



**Law Enforcement Training and Certification Committee
2020 - 2021 Committee Charges and Membership**

FINAL REPORT

Jason Luce (ME) – Chair

August 18,2021

NASBLA Enforcement & Training Committee Charter

The Enforcement & Training Committee will work to advance boating safety by researching and disseminating information on new techniques and technologies for marine law enforcement officers; developing training and certification programs; and addressing boating under the influence issues.

These tasks will be addressed through the work of two subcommittees: Training & Certification and Enforcement Techniques & Technology.

Committee 2018 - 2022 Vision Statement:

To assist this committee in charting the necessary building blocks and progressive charges over the next five years, this committee has developed several strategic elements. These elements will become the guideposts in all charges developed over the five-year period. Each committee cycle will define the objectives/charges that will promote the strategic elements and help define the actionable goals for each committee work year.

- 1. Promote the adoption of the BOAT Program in all states and territories.*
- 2. Maintain national training standards and third-party certification and acceptance consistent with and accepted by DHS. Promote those national standards in "all hazards" related legislation.*
- 3. Identify, study, and report to membership on emerging technology and applications for the maritime community of law enforcement and first responders.*
- 4. Assure that marine law enforcement has the tools, information and messaging to reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities within the recreational boating community.*
- 5. Assure that marine law enforcement is trained and ready to ensure the safety and security of America's waterways and maritime community.*

During the 2020-2021 committee cycle there were several leadership changes. Originally appointed to chair this committee cycle, Aaron Kerr (WY) was asked to fill an unexpected vacancy on the Executive Committee. On March 9, 2021 the committee was informed that Aaron would be leaving the committee upon the sudden retirement of Col. Corey Britcher (PA). At that same time Ex-Committee Chairman Tim Dunleavy (NH) appointed Jason Luce (ME) to assume leadership and Chair this committee for the remainder of the committee year.

The committee also lost a key Sub-Committee Chair, Lt. Col. Larry Furlong (PA). Larry was the driving force behind the Training Sub-Committee and our video presentation expert.

A past Chair and BLA member, Adam Gormely was the working group leader for the Engine cut off wear charge. Adam had worked tirelessly in reaching out to those state members, providing information and stimulus to adopt the “wear the ecos” policy for their enforcement officers. Adam retired in March of 2021.

The committee wants to thank these past members for their passion and contributions to this Policy Committee. (Original roster attached)

LE_TC-2021-1 “Operation Dry Water”

“Evaluate and refresh all law enforcement guidance documents and templates being distributed by NASBLA’s Operation Dry Water”.

Sub- Larry Furlong

Chisholm Frampton -Charge Leader

Working Group:(Mitch Strobl, Bryan Baronet, Adam Block
Joe Carro) Taylor Matsko

1. Review campaign resources and website updates.
2. Spotlight on another state agency or participating unit.
3. Check metrics on the awards – are they properly adjusted
4. Timeline check with Hannah on when materials would be ready for review

- ✓ **NEEDS STATEMENT:** Since the start of the Operation Dry Water campaign, recreational boater deaths with alcohol use listed as the primary contributing factor have decreased 27 percent (From 2008 -

2015). It is important for the law enforcement committee to continue to monitor and advise on the ODW campaign to ensure that the needs and wants of those implementing the campaign on the local, state and federal level are being satisfied and the size and impact of the campaign continues to grow nationally.

(NASBLA: 2.1,2.2,3.2) (USCG: Initiative 1)

Deliverables: As in the 2019-2020 committee cycle the enforcement weekend was held in conjunction with the holiday weekend; July 2-4, 2021 The committee working group continued working with the NASBLA ODW Grant Management Team, led by Taylor Matsko and Hannah Helsby in updating, refreshing and reviewing all enforcement support materials.

- ✓ NASBLA's Operation Dry Water received The Association for Association Executives (ASAE) 2020 GOLD WINNER award for excellence by an association's impact nationally. Considered the industry's highest honor, recognize the association community's valuable contributions on the local, national and global levels. The "Power of A Awards" reward represents the outstanding accomplishments of associations and industry professionals who work tirelessly to solve problems, and strengthen lives, the workforce, the economy and the world. [Read more:](#)
- ✓ Several committee members participated in the judging of nominations for the ODW awards program which was expanded last year to include a "Media Award" to recognize the best all-around media outreach campaign running prior to and during the annual Operation Dry Water heightened awareness and enforcement weekend. Any organization or law enforcement agency can compete for this award. Judges will consider all aspects including: content, use of imagery, graphics and video, engagement, presentation, innovation, creativity, originality, use of multiple applications, and impact. The winner will be invited to, and recognized at, the 2021 NASBLA Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2021 judges are: Darren Rider (TN) ,Jason Luce (ME) and Aaron Kerr(WY).
- ✓ For the past four years, Operation Dry Water has released a compilation video that highlights some of the events and media coverage that took place over the three-day weekend. This year, in addition to the full annual compilation video, a couple of shortened, more targeted versions will be composed. The ODW team also released the 2021 Operation Dry Water Law Enforcement Highlight Video. This is a one-minute compilation video highlighting the work and efforts made by the law enforcement officers and agencies that participate in

Operation Dry Water. [Additional enforcement resources](#).

- ✓ Funded through the 2019 ODW grant the new website has lots of tips for boaters [Read more](#). The summer boating safety tips and PSA videos remind boaters of the necessary steps to make sure everyone on board stays safe. The new updated document also includes some new social media posts that can be used by other agencies, organizations or boaters to share at their leisure. [Read more:](#)
- ✓ Initiated during the 2019-2020 committee cycle the committee seeks out an agency that participates actively with ODW to submit an article for the ODW newsletter. Considered a "Spotlight" article the submission highlights the activity and focus the agency brings to curbing BUI activity within their state. This year Ben Meyer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) generously submitted the 2021 "[Spotlight](#)" article.

There will be a focused presentation at the Annual Conference titled: Operation Dry Water 2021 results and new resources for 2022.

<https://www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/home>

[Recommendation for ODW to remain a recurring charge](#)

LE_TC-2021-2 "National Training Survey"

"Design and conduct a national training survey to determine recommendations for the NASBLA BOAT Advisory Board, for new course development in service of the NASBLA membership and the maritime law enforcement community".

Josh Underwood - Charge Leader

Joe Campbell, Aaron Kerr, Anthony Covelli, Mitch Strobl, Jason Beard

Tasks:

1. Really need some new survey questions for 2022 (New members – new ideas)
2. Focus on micro-learning content and new course development.
3. Committee call topic – before Holiday season. – Early December TELCON
4. Dave Considine has a contact that wants to help with Sonar training.

Survey out to membership by January 15th

- ✓ **NEEDS STATEMENT:** A national survey to assess the training needs of NASBLA's membership and the maritime law enforcement and public safety community as a whole is a valued priority. To support elements of the Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan, NASBLA and the BOAT Program's Strategic Plans, a highly trained, qualified and credentialed maritime law enforcement/public safety professional is an important and essential ingredient to our collective success. Training, and the competencies of the professionals that patrol America's waterways, are directly related to the safety, security and recreational enjoyment of those waterways. Results will be forwarded to the BOAT Advisory Board, for action.

(NASBLA: 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.3) (USCG: Initiative 1)

Deliverables: The 2020-2021 National Training Survey was revised and distributed to NASBLA membership, with a disclaimer that if the survey was received by the state BLA, that the survey model should be forwarded to the training supervisor if outside the normal duties of the BLA. [see results](#)

- ✓ The survey results posted on March 16, 2021 revealed very few responses, even after repeated postings. This charge definitely fell victim to survey and virtual meeting overload during the COVID19 pandemic the paralyzed much of NASBLA's policy committee work this cycle.
- ✓ The survey results and internal committee conversations indicated that there remains a strong interest in micro-learning opportunities.
- ✓ Since June of 2021 the NASBLA BOAT Program has seen a tremendous surge in training requests and general interest in training returning and more agencies lift pandemic restrictions. Based on returning interest the committee feels that this charge may be more important than ever moving forward to identify the training needs of NASBLA member agencies.

The National Training Survey should remain a recurring charge

LE_TC-2021-3 Micro-learning development

Identify, produce and publish micro learning modules in alignment with subject matter areas of interest as forward from the results of the National Training Survey.

Larry Furlong- Charge Leader

Wanda Roberts, Andrew Cox, Jason Beard, Mitch Strobl, Taylor Matsko

1. Content ? –Should we use the 2020 survey data?
2. Trailer and boat maintenance
3. How do we get members to film – even iphone footage (Unedited)
4. List to membership with an incentive by January 15th

- ✓ **NEEDS STATEMENT:** As more law enforcement agencies employ and expand their mission and response requirements, it has been recognized as a critical need for the law enforcement committee to identify and compile the “best practices” elements for development into a national training curriculum for marine officers. It is imperative that officers have quick and easy access to short crisp modules of learning to pinpoint their training needs. The goal of this committee will be to keep pace with areas of subject matter micro learning topics, producing a full catalog of topics as refresher or new areas of learning for the maritime officer.

(NASBLA: 2.6, 3.1) (USCG: Initiative 1)

Deliverables: The 2020-2021 committee working group led by Larry Furlong (PA) defined a list of topics based on a member survey. The topics were released to member states, who responded in submitting 12 new micro learning videos.

- ✓ The working group established a contest as motivation for video submissions, four finalists were selected to be voted on by the entire committee. The winner and runner-up will receive gift cards donated by an associate member of this committee; Mitch Strobl from Kalkomey Enterprises. The finalists and winners will be highlighted at the annual conference as a portion of the 2021 Enforcement and Training Committee report.
- ✓ All the mico-learning videos submitted will be posted on the NASBLA website under the 2021 Enforcement and Training Committee products tab. They will also be hosted on NASBLA’s web [eLearning](#) site.
- ✓ Below are the topics identified by the committee this cycle, those **highlighted** were submitted.

Micro-learning Video Topics:
Servicing trailer bearings
Care & maintenance of a trailer
Care & maintenance of lights

Care & maintenance of safety chains
Care & maintenance of bunks
Care & maintenance of wheels & tires
Care & maintenance of changing tube in grease gun
Vessel start up procedures – Electronics
Wireless kill switches – use and testing
Inflatable life jacket maintenance
Re-charge a type 5 inflatable
Small engine maintenance - impellers
Small engine maintenance - lower unit oil changes
Small engine maintenance - propeller changes
Small engine maintenance - locking bracket while towing
Winterization for outboards
Daily boat checks, prior to departure
Rigging a tow line - Y-shaped harness
Rigging a tow line - Float to keep line out of prop
Placing a suspect in a life jacket with handcuffs
Placing a suspect in a life jacket without handcuffs
Operating at night – 360 degree circle of light
Tying knots
Wireless kill switches – Technology

The Micro-Learning Charge should remain a recurring charge

LE_TT-2021-1 “Cut-Off Switch Wear”

“Evaluate the current number of marine law enforcement agencies within member organizations who have adopted a mandatory engine cut-off switch wear policy. Once a full understanding of agencies/organizations with a wear policy is obtained, the committee and the Techniques & Technology Subcommittee shall develop guidance for law enforcement to increase wear rates.”

Adam Gormely- Charge Leader

Jason Luce, Joe Campbell, Larry Meddock, Jason Beard

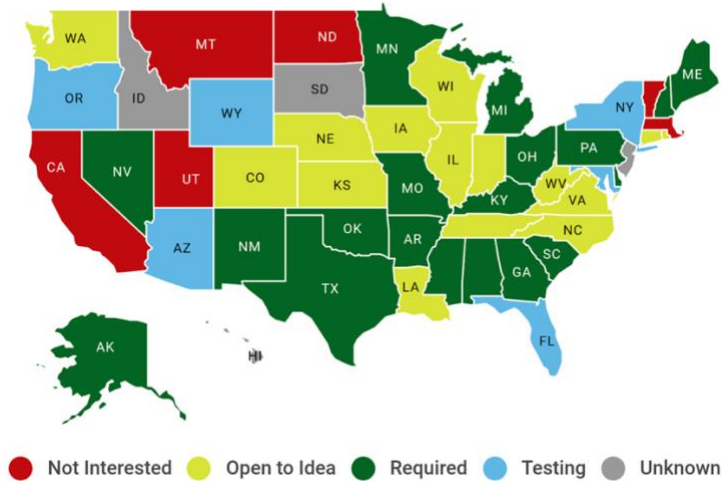
1. Establish states that need to be on the 2021 call list.
2. Make state assignments to the Workgroup ---
3. Marketing resources inventory – incorporate into basic training

- ✓ **NEEDS STATEMENT:** Use of engine cut-off switches (ECOS) has been proven to aid in reducing and preventing both injuries and deaths within the boating community. Compliance in the use of ECOS devices remains low. It is the purpose of the law enforcement committee to gather information on compliance rates, policy mandates, and other relevant data just to assist law enforcement agencies with the development of policies and procedures for ECOS wear by officers while underway.
The goal is to enhance officer safety as well as promote usage within the recreational boating community by example unless or until compliance is required by legislation.

(NASBLA: 3.1, 5.3) (USCG; Initiative 1)

Deliverables: The states were surveyed this cycle to determine any gains, regarding ecos wear policies. The [survey results](#) were shared with the working group on February 23, 2021. The survey model included the recent federal requirement on ECOS wear as a part of the national defense bill which took effect on April 1, 2021.

- ✓ As with several other areas severely impacted by the COVID19 pandemic, this survey fell victim to very few responses and many comments that members were sick of surveys and virtual meetings. In fact 87.5% of respondents said they were sick of surveys and wanted an alternative way to gather information.
- ✓ With the promise of a BLA Workshop in 2022, this committee would like to hold a work session on ECOS wear and provide members with model policy recommendations to capture more state support for ecos wear by enforcement officers
- ✓ The ECOS map remains unchanged from the 2019-2020 committee efforts.



This charge should be re-defined and recognized as a recurring charge

LE_TT-2021-2 " Model Act for Towed Water Sports"

"Evaluate and update NASBLA's Model Act on Towed Water Sports"

Conduct an evaluation of the towed watersports activity, **inclusive of wake generated activities**, as it has evolved and make recommendation to NASBLA membership concerning any modifications need to the existing 2007 Model Act on Best Practices.

1. Add Cody as a consultant
2. BLA – Solicitation for input on wake generated activities.
3. Check on Randy Henry and Eric Lundin

- ✓ **Needs Statement:** *Given industry and legislative changes and innovations have elevated the watersports industry and participants to a point that the NASBLA 2007 Model Act titles "Safe Practices for Boat-towed watersports" should be revisited and revised if needed.*

(NASBLA: 2.6, 3.2, 4.2, 5.3) (USCG: Initiative 2)

Larry Meddock - Charge Leader
Aaron Kerr, Bryan Baronet, Adam Block

Deliverable: The Working Group and committee accepted the recommendation of the NASBLA Executive Committee to re-visit and craft wake generated activities into the Model Act.

- ✓ The definition of "Wake Surfing" was added into the definitions section of the model act.
- ✓ Under the "NO BOAT OPERATOR SHALL" section wake generated activities were addressed
- ✓ The DRAFT Model Act was passed to the Ex-Committee for their review on July 7, 2021
- ✓ Draft Model Act attached

This charge has been completed

ORIGINAL COMMITTEE ROSTER

2020 –Enforcement, Training and Certification Committee Membership				
Name	Position	Agency	Email	Phone
Aaron Kerr	CHAIR	WY Game and Fish	aaron.kerr@wyo.gov	307.233.6413
Jason Luce	V-CHAIR	Maine Warden Service	Jason.luce@maine.gov	207.557.0817
Larry Furlong	Sub-Chair Training	PA Fish & Boat Commission	lfurlong@pa.gov	717.705.7861
Brooke Mitchell	Sub-Chair TECH	DE - DNR	Brooke.mitchell@dnr.de.us	302.382.7167
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