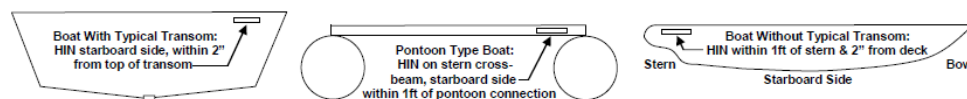


Date of manufacture or certification: Month (per above table) and last digit of calendar year (Example: F9 for June 2019).
Model year: Last two digits of the model year which may begin as of June 1st and must be implemented by July 31st. **You have a two-month window to change the model year.** For example: model year 2021 can begin any time after June 1, 2020 and remain in effect until July 31, 2021.

Example HIN Locations:



VIRT Welcome Aboard

Quick Reference Guide



Developed by the NASBLA Vessel Identification Registration & Titling Committee

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New Member Name_____ Email_____

Phone No._____ VIRT Assigned Mentor _____

VIRT Mentor Email_____ VIRT Mentor Phone No._____

Date Assigned_____

Welcome to NASBLA's VIRT Committee. We look forward to a great year of committee work ahead and we greatly appreciate your interest and willingness to volunteer your time and share your expertise as we move forward in this new committee year. We look forward to working with you to ensure the VIRT Committee continues to conduct work that is meaningful to the members of NASBLA and to develop products that will help advance recreational boating safety and programs.

State registration & titling (R & T) personnel work for a state agency to help meet the U.S. Coast Guard grant requirements for each state to deliver the requirements of states' numbering & titling of recreational vessels. R & T personnel can be located in a state's bureau of motor vehicles (BMV), Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) or Parks & Recreation just to name a few. A state R & T contact person may or may not report to the state boating law administrator (BLA).

Purpose: The VIRT committee meets once a year in person and monthly via teleconference to discuss issues and ideas amongst the committee. This onboarding document is intended to assist new members in "catching up to speed" on myriad topics that have been covered by VIRT in the past and presently. In addition, there are numerous policies, laws and documents that guide our processes and shape our decisions. This document will provide you an overview of these resources.

Process: Each new member will receive a copy of this onboarding document and will have a mentor assigned with their contact information. The mentor will be the principal person to work with you while you go through this document and will assist you on questions. The mentor will be responsible for setting up virtual or teleconference meeting dates and monitor progress to ensure completion in a timely manner. NASBLA understands that we all have other duties, but it is expected that this document is to be completed within a month of being issued. If an extension is required, please work with your mentor. Mentors will advise VIRT leadership of any extensions that may be needed.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)

NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

Mission Statement:

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) is a professional community leading recreational boating safety through innovation and collaboration for excellence in policy development, national standards, and best practices.

[NASBLA](#) is governed by an [executive board](#) consisting of a chair, vice chair, treasurer, and four additional board members. Each member is passionate about boating safety and is using his or her term in office as an opportunity to help further NASBLA's mission in support of safe, enjoyable, and secure boating.



BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (BLAs)

What is a BLA?

BLAs are the state officials responsible for administration and enforcement of state boating laws. BLAs reflect their state/agency and its mission(s). They range from field law enforcement officers, education officers to chief executives of entire departments.

CONTACTS

The following link is to all the states BLA's, Law Enforcement, Education, Public Information and Registration & Titling contacts to keep in touch with other state boating program professionals.

<https://www.nasbla.org/about-nasbla/boating-contacts>

REGISTRATION & TITLING DASHBOARD

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/nasbla-resources/registrationdashboards>

RBS DASHBOARD

The Recreational Boating Safety Dashboards has been developed under USCG grant funding. Dashboards are interactive and cover a variety of national and state data.

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/nasbla-resources/rbsdashboards>



[Boating Education](#)



[BUI Enforcement](#)



[Incident Analysis](#)



[Life Jackets](#)



[Paddlesports](#)



[Registration & Titling](#)



[State Law Information](#)



[State Performance Data](#)



Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

NASBLA COMMITTEES

NASBLA employs a committee structure to identify issues and address needs in the recreational boating safety public policy realm. NASBLA's committees function as the primary source, sounding board and national policy-setting forum for each of the significant program areas addressed in the [National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan](#). These committees develop best management practices, model procedures, model acts, position papers and other products.

The committees also play an important role with respect to shaping a national response to a given challenge, problem, or issue. Some issues impacting boating safety and security are resolved simply through open discussion and the exchange of ideas and experience. On the other end of the spectrum, more entrenched or long-term challenges may ultimately require a statutory or regulatory response to affect the desired outcome. NASBLA committees help the Coast Guard and other policymakers determine the appropriate response.

In addition to the state boating agency members, the committees include broad representation from recreational boating professionals throughout the boating industry, the nonprofit sector, international interests, the boating public, and federal and local agencies.

Signing up for committees usually happens in July. If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact the NASBLA staff person, committee chair, or let your state's boating law administrator know of your interest.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/committees>

Education & Outreach Committee

The Education and Outreach Committee provides guidance, support, and expertise to advance boating safety, develop national education, and outreach program recommendations.

Program recommendations include:

- Advancing the strategic plans of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and NASBLA;
- Incorporating best practices and current research;
- Supporting the implementation of national standards for boating education;
- Identifying effective innovations in education and outreach;
- Developing communication strategies using targeted marketing and educational tactics;
- Connecting the public, member organizations and stakeholders with the products of the committee and others.

Education and Outreach Committee members are assembled into project teams, taking the lead on specific, assigned charges in four categories, and completing significant monitoring and resource activities. The bulk of committee activities are conducted online and via teleconference.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/education-outreach>

Enforcement & Training Committee

This committee works 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 promoting reciprocity through the advancement of uniform boating laws nationwide.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/enforcement>

Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee (ERAC)

ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating incidents used to inform the development of state- and national-level safety policies, programs, and campaigns; and, ultimately, be used to measure their effectiveness.

To ensure the results of boating incident research and analyses are valid and reliable, ERAC also actively seeks ways to advance the quality, relevance, accuracy, consistency, applicability, and completeness of the data and information.

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

Finance & Grants Committee

The Finance and Grants Committee focuses on best practices and resources for state Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) grants management and financial interactions with the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/finance-grants>

Paddlesports Committee

NASBLA's Paddlesports Committee provides a venue for a diverse group of stakeholders to engage with NASBLA members in productive dialogue to find actionable opportunities to partner and promote paddlesports while growing a culture of safety across the United States so that over time the incidence of incidents and injuries declines even while participation increases.

The committee strives to develop recommendations and work products to the NASBLA membership based on the best data available and professional judgment of its diverse members.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/paddlesports>

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

Mission

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

The VIRT committee was established by NASBLA to provide unifying guidance to all 56 states and territories, in conjunction with the U.S Coast Guard, so that titling and registration on a national level is conducted in a standardized fashion. This is especially important for vessels since so many are used and sold across state lines.

Think of VIRT as a brain trust comprised of members who are experts in their respective fields willing to share their experience and guidance to help further this goal. Through VIRT's efforts, the committee helps significantly reduced the amount of time that the 56 different states and territories may otherwise have to spend addressing similar challenges on their own and perhaps just as importantly, the committee provides informed guidance that encourages uniformity across the nation.

Membership and Leadership

The VIRT Committee consist of volunteers from state and federal agencies as well as representatives from the general recreational boating industry, all of whom have chosen to share their expertise and unique perspectives to further VIRT's mission. One of the reasons the committee has been so successful over the past couple of decades is due to its membership diversity, so new ideas and perspectives are openly encouraged.

The committee has a committee chair who is responsible for overseeing committee activities and leading committee meetings. There is also a NASBLA staff member, who assists the committee chair and manages committee communications. A member of the NASBLA Executive Board serves as a liaison with the VIRT Committee.

Charges

Each year, the VIRT Committee works on a set of charges (task assignments) that have been approved by NASBLA's Executive Board. Some are carryover charges from prior years and others are new. You can find this year's charges along with previous year's charges at:

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/advocacy/vessel-id-registration/charges-products-reports>. A full listing of the VIRT Committee's Model Acts, Best Practices and Resources can be located at:
<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/vessel-id-registration>.

It is highly suggested that you visit the [HIN Validation & Verification PowerPoint](#) as this document is a visual representation of the USCG Boating Safety Division's HIN Policy to the states.

<https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/vessel-id-registration>

BOAT OPERATIONS AND TRAINING (BOAT) PROGRAM

The Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program establishes a U.S. Coast Guard recognized national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of marine law enforcement and emergency first responders. Adoption and implementation of the program provides a national standard for maritime interoperability at all government levels. Standardization ensures maritime agencies can interact together and will bolster their ability to act as force multipliers nationwide. Adapted from the U.S. Coast Guard's Boat Forces training framework, the BOAT Program is comprised of vital maritime training and management components.

<https://www.nasbla.org/training/boat>

NATIONAL BOATING STANDARDS PANEL

The National Boating Education Standards, adopted by NASBLA in 1999, are intended to prescribe the minimum body of knowledge to effect safe, legal, and enjoyable recreational boating and to serve as a basis for boating education courses approved by NASBLA and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. The process for development of American National Standards is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). NASBLA was recognized as an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer in 2014.

National Boating Education Standards - <https://www.nasbla.org/education/national-ed-standards>

Boating Standards Panel - <https://www.nasbla.org/advocacy/national-boating-standards-panel>

CERTIFIED RECREATIONAL BOATING PROFESSIONAL(CRBP)

The Certified Recreational Boating Professional (CRBP) certification is a voluntary credential for recreational boating professionals offered by NASBLA. The credential is broad-based and addresses boating professionals' knowledge, performance and career achievements in the identified program domains. Individuals who wish to pursue the credential must meet program eligibility requirements and pass various assessments.

<https://www.nasbla.org/training/crbp>



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The NASBLA RBS Leadership Academy is designed to create learning opportunities where participants experience events with others, actively participate in dialogue, visually see examples, and connect with peers as a cohort learning.

This program seeks to develop a broad understanding of our diverse community while offering unparalleled opportunity to interact with other new BLAs and those in leadership roles from a wide variety of backgrounds. NASBLA RBS Leadership Academy graduates will be well-prepared for service and leadership within their state, NASBLA and the National Recreational Boating Safety Community.

<https://www.nasbla.org/events/leadership-academy>

NASBLA APPROVED BOATING COURSES

All NASBLA approved course must meet the ANSI/NASBLA Basic Boating Knowledge Standards. These standards define general, entry-level knowledge a boater should possess for safe recreational boat operation. This consensus-based standard is designed to support course providers and raise the overall level of quality, availability, and consistency of instruction in entry-level recreational boater knowledge. This standard functions within a national system of standards for recreational boat operation.

About the course approval process: <https://www.nasbla.org/education/nasbla-course-approval>

Approved NASBLA Courses:

<https://idash.nasbla.net/idashboards/viewer/?guestuser=guest&dashID=233&c=0&NRD=True>

SEAL OF SAFE BOATING

The Seal of Safe Boating Practices recognizes boating media that adhere to the highest standards in quality boating safety information. NASBLA feels it is important to provide recognition and endorsement for worthy boating publications, videos, brochures, and other media. Due to the nature of the products, boating safety courses are not eligible for the Seal of Safe Boating Practices.

<https://www.nasbla.org/education/seal>

STATE GRANTS

To encourage greater state participation and uniformity in boating safety efforts, and particularly to permit the states to assume the greater share of boating safety education, assistance, and enforcement activities, the U.S. Coast Guard carries out a national recreational boating safety program. Under this program the Coast Guard allocates and distributes grants to eligible States to assist them in developing, carrying out, and financing state recreational boating safety programs.

<https://uscgboating.org/grants/state-grants.php>

BASECAMP

Basecamp is a robust project management site which allows committees to collaborate on work projects. Messages are posted and directly distributed to all assigned to a specific charge or project. They also remain posted as easy to find project references. Access to Basecamp is through committee participation.

NASBLA CONNECT

NASBLA Connect is NASBLA's online community. Members use Connect to connect and network with other professionals in recreational boating, ask questions and seek advice, and share knowledge and work with others. <https://community.nasbla.org/home>

NASBLA AWARDS

NASBLA recognizes outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions to recreational boating safety through its award program. The program has a number of awards to recognize those who make an impact on recreational boating safety and security.

NASBLA WEEKLY

[NASBLA Weekly](#) is a weekly electronic newsletter. Each issue contains updates about NASBLA, information about recreational boating safety and maritime law enforcement, as well as recently published articles relevant to members. To subscribe to NASBLA Weekly, visit <http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?nasbla>.

STATE BOATING LAWS

The Reference Guide to State Boating Laws summarizes information gathered in the research of states' boating laws. Presented as dashboards, the guide assists state boating law administrators and others to improve state boating laws and programs. It provides information about specific state boating laws, regulations, and other areas of boating safety interest.. Topics covered include boating education, operator age, water skiing, boat noise, numbering & titling, personal watercraft, boating under the influence, personal flotation devices and more.

<https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/nasbla-resources/statelawdashboards>



U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division is made up of three branches. The primary funding for this division is through a national trust fund called the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (SFRBT). Additional information regarding this fund can be found on the National Marine Manufacturing Association's (NMMA) website.

Each branch of the division has a unique function.

BSX-21 is the Program and Operations Management Branch, also known as the State Compliance Branch, and is responsible for the programmatic oversight of the trust fund money allotted to the states and nonprofit grant recipients to ensure the proper use of grant funds for boating safety programs and administration.

BSX-22 is the Grants Management Branch and is responsible for the oversight of the financial aspects of the SFRBT fund as well as the oversight of the nonprofit awarding of grant funds and their administration. The U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division is dedicated to reducing the loss of life, injuries, and property damage that occurs on U.S. Waterways by improving the knowledge, skills, and abilities of recreational boaters. To be eligible to participate in the state RBS grant program, a state recreational boating safety program must have these five approved components:

- A vessel numbering system;
- A cooperative boating safety assistance program with the Coast Guard;
- Sufficient patrol to enforce laws and regulations;
- A state boating safety education program; and
- A marine casualty reporting system

The purpose of the program is outlined in Title 46 U.S.Code. as follows:

Section 13102(a): "To encourage greater State participation and uniformity in boating safety efforts, and particularly to permit the states to assume the greater share of boating safety education, assistance, and enforcement activities, the Secretary shall carry out a national recreational boating safety program. Under this program, the Secretary shall make contracts with, and allocate and distribute amounts to, eligible States to assist them in developing, carrying out, and financing State recreational boating safety programs".

BSX-23 is the Product Assurance Branch and oversees the safe construction and recalls of recreational boats. Additionally, this branch manages the Manufacturer Identification Code (MIC) issuance. Currently, you can find a wealth of information on these two websites: www.uscgboating.org and www.safeafloat.com. The USCG boating website is updated daily and is the location for states to validate the MICs.

Policies - The Coast Guard frequently drafts policies to clarify existing federal regulations. A common saying within the VIRT committee is, “innovation outpaces regulation;” and because of this we need to sometimes figure out how a new product fits into a particular regulation. Changing regulations is a lengthy process, so in the short term, the Coast Guard drafts policies to clarify and to unify its’ position. These policy documents can be found [here](#).

Below are a few USCG policies to be familiar with:

- Vessels Powered by Personal Watercraft 2019
- Recreational Boat Exemptions & Equivalencies
- Safe Loading, Safe Powering and Flotation Compliance Guidance
- Boat Test Procedures for Outboard Boats Greater Than 2 HP
- Hull Identification Numbers for Paddleboards and Kiteboards 2017
- Parameters for Determining Whether a “Paddleboard” is a Vessel 2008

The Coast Guard’s quarterly Boating Safety Circulars can also help guide your way through the inevitable obstacles of vessel titling and registration. While there are many, here are a few examples pertinent to titling and registration discussion. These can be found on the uscgboating.org website at this link: [Boating Safety Circulars \(uscgboating.org\)](#) and are:

- Kit Boats, BSC articles 85 and 87
- Bare Hulls BSC article 93

STRATEGIC PLAN

The USCG Boating Safety Division has produced a national strategic plan for the RBS program. This plan covers three key initiatives:

Initiative 1 – Improve and expand recreational boating education, training, and outreach.

Initiative 2 – Update, leverage, enforce policies, regulations, and standards.

Initiative 3 – Improve upon and expand recreational boating data collection and research.

A copy of the [2022-2026 National Recreational Boating Safety Program Strategic Plan](#) is available on the Coast Guard’s website.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Established by Congress in 1939 under [title 14, §§ 23](#) of the U.S. Code, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is Semper Paratus (Always Ready).

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary operates in any mission as directed by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard or Secretary of Homeland Security.

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

Laws

46 USC Chapter 43

[46 U.S. Code Chapter 43 - RECREATIONAL VESSELS](#)

Most of Title 46 U.S.C Chapter 43 (Recreational Boats) is good to read and understand; however, some of the more important takeaways are found in sections 4301, 4302, 4306 and 4307. In addition, to [Title 1 U.S.C. §3](#) provides the definition for the term “vessel” and it is used frequently within the USCG and VIRT.

33 CFR Subchapter S

[33 CFR Subchapter S - BOATING SAFETY | CFR | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute \(cornell.edu\)](#)

While certain sections apply to state representatives, within 33 CFR Subchapter S more than others, it is important to understand that many of these regulations are connected to other regulations within this subchapter. VIRT recommends becoming very familiar with 33 CFR parts 173, 174 and 181 as these apply frequently to discussions within the VIRT Committee. Other sections of 33 CFR, such as part 179-Defect Notification, and part 183-Boats and Associated Equipment, are filled with technical testing procedures and boat building requirements. Although these parts probably do not apply to most state titling and registration offices, they provide good reference for your customers. The VIRT Committee does not expect you to have a detailed understating of parts 179 and 183, but a general overview of what subsections are covered is suggested.

Other Policies and Guidance-

One important document to be aware of is the Supreme Court Ruling on [Lozman v. Riviera Beach](#). This ruling helps clarify differences between a floating home and a houseboat. Yes, there’s a difference and the Supreme Court has made a decision on this. It is important to you because you will need to understand this as a member of the VIRT Committee and you may need to help your state understand it when revising or adding language to your state statutes.

ACRONYMS ABOARD

Use this list to decode what we are saying.

Acronym	Organization	Website
AAMVA	American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	https://www.aamva.org/
ABA	American Bar Association	https://www.americanbar.org/
ABC	America's Boating Club (formerly USPS)	https://americasboatingclub.org/
ABYC	American Boat & Yacht Council	https://abycinc.org/
ACA	American Canoe Association	https://www.americancanoe.org
ACBS	Antique and Classic Boat Society	https://acbs.org/
AFWA	Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	https://www.fishwildlife.org/
AMI	Association of Marina Industries	https://marinaassociation.org/
ANSI	American National Standards Institute	https://www.ansi.org/
ASA	American Sailing Association	https://asa.com/
ASI	Academy of Surfing Instructors	https://www.academyofsurfing.com/
ASJ	American Sailing Journal	https://asa.com/american-sailing-journal/
BSP	National Boating Standards Panel	https://bsp.nasbla.org/esp/
BSX	U.S Coast Guard Boating Safety Division	https://www.uscgboating.org/
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard	https://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/index-eng.html
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	https://www.ecfr.gov/
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission	https://www.cpsc.gov/
CPSS	Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons	https://www.cps-ecp.ca/
CSBC	Canadian Safe Boating Council	https://csbc.ca/en/
CSG	Council of State Governments	https://www.csg.org/
DOT	Department of Transportation	https://www.transportation.gov/maritime-and-waterways
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	https://www.epa.gov/
FLETC	Federal Law Enforcement Training Center	https://www.fletc.gov/
IAMI	International Association of Marine Investigators	https://www.iamimarine.org/
IBWSS	International Boating & Water Safety Summit <i>(also known as the Summit)</i>	https://www.ibwss.org/
INA	International Navigation Association (Formerly Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses)	https://pianc.us/

ISO	International Standards Organization	https://www.iso.org/home.html
JSI	John Snow, Inc. (Coast Guard contractor)	https://www.jsi.com/
LJA	<i>Life Jacket Association (Formerly Personal Flotation Device Manufacturers Assoc.)</i>	https://www.lifejacketassociation.org/
MLA	Maritime Law Association	https://mlaus.org/
MRAA	Marine Retailers Association of America	https://www.mraa.com/
NASBLA	National Association of State Boating Law Administrators	https://www.nasbla.org/home
NAVSAC	National Navigation Safety Advisory Council (USCG)	https://www.dhs.gov/publication/navsac#:~:text=Provides%20advice%20on%20maritime%20navigation,safety%2C%20equipment%20and%20diving%20safety.
NBSAC	National Boating Safety Advisory Council (<i>pronounced as BSAC</i>)	https://homeport.uscg.mil/missions/federal-advisory-committees/national-boating-safety-advisory-committee-(nbsac)
NCCUSL	National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws	https://www.uniformlaws.org/home
NDPA	National Drowning Prevention Alliance	https://ndpa.org/
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/index.htm
MVTIS	National Motor Vehicle Title Information System	https://vehiclehistory.bja.ojp.gov/
NMMA	National Marine Manufacturers Association	https://www.nmma.org/
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	https://www.noaa.gov/
NPS	National Park Service	https://www.nps.gov/index.htm
NSA	National Sheriffs Association	https://www.sheriffs.org/
NSBC	National Safe Boating Council	https://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/
NTSAC	National Towing Safety Advisory Committee	https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Office-of-Operating-and-Environmental-Standards/vfos/TSAC/
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board	https://www.nts.gov
NVDC	National Vessel Documentation Center	https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Deputy-for-Operations-Policy-and-Capabilities-DCO-D/National-Vessel-Documentation-Center/
ODW	Operation Dry Water	https://www.nasbla.org/operationdrywater/home

PPA	Professional Paddlesports Association (<i>merged under America Outdoors</i>)	https://www.americaoutdoors.org/
PSUPA	Professional Stand-Up Paddle Association	https://www.psupa.com/
PWIA	Personal Watercraft Industry Association	https://www.pwia.org/
RBFF	Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation	https://www.takemefishing.org/
RPBA	Recreational Powerboating Association	https://therpba.com/
SAE	Society of Automotive Engineers	https://www.sae.org/
SOBA	States Organization for Boating Access	https://sobaus.org/home
SPIN	Stop Propeller Injuries Now	https://www.facebook.com/spin.stoppropellerinjuriesnow/
TC	Transport Canada	https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation
UL	Underwriters Laboratories	https://ul.org/
USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers	https://www.usace.army.mil/
USCA	United States Canoe Association	http://www.uscanoe.com/
USCG	United States Coast Guard	https://www.uscg.mil/
USCG-AUX	United States Coast Guard Auxiliary	https://www.cgaux.org/
USPS	United States Power Squadrons – see ABC – America’s Boating Club	https://americasboatingclub.org/
VTs	Vessel Traffic Services	https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/Pages/Default.aspx
WSBAA	Western States Boating Administrators Association	https://www.nasbla.org/nasblamain/about-nasbla/bla-organizations/wsbaa
WSF	Watersports Foundation	https://www.watersportsfoundation.com/
WSIA	Watersports Industry Association	https://www.wsia.net/

ACRONYMS ABOUND (cont.)

Use this list to know what some of the acronym means.

Acronym	Definition
AIS	Automatic Identification System - an automatic tracking system that uses transceivers on ships and is used by vessel traffic services (VTS).
AIS/ANS	Aquatic Invasive Species/Aquatic Nuisance Species - a freshwater or marine organism that has spread or been introduced beyond its native range and is either causing harm or has the potential to cause harm. https://stopaquaticinvasivehitchhikers.org/
BAC	Blood Alcohol Concentration - The metric used to measure the amount of alcohol in a person's bloodstream
BAR	Boating Accident Report - Under federal law, the U.S. Coast Guard requires the operator of any vessel involved in a boating incident that results in loss of life, personal injury, or damage to property in excess of \$2,000 to submit a written report within five days of the incident. Boating incident reports can be filed online, by mail or fax.
BARD	Boating Accident Report Database - The BARD database serves as a receptacle for boating incident report data submitted by each of the 56 states and territories
BEAP	A voluntary consensus body authorized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). The panel's mission is to strengthen boating safety through professional development opportunities for recreational boating educators. BEAP administers events, credentialing programs, and trainings for boating educators.
BLA	Boating Law Administrator – BLAs are the state officials responsible for administration and enforcement of state boating laws. BLAs reflect their state/agency and its mission(s). They range from field officers to chief executives of entire departments.
BUI	Boating Under the Influence – Operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. All states have laws against boating under the influence, which make it a crime to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
CRBP	Certified Recreational Boating Professional – A voluntary credential for recreational boating professionals developed by NASBLA. The credential is broad based and addresses boating professionals' knowledge, performance, and career achievements in the identified program domains.
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon - a device to alert search and rescue services (SAR) in case of an emergency out at sea. It is tracking equipment that transmits a signal on a specified band to locate a lifeboat, life raft, ship, or people in distress.
ERAC	Engineering, Reporting & Analysis Committee - As one of NASBLA's policy committees, ERAC identifies, evaluates, and analyzes recreational boating data and other related information that can shed light on factors associated with boating incidents; be used to inform the development of state- and national-level safety policies, programs and campaigns; and, ultimately, be used to measure their effectiveness.
HELP	Heat Escape Lessening Position - a human position to reduce heat loss while immersed in cold water.
HIN	Hull Identification Number - a 12- or 14-character serial number that uniquely identifies a boat. The HIN is analogous to a VIN on a car. All boats manufactured or imported on or after November 1, 1972, must bear a HIN, and this HIN must be identified during boat registration.
LE	Law Enforcement – Law enforcement describes the agencies and employees responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order, and managing public safety.
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness - the effective understanding of anything associated with the global maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment of the United States. MDA is a key component of an active, layered maritime defense in depth.

MLEO	Marine Law Enforcement Officer - Sworn law enforcement officers specifically trained, equipped, and primarily tasked with maintaining law and order on the waterways within their jurisdictions.
MOE	Measures Of Effectiveness - measures designed to correspond to the accomplishment of mission objectives and the achievement of desired results. They quantify the results to be obtained by a system and may be expressed as probabilities that the system will perform as required.
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding - a nonbinding agreement that states each party's intentions to act, conduct a business transaction, or form a new partnership. This type of agreement may also be referred to as a letter of intent (LOI) or memorandum of agreement (MOA).
MSD	Marine Sanitation Device - a piece of machinery or a mechanical system that is dedicated to treat, process, and/or store raw, untreated sewage that can accumulate onboard water vessels.
NSC	Northern States Caucus - The purpose of the Northern States Caucus is to promote uniformity in boating laws; serve as a regional forum for exchanging perspectives and experiences on boating and boating safety; foster interstate cooperation on mutual problems; and facilitate state-federal relationships in order to promote the safe, pleasant, and compatible use of the waters in member states.
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - the official document that announces and explains the agency's plan to address a problem or accomplish a goal. All proposed rules must be published in the Federal Register to notify the public and to give them an opportunity to submit comments.
NWSC	National Water Safety Congress (not currently active) - non-governmental, nationally recognized organization dedicated to serving the public by promoting recreational water and boating safety in the United States and has been at the forefront of many boating and water safety issues.
OUI	Operating Under the Influence (<i>also Boating While Intoxicated or BWI</i>) - Operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. All states have laws against boating under the influence, which make it a crime to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
PFD	Personal Flotation Device - an inherently buoyant or inflatable vest designed to keep a person afloat. Also called a life jacket.
PSA	Public Service Announcement - an announcement made for the good of the public. Examples include radio, social media, press releases.
PWC	Personal Watercraft - a small pleasure craft that uses an inboard jet drive as its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the PWC rather than inside the pleasure craft.
RBS	Recreational Boating Safety - The study and implementation of best practices supported by state and federal laws to ensure and promote the safe and fair shared use of the waterways by recreational vessels.
SSBLAA	Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association - The purpose of the Southern Caucus is to promote uniformity in boating laws; serve as a regional forum for exchanging perspectives and experiences on boating and boating safety; foster interstate cooperation on mutual problems; and facilitate state-federal relationships to promote the safe, pleasant, and compatible use of the waters in member states.
USATONS	United States Aids to Navigation - any sort of signal, marker or guidance equipment which aids a vessel in navigation. Common types of such aids include buoys, lighthouses, and day beacons.
USWMS	Uniform State Waterway Marking System - regulatory markers to indicate the existence of dangerous areas, areas which are restricted or controlled, mark channels and obstructions, provide general information and directions; and provides a distinctive color scheme for mooring buoys.
VDS/eVDS	Visual Distress Signal/Electronic Visual Distress Signal Device - Pyrotechnic or non-pyrotechnic devices used to draw attention to or locate a vessel in need of immediate assistance. Illegal to deploy in a non-emergency situation in most jurisdictions.
VHF	Very High Frequency (for radio communications) - 2-way radio communication with frequencies between 30 and 300MHz. Used widely in marine application despite line-of-sight limitations.

VIRT	Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee - A NASBLA committee that analyzes and advocates for a precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration and titling.
VIS	Vessel Identification System - as authorized under Title 46 United States Code Chapter 125, is a data base designed to store, and provide access to, information on vessels numbered/registered and titled by an individual state and vessels federally documented under the laws of the United States. The system is designed to provide vessel information for the purpose of law enforcement, search and rescue, marine safety, homeland security, finance, and other purposes.