



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC) – October 2014 Update

In the 2014 committee cycle, ERAC conducted its charge work through conference calls, emails, Basecamp, and an [in-person, all-day meeting on February 21](#) in Lexington, Ky.

This report describes committee work completed or still in progress in the current calendar year, provides links to charge products available for download, and identifies charges that are suggested for continuation into calendar year 2015.

For more detail about ERAC, see the committee's [2014 charter, roster and charge document](#), available at www.nasbla.org/ERAC.

Charge A1 (Continuing accident report terms and definitions rollout and provision of guidance to states):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** Received a formal inquiry from a state in process of revising its report form and requesting clarification regarding the Activity list approved by NASBLA membership in Sept. 2013; response was coordinated with Coast Guard staff. More recently, committee leadership has engaged in informal discussions with other states inquiring about the availability of the lists and seeking further information about instruction in their use and implementation.
- ✓ **Continuing:** Committee remains poised to respond to states that have specific requests. Also will actively promote the use of [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) (Charge B2) "Get Equipped" portal as the location where states can readily access all resource materials developed to date.

Charge A2 (Input to USCG policy-/rule-making):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** Acted to alert NASBLA membership to the issuance of USCG-2008-1259, **Assessment Framework and Organizational Restatement Regarding Preemption for Certain Regulations Issued by the Coast Guard; Proposed Rule**, and potential implications for certain areas of state regulation. Further assisted in developing content for the [NASBLA comments to the docket](#), with primary focus on the preemptive effect of federal regulations associated with casualty and accident reporting.
- ✓ **Continuing:** More recently, the committee has become aware of two other relevant Federal Register Notices: [USCG-2014-0911 Recreational Boating Safety Grants for Nonprofit Organizations](#) and [USCG-2014-0713 Information Collection Request to OMB - State Registration Data](#). The committee is currently seeking additional information to clarify the latter Notice, and will advise the states accordingly. Further, it is "on the watch" for accident report proposed rulemaking or guidance to be released for public input at or near the end of 2014. Notices will be publicized through various committee formats, including the [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) (Charge B2) "On the Horizon" portal.

Charge A3 (Electrical shock issues/guidance):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** Initial review of ESD-related content of current NASBLA accident investigation coursework/related materials and development of proposed content for an ESD-specific legislative guidance document has been delivered by ABYC representatives. Two other off-shoots of those ABYC draft materials have been developed by charge and committee leadership-- *Electric Shock Drowning/Near Drowning Response and Investigation Checklist* for potential use by officers/investigators in the field, and an *ESD Fact Sheet* for more general use in educating stakeholders on the basic details of ESD.
- ✓ **Continuing:** The aforementioned draft items and proposed content updates to the NASBLA BAI coursework, along with an additional general legislative guidance document (for use on issues beyond ESD), will be delivered to and taken up by the full charge team during the remainder of 2014, with anticipated completion and release in the first quarter of CY 2015. An additional task—the assembly of ESD-related resources for stakeholders—will be ongoing as part of continued development of [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) (Charge B2) “Get Equipped” and “Library” portals.

Charge B1 (accident report terms/definitions modules completion):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** Stable version of Terms and Definitions Modules for the five accident reporting lists approved by NASBLA membership in 2012 and 2013 (Accident Types, Contributing Factors, Activity, Operation, and Vessel Types/Sub-Types) has been completed and is currently slated for posting to [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) (Charge B2) “Get Equipped” portal for download and use.
- ✓ **Continuing:** While the stable version is being made available to replace Beta version 2013.1, the developers will continue adding material as needed in the remainder of 2014 and throughout 2015.

Charge B2 (Online forum on analysis/data issues and applications):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) has been developed and will have its official launch on Oct. 19, as part of the NASBLA annual conference breakout session of the same name.
- ✓ **Continuing:** The Lighthouse will continue to be populated in the remainder of 2014 and on into 2015. Initial development of protocols and instructions for an assigned member of ERAC to administer and maintain the webpages and moderate the discussion forum has been completed, with refinement of this product expected to be needed as stakeholders begin using the product.



Charge B3 (Statistical report/fact sheet template development):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** See [Template for generating state-level statistical reports—a product development status update \(October 2014\)](#). After discussion with the Coast Guard, and with intent of making the final product as user-friendly as possible, the charge team is pursuing development of an interface for this report template directly within BARD. Intention is to generate a data-populated, user-editable Microsoft Word version of the report, containing data fields, tables, etc. Coast Guard has agreed to work with the BARD contractor to incorporate this project into their current contract.
- ✓ **Continuing:** Work on the data fields and tables, and development of additional boilerplate narrative for insertion into the template, will continue through 2014. Following final decisions about these aspects, the template’s content will be passed to the Coast Guard to work directly with the BARD contractor. The goal is to have the template built into the system within approximately six months of the team finalizing and turning it over to the Coast Guard.

Charge C1 (Continue assessment of National Recreational Boating Survey):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** See articles from July/August 2014 issue of *Small Craft Advisory* ([Breaking Down the Numbers: A Closer Look at Exposure Hours from the 2012 National Recreational Boating Survey](#); and [Tell Me More about the 2012 NRBS](#)). Additional state-level data (estimates on registered/unregistered boats and exposure hours by boat types) from the 2012 NRBS has been extracted and will be posted to [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) (Charge B2) "Get Equipped" portal. Scheduled general session at the NASBLA annual conference is being developed with an eye toward the limitations of some of this more detailed data as well as the need for stakeholders to engage in the review and understanding of the survey's contents.
- ✓ **Continuing:** Charge team continues to surface issues to explore in the remainder of 2014 and into 2015 and anticipates delivery of additional information to the membership via other forums. Committee is poised to serve the states' interests and provide input to future survey planning, as the opportunity may arise.

Charge C2 (Continue "human factors" work/ application of HFACS-lite):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** See [Human Performance Investigation in Recreational Boating Accidents: Best Practices for Gathering and Examining Human Factors Data](#) package, which includes background and general information on the topic, a supplemental form for collection of relevant data, and details on how best to examine, interpret and use the data collected. The product is presented as a set of "best practices" for officers and investigators in states that want to augment their accident investigations, and assess the prevalence and impact of human factors on accidents within their states.
- ✓ **Continuing:** Materials associated with this product and other human factors related literature will be added to [The NASBLA Lighthouse](#) "Get Equipped" and "Library" portals through the remainder of 2014 and into 2015. Recommendation is that the charge team actively recruit a sample of states willing to employ the tool and follow-up with an examination of data collected.

Charge C3 (Review data collected from United Safe Boating Institute Vessel Safety Check Database):

- ✓ **Activity to date:** Completed review of Vessel Safety Check data collected by the United Safe Boating Institute in comparison with relevant accident data collected in the state of Florida. Findings are currently being assembled into a final report. With release of report, charge will be completed.

Charge D1 ("Triage" emerging recreational boating issues and hot topics)

- ✓ **Activity to date:** See *ERAC Procedure: [Evaluating new and emerging issues/topics proposed for committee action](#)* (v 10092014). Created a framework and set of questions to guide the committee in determining the disposition of various, emerging boating issues and hot topics that arise both mid-charge cycle and as part of the annual solicitation of charges. The resulting procedure is designed to provide committee leadership with guidance in determining the best allocation of time and resources in dealing with these issues. With release of this product, the charge is complete.

Charge D2 (Advanced Spatial Analysis of Accident Risks in Recreational Boating)

- ✓ **Continuing:** Committee remains on standby to review materials from primary researcher, Ernest Marshburn, who anticipates delivery of a final report suitable for distribution to the NASBLA membership in advance of the BLA Workshop scheduled for March 2015.