 release of CG-BSX 23-01

- Follow up – monitor implementation
- Develop / refine / release best practices and additional guidance for the States
- Monitor reporting system redesign activities

U.S. Coast Guard – States – NASBLA Collaborative Policy Project on Recreational Boating Incident Reporting

Consensus Recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard

June 2020

Accepted by Vote of NASBLA Membership - July 31, 2020 *

This document and items incorporated into it by reference that was voted on and accepted by the NASBLA membership the U.S. Coast Guard via a process authorized under

Incorporated by reference:

- Recreational Boating Incident Report Decision recommendations 2.1 through 2.4 regarding determination of federal report);
- Incident Report Data Elements Summary Chart (section 5);
- Five incident report categories—lists of terms a membership in 2012-2013 and reviewed and revised
 - o Vessel Sub-Types for Use with Authorized and 5.3.13 regarding vessel subtypes);
 - o Accident Types/Events (recommendation);
 - o Operation of the Vessel at the Time of the Incident;
 - o Activity: Use of the Vessel and Activity at the Time of the Incident;
 - o Contributing Factors/Causes (recommendation);

A separate Resource Document (v. June 2020), which provides a supplement to this document and the appended materials.

* Voting process: Voting was authorized and conducted under the terms of the Business. A Request for Vote was initiated in a July 1, 2020 email to all NASBLA Deputy Executive Directors, on behalf of the NASBLA Executive Director, a day to accommodate the July 4th holiday) had a July 31, 2020 deadline. 54 of the 56 NASBLA member States, as represented by their delegates, voted electronically. Two of the U.S. Territories (American Samoa and Virgin Islands) who did not vote, voted to accept the package of consensus recommendations.

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security



Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard

United States
Coast Guard

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Washington, DC 20583-7509
Staff Symbol: CG-BSX
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16751
CG-BSX
Policy Letter 23-01
27 Jan 2023

GLENDYNE TROY PERRY
1011778980
Digitally signed by
GLENDYNE TROY PERRY 1011778980
Date: 2023.01.26 07:02:45-0500

From: T. P. Glendye, CAPT
COMDT (CG-BSX)

To: Distribution

Subj: RECREATIONAL BOATING INCIDENT REPORTING

Ref: (a) 33 CFR Part 173 subpart C – Casualty and Accident Reporting
(b) 33 CFR part 174 subpart C – Casualty Reporting System Requirements
(c) 33 CFR part 174 subpart D – State Reports
(d) 46 USC § 13102(b)(1) – State Recreational Boating Safety Programs
(e) Recreational Boating Statistics, COMDTPUB 16754.34 (series)

1. Purpose. Effective for incidents occurring on or after 1 Jan 2024, this policy provides guidance on the reporting requirements in references (a) through (c) to avoid unnecessary reporting of occurrences to the Coast Guard. By explaining the way the Coast Guard uses the incident reports and the terms used in the reporting regulations, this policy clarifies the incidents that reporting authorities should forward to the Coast Guard.

2. Background. Reference (a), pursuant to 33 CFR § 173.51, applies to the following: Each vessel operated on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and on the high seas beyond the territorial seas for a vessel owned in the United States that:

- (1) Is operated by its operator for recreational purposes; or
- (2) Is required to be numbered under this part.

It does not apply to a vessel subject to inspection under Title 46 U.S.C. Chapter 33.

Further, reference (a), specifically 33 CFR § 173.55(a)(1)-(4), requires operators of recreational vessels to submit a casualty or accident report to the "reporting authority," which is defined at 33 CFR § 173.3 as a state listed in 33 CFR part 173, Appendix A, or the Coast Guard if no state is listed. It requires a report to the reporting authority under the following conditions:

a. A death;

b. An injury that requires medical treatment beyond first aid;

A forward look – the next iteration of the USCG National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys (NRBSS)

- Build on last year's work and webinars and previous experience with the survey series.
- Keeping with USCG/NASBLA MOU, gather feedback / provide input to the next round.
- Revive past discussions about the feasibility of other methods of measuring boating activity and exposure.



Exploring the National Recreational Boating Safety Surveys (NRBSS)

A webinar of the
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
Presented by the Engineering, Research & Analysis Committee

Thursday, May 12, 2022

NATIONAL RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY SURVEYS (NRBSS)

In 2014, the results of the U.S. Coast Guard's 2012 National Recreational Boating Surveys were released. NASBLA/ERAC spent hours seeking explanations of how the participation and exposure hours data were generated, considering the merits of using exposure hours as the denominator in risk ratios, and developing compilations of state-level data. Products associated with those explorations—by ERAC and the Coast Guard—are presented below.

In December 2020, the [Coast Guard released the results](#) of the 2018 [Participation](#) and [Exposure](#) surveys.** In the 2021-2022 committee cycle, ERAC continued its exploration of the survey findings and methodologies with an eye toward developing products that could help the states better understand and apply the data to their RBS programs. In 2023, the committee will be following up on two of those products—national webinars described below—and, on behalf of the states, directing attention to the Coast Guard's development of the next iteration of the NRBSS.

**See also, an [errata sheet for the 2018 survey reports](#)



The NASBLA Lighthouse

*Guiding you through recreational boating data and research challenges ...
Alerting you to issues affecting your work ... Shining a light on successful practices ...*

LIGHTHOUSE



Exploring the potential ...

- For better understanding of the impacts of the pandemic on recreational boating, boaters, and behaviors.
- For continuing work on the collection and analysis of human factors data – especially related to operator distractions.
- For improving ERAC's "reach" with audiences in the boating community that would benefit from past and upcoming products.



Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC)

MORE ABOUT US

ERAC pages: <https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/erac>

Lighthouse: <https://www.nasbla.org/lighthouse/nasbla-lighthouse>

INTERESTED IN JOINING US OR KNOW SOMEONE IN YOUR AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION THAT MIGHT BE?

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