

# Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

## Committee Charter

Recognizing that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, the Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee works to advance boating safety by analyzing and advocating for thorough and precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration to titling.

Subcommittees for 2018 are Numbering & Titling Subcommittee and the Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee.

### Darren Rider, Chair

Tennessee Wildlife Resources  
[Mike.england@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Mike.england@dnr.ga.gov)  
615-781-6669

Rick Barrera, Staff  
NASBLA  
859.225.9487  
740-503-0364 (Cell)  
[Rick@nasbla.org](mailto:Rick@nasbla.org)

### VIS Sub-Committee Chair

Brenda Verner  
PA Fish & Boat Commission  
[Brenda@pa.gov](mailto:Brenda@pa.gov)  
717-705-7938

### Associate Members

Jack Ellis, Info-Link  
[Jack@info-link.com](mailto:Jack@info-link.com)  
305-661-3030

Libby Yranski, NMMA  
[Lyranski@nmma.org](mailto:Lyranski@nmma.org)  
202-737-9766

### Caroline Mantel, Vice Chair

Boat History Report  
[Caroline@boathistoryreport.com](mailto:Caroline@boathistoryreport.com)  
1-800-441-7599, ext. 199

### Numbering & Titling Subcommittee Chair

Kem Kirk  
Ohio DNR, Division of Watercraft  
[Kemmeth.Kirk@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Kemmeth.Kirk@dnr.state.oh.us)  
614-265-6499

Kenton Turner, Board Liaison  
Indiana DNR Law Enforcement  
[kturner@dnr.in.gov](mailto:kturner@dnr.in.gov)  
317-232-0935

### Associate Members

Caroline Mantel, Boat History Report  
[Caroline@boathistoryreport.com](mailto:Caroline@boathistoryreport.com).  
1-800-441-7599, ext. 199

Jeff Decker, Representative  
U.S. Coast Guard  
[Jeffrey.e.decker@uscg.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.e.decker@uscg.mil)  
202-372-1507

## **Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee**

### **5-YEAR PLANNING GOALS**

1. Have a universal Title Act in place based on the work of NCCUSL with an objective of 10% of the states or territories adopting [some form of] the Title Act into their vessel title laws.
2. Work with non-title states and territories in the adoption of vessel titling with a goal of adding more states and/or territories onto the list of those that title vessels.
3. Assist states with planning for implementation of required changes to Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Reporting Database.
4. Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to National Vessel Documentation Center for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professional's community.
5. Review the process of VIS, from becoming a member to the overall usage of the program, and make recommendations to strengthen its value as a resource to the states. Obtain a goal of adding 5 to 10 more states to the membership in 5 years.

## **Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee**

### **Numbering & Titling**

#### State Members:

Kem Kirk, OH – Chair  
[Kemmeth.Kirk@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Kemmeth.Kirk@dnr.state.oh.us)  
614-265-6499

Denise Peterson, CA  
[Denise.Peterson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Denise.Peterson@parks.ca.gov)  
916-327-1822

Vicki Rhodes, DE  
[Vicki.rhodes@state.de.us](mailto:Vicki.rhodes@state.de.us)  
302-739-9916

April Hughes, AZ  
[Ahughes@azgfd.gov](mailto:Ahughes@azgfd.gov)  
623-236-7404

Kathy Lubold, MA  
[Kathy.lubold@state.ma.us](mailto:Kathy.lubold@state.ma.us)  
508-679-8287

Julie Aronow, TX  
[Julie.Aronow@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Julie.Aronow@tpwd.texas.gov)  
512-389-4860

The Numbering & Titling Subcommittee works and advocates for uniformity in the vessel registration and titling process. Areas of focus for the subcommittee include the Standard Numbering System, the Uniform Certificate of Title Act (UCOTVA), titling systems, and collection and dissemination of data on state numbering and titling.

#### **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-1**

Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to **National Vessel Documentation Center** for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professionals' community.

#### **Charge Leader:**

**Team Member(s):**

**Needs Statement:** When a vessel is documented by the NVDC, states need to be notified it has been documented in order to update their registration/titling records. By notifying the state this will alleviate registrations/titles not be cancelled in a state when a vessel is documented and will allow states to keep a more accurate record of vessels nationwide. VIRT recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data.

**Projected Deliverable:** **Documentation Center would be able to notify the States when a vessel is documented.**

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-2**

Assist the states and work with NCCUSL through their Enactment Committee, with promoting and supporting adoption of the **Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act**. Review resources on the NCCUSL website and suggest updates as needed. Identify new support materials needed and produce as necessary. Increase access and visibility of the NCCUSL website and all available resources for NASBLA members.

**Charge Leader: Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report)**

**Team Member(s): Eric Lundin (CT), Libby Yranski (NMMA)**

**Needs Statement:** Supporting UCOTVA is essential in making changes to positively influence consumer safety by creating consistency among states in regards to titling and identifying vessels that have been deemed unsafe, preventing them from being sold without disclosure. By having the support of the VIRT Committee, we are able to brainstorm potential sponsors within states and assist NCCUSL by identifying more productive points of contact and feedback. Members of VIRT can also help identify what the specific hesitations are within registration and titling departments in order to try and overcome those objections more quickly. VIRT recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, and UCOTVA helps to ensure that vessels chain of ownership is kept intact from owner to owner and state to state.

**Projected Deliverable: Status of each state in pursuing the adoption.**

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-3**

Expand the use and development of educational products to inform states and their agents about **HIN Validation**. Revise and promote the use of the “HIN Verification & Validation” Power Point that was developed in 2016 and revised in 2017 as a “Registration & Titling 101” educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling personnel.

Develop resources to assist states in setting up a **HIN Validation system** to prepare for the implementation of the regulatory changes in the Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Report Database. Final Rule issued March 28, 2012. Deadline for states to begin HIN Validation is January 1, 2017.

**Charge Leader: Kem Kirk (OH)**

**Team Member(s): April Hughes (AZ), Jack Ellis (Info-Link), Phil Cappel & Jeff Decker (USCG)**

**Needs Statement:** By providing training and implementation of this educational HIN PowerPoint tool to all States, each state will be able to provide the identical vessel information to all federal/state agents and law enforcement throughout the United States. Furthermore, implementation and training of the HIN PowerPoint will prepare and assist each state for the regulatory VIS changes that will be taking place.

**Projected Deliverable: Update the HIN Verification & Validation PowerPoint that was developed in 2016.**

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-4**

Develop **online community** through NASBLA Connect to expand and facilitate discussions about recreational boating numbering and titling issues and resolutions with agencies and personnel involved in this field of work. Annually appoint from VIRT a member who will coordinate with NASBLA staff person details associated with and management of the community.

**Charge Leader:**

**Team Member(s):** **Kathy LuBold (MA), Denise Peterson (CA)**

**Needs Statement:** An online community through NASBLA Connect will assist states with various questions on Numbering and Titling. It is currently populated with information on assisting the states with the implementation of the USCG's SNS, VIS and BARD requirements effective 1/1/17. It will be used as a resource for various information and house the products that the VIRT committee has developed such as current information on states registration fees, the states participating in VIS, and best practices.

**Projected Deliverable:** **Continue to populate the VIRT Committee Connect Library with resources in the library function.**

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-5**

Develop an online reference where states can go to find **current registration fees**, including titling fees. This should also include documented vessel fees for each state. Finalize and update the current registration fees and post to NASBLA Connect.

**Charge Leader:** **April Hughes (AZ)**

**Team Member(s):** **Kathy LuBold (MA), Kem Kirk (OH), Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report)**

**Needs Statement:** The following charge is to create a tool for states to benchmark other states registration and titling fees. We plan on putting this information into NASBLA Connect for states to view. We also want to develop a plan so the states may update their information when needed.

**Projected Deliverable:** **Revise & update the current registration fees, post it on NASBLA Connect, figure out how to have states update (notify) of changes.**

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-6**

Revise the draft of VIRT NASBLA "Best Practices Document" that indicates states should notify other states when a vessel is registered if it has been previously registered in another state.

**Charge Leader:**

**Team Member(s):**

**Needs Statement:** This is a national issue. If a state does not notify a state when a vessel is registered and it has been registered in another state previously, change of ownership issues arise immediately with not only the registration but also with the title if a title state is involved.

**Project Deliverable:** VIRT Surveys in the past indicate that only 14 states or so currently do this. Develop a "Best Practice Document" for states to use for program uniformity.

## **VIRT\_N&T\_2018-6**

Legacy HIN Documentation & Best Practice

**Charge Leader:**

**Team Member(s):**

**Needs Statement:** This is a national issue. First collect and analyze policy each state implements for "Legacy HIN" in regards to documenting HIN within state registration database, as well as placement of "secondary" or state assigned HIN (i.e. is state assigned HIN placed over, or in addition to legacy HIN on vessel). Then create a "Best Practice" for states to use as a guideline going forward. Additionally, we will need to come up with a way to include the legacy HIN on interstate documents to ensure the original HIN is not lost and is available for agencies/individuals investigating the history of the vessel (i.e. law enforcement, insurance companies, potential owners, etc.) This is important to ensure the history of the vessel is not lost, and to help prevent stolen vessels being registered across state borders.

**Project Deliverable:** VIRT will create a survey to find out the current state policies. VIRT will also follow up with USCG to find out what the official USCG guideline is.

**Product:** Approval by Executive Board of the "Best Practices Document for Legacy HIN" for states to use in program uniformity.

## **Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee**

### **VIS Subcommittee**

#### **State Members**

Brenda Verner, PA – Chair  
[Bverner@pa.gov](mailto:Bverner@pa.gov)  
717-705-7438

Paula Lannen, NV  
[Plannen@ndow.org](mailto:Plannen@ndow.org)  
775-688-1983

Eric Lundin, CT  
[Eric.Lundin@ct.gov](mailto:Eric.Lundin@ct.gov)  
860-424-4155

Jennifer Doering, WY  
[Jennifer.Doering@wyo.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Doering@wyo.gov)  
307-777-4517

The Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee works to assist the Coast Guard and the states with implementation of the Vessel Identification System and to provide guidance resources for states as they join and implement the VIS.

#### **VIRT\_VIS\_2018-1**

Provide support for **states participating in VIS**. Identify and address barriers to participation for non-participating states. Identify a most wanted list of states the committee would like to focus on getting enrolled in VIS. Hold a VIS Session at the spring BLA workshop.

##### **Charge leader:**

**Team Member(s): Brenda Verner (PA)**

**Needs Statement:** It is important that as many states as possible be enrolled in the system so that states can identify vessels for marine theft, registration, and titling purposes. There is a continued need to educate states on the VIS program availability, enrollment, and data safety.

**Projected Deliverable: Identify which states are not participating. Contact BLA of states that are not participating. Conduct a VIS Session at the Spring BLA Workshop.**

#### **VIRT\_VIS\_2018-2**

Working with the Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, identify a minimum of two **performance metrics** states can use to evaluate registration and titling programs. Assess individual state performance based on these metrics. Once finalized, these performance measures to be sent to all state BLA's and R & T contacts. Work with states not using "best practices" to increase their performance measurement on these metrics by implementing the identified best practices.

##### **Charge Leader: Eric Lundin (CT)**

**Team Member(s): Brenda Verner (PA),**

**Needs Statement:** This charge asks all states to answer a registration survey to determine if the states submit Interstate Vessel Registration information to each other, and how often. Best practices for this information sharing will be determined from the survey, and will be shared on the NASBLA Connect platform for the benefit of all member states.

**Projected Deliverable: Keep same as 2017 – send out another survey for 2017. Developing strategies to get response from state who do not answer. Post the results to NASBLA Connect.**

#### **VIRT\_VIS\_2018-3**

Working with the Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, review “**Measures of Statistics and Program Uniformity**” for other government programs. Identify a minimum of two measures of program uniformity for states in registering and titling vessels. Assess states based on these measures of program uniformity. Once finalized and approved by Executive Board, these performance measures to be sent to all state BLA’s and R & T contacts. Work with states not using “best practices” to increase program uniformity between the states.

**Charge Leader:**

**Team Member(s): Eric Lundin (CT), Brenda Verner (PA),**

**Needs Statement:** This charge asks all states to answer a survey to see if the states have or will adopt UCOTA and to find out what format each state uses to assign a State Hull ID Number. Answers from the survey will be shared on the NASBLA Connect platform for the benefit of all member states. Work with the states that need to improve consistency among all states.

**Projected Deliverable: Keep same as 2017 – send out another survey for 2018. Developing strategies to get response from states who do not answer. Post the results to NASBLA Connect.**

#### **VIRT\_VIS\_2018-4**

Work with U.S. Coast Guard on providing comments and recommendations on a new form for the “**Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats**” that would comply with the implementation of the regulatory changes in the Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Report Database, that goes into effect January 1, 2017.

**Charge Leader: Vicki Rhodes (DE)**

**Team Member(s): Jack Ellis (Info-Link),**

**Needs Statement:** With the “new” Numbering Standards imposed by the US Coast Guard, the States have to have a “new” Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats” to capture the information on the changes that have been made to description of the boats being registered. Information has been added and some has been deleted, so the old form does not match the information the States are now collecting.

**Projected Deliverable: Revised “Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats” form.**