



Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT)
Final Report to NASBLA Executive Board
Charge Activity Status
Next Cycle Recommendations

Date: August 11, 2025

Maria Perez-Allen, CA, Chair
Caroline Mantel, Boat History Report, Vice Chair
David Trader, WV Ex. Board Liaison

NASBLA Vessel Identification & Titling Charter

The VIRT Committee recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data. The VIRT Committee works to advance boating safety by analyzing and advocating for thorough precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration and titling.

Work with the U. S. Coast Guard to standardize "Best Practices" that states/territories should be using.

Charge leaders are assigned to each charge and members either volunteer for charge(s) or are assigned to charge(s).

VIRT 2025-1

Assist the states and work with NCCUSL through their Enactment Committee while 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.

Needs Statement: Supporting UCOTVA is essential in making changes to positively influence consumer safety by creating consistency among states in regard 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 to 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 intact from owner to owner and state to state.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Texas passed UCOTVA, and it will go onto effect 1/1/28. UCOTVA talking points updated and added to the VIRT web page.
- ✓ **Implementation:** States would be adopting UCOTVA.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** As States adopt UCOTVA, it would be the start of a nationwide consistent way of titling recreational vessels.
- ✓ **Status:** Currently there are eight states & three territories that do not title in some form. Mississippi is optional.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. This charge is one the VIRT Committee has been working on for years with NCCUSL. This has been and will continue to be a high priority for VIRT.

VIRT 2025-2

Look into the possibility of a National Repository for vessel title/lien Information

Needs Statement: Uniform Certificate of Title Act for Vessels (UCOTVA) is standardizing the titling and lien processes among the various states and territories of the U.S.A.; however, our communication among the states is not standardized or consistent when it comes to sharing vessel titling and lien information. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG): Vessel Identification System partially addresses this need, but not all states use this system, and the data is too restricted for use by all parties (ex: state administrative staff, law enforcement staff, lenders, boat dealers and private citizens).

- ✓ **Deliverables:** States could confirm registration reporting to the USCG. State administrative staff, law enforcement staff and boat dealers could when a vessel leaves/is sold out-of-state” to improve state vessel registration data integrity and see the owner of record, title and registration status, and the lien status of a vessel in almost real-time. States could eliminate the costly paper processes and use electronic title and lien verification.
- ✓ **Implementation:** The NR will be challenging due to the number of organizations, state entities, and federal entities and technical requirements involved; however, successful implementation would allow greater

communication among states and federal agencies while improving private company workflows and customer vessel registration experiences. To implement the NR as provided above, the following steps should be followed:

1. The United States Coast Guard implements as many elements of the above plan into upcoming Vessel Identification System upgrades as possible.
 2. National legislation is written and agreed upon to implement the process above.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Vessel registration & titling data would be accurate and up to date in real time
 - ✓ **Status:** An email with the final conclusion was sent to Verne Gifford, USCG on June 18, 2025. As of August 15, 2025, we are still waiting for a response back.
 - ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Completed. This charge is now in the hands of the USCG to take further action on should they choose to pursue it.

VIRT 2025-3

Develop a model act regarding the titling of outboard motors.

Needs Statement: Currently there are only a few states that have some form of a requirement to title outboard motors. The International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI) is interested in with VIRT on this charge. Tilting outboard motors would help for owner identification and would assist in the prevention of theft.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Ex. Board approved on July 22, 2025.
- ✓ **Implementation:** States will have a model act to use to assist in the tiling of outboard motors.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Additional states would require the titling of outboard motors.
- ✓ **Current Status:** Final document to be voted on at NASBLA Business Mtg. in September 2025.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge completed.

VIRT 2025-4

Revise and promote the use of the “HIN Verification & Validation” Power Point that was developed in 2016 to reflect the BSX-23 Policy 23-2, “Compliance Guidance for Hull Identification Numbers that went into effect September 2023.”

Needs Statement: Revise and promote the use of the “HIN Verification & Validation” Power Point that was developed in 2016 as a “Registration & Titling 101” educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling personnel. This charge has evolved to include the Policy Letter written by the USCG to corroborate the information in the PowerPoint. The policy was developed and approved by the USCG in 2023. The PowerPoint will be revised to reflect the BSX-23 Policy 23-2, “Compliance Guidance For Hull Identification Numbers” that went into effect September 2023.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** A revised and more comprehensive HIN Power Point and HIN Policy.
- ✓ **Implementation:** The NASBLA VIRT Committee in conjunction with the USCG will continue to promote the HIN Power Point that has been developed and via Conference Presentations, NASBLA Connect, NASBLA Web Page, BLA Workshops, NASBLA Leadership Academies and send out the HIN Power Point and any revisions to each BLA and Registration & Titling Contacts each year. NASBLA to promote via the Web, direct emails to the BLA’s, conference topics, BLA Workshop and the Leadership Academy.

- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Greater consistency with HIN validation, assignment and other HIN related best practices and policies amongst states.
- ✓ **Current Status:** In conjunction with VIRT, the USCG is in the process of revising the HIN Verification & Validation PowerPoint to reflect the Coast Guard Policy that went into effect in September 2023. Caroline Mantel is currently doing final edits, and she will be presenting a revised PPT at the conference. The HIN Policy itself is waiting on revisions from the USCG that VIRT submitted in June that will require another update.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. Work will continue to finalize the slides to match the policy. Any revisions in the policy that come from the Coast Guard will need to be added as they happen.

VIRT 2025-5

Update the VIRT Registration & Tilting Dashboard Information

Needs Statement: Conduct a Survey of all states/territories to update their registration/titling requirements on the Dashboards

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Registration Fees/Tilting Information will be updated.
- ✓ **Implementation:** As state information changes, updates will be completed on a regular basis.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** States and the public will have a central location to access states/territories basic registration and titling information/requirements.
- ✓ **Status:** Currently have sent out two (2) requests via special additions to the VIRT Newsletter in addition to BLA Briefs to complete the survey. Have received 23 valid responses as of 8/4/25. Next step will be to contact each state/territory that has not responded via telephone/email.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. This is an ongoing charge for VIRT and a survey is done every two years.

VIRT 2025-6

Develop a pictorial guide for types of engine/propulsion to assist state registration agents in identifying these at the time of registration.

Needs Statement: This guide would be along the same lines of the pictorial guide of vessels that VIRT produced two years ago to assist state registration agents in identifying types of vessels at the time of registration.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** States will have a pictorial guide to assist registration agents in identifying the correct type of engine/propulsion at the time of registration
- ✓ **Implementation:** Once approved, it will be included in a BLA Brief, VIRT Newsletter and posted to the VIRT Web page.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Pictorial Guide will assist registration agents in identifying correct types of engine/propulsion at the time of registration.
- ✓ **Status:** Pictorial guide was completed as of July 22, 2025.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Completed.

VIRT 2025-7

Continue to work with NASBLA staff on the VIRT Newsletter to be distributed to all registration & titling contacts.

Needs Statement: This Newsletter addresses specific R & T issues and includes updated and accurate VIRT information that is sent directly to R & T contacts in each state/territory.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** First Newsletter went out in May; second newsletter went out going out in August. Both were also included in a BLA Brief and were posted to the VIRT Web page. In addition, two special editions went out in June and July regarding the Dashboard survey.
- ✓ **Implementation:** Delivered to all R & T contacts and all BLA's via email.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** VIRT Information getting into the correct hands of people who actually deal with the issues of numbering & titling on a daily basis.
- ✓ **Status:** Charge completed for the year with 2 newsletters being sent out – one in May and one in August.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year as this is an ongoing charge for VIRT.

VIRT 2025-8

Review & Revise the NASBLA Moel Procedures for Abandoned/Salvaged Vessels.

Needs Statement: Original model procedures were adopted & approved by NASBLA Membership in 1998.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** Revised & updated model procedure to reflect current definitions and best practices.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Revised procedure to assist states with abandoned/salvage vessels.
- ✓ **Status:** Charge currently on hold. Legislation has passed a House Sub-Committee.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year.

VIRT 2025-9

Provide support for states participating in VIS.

Needs Statement: Continue to 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.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** New states becoming members of VIS.
- ✓ **Implementation:** A State notifies the Coast Guard they would like to participate and then a MOU must be signed with the Coast Guard and then access is granted. Goal is to have all States and U.S. Territories signed up.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** Additional states participating in VIS.
- ✓ **Status:** No additional states came on board this year. USCG has done lots of clean up work to the system and new MOU's are being signed with existing states/territories.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year. Ongoing charge for VIRT,

VIRT 2025-10

States have started to show interest in earning the status of Certified State Titling states. However, it's been determined that additional steps need to be completed for the Certified Titling State program to be effective. VIRT will work with the USCG to lay out the steps necessary, and adjust current programs as needed to assist states applying to become Certified Titling States.

Needs Statement: States are starting to show interest in becoming a Certified State Titling State. This would lay out the process to do it and the documents that will be needed to do it.

- ✓ **Deliverables:** States becoming a Certified State Titling State
- ✓ **Implementation:** This charge would have laid out the steps needed, but since the USCG is not prepared to move forward at the present time, charge was dropped.
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:** States & territories now are using the same form to report.
- ✓ **Status:** Charge dropped. The Certified Title State Program requires additional work to be done from the USCG in order to make it an effective program. USCG not prepared to pursue it currently.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Do not carry over.

VIRT 2025-11

Standardize the information that is required for an outboard motor MSO like the vessel MSO that VIRT help develop in 2023. Work with IAMI on how best to publish & distribute.

Needs Statement: A standardized MSO for outboard motors is needed so states, marine dealers and lenders can capture the proper information that is needed in order to title an outboard motor and to also record liens on an outboard motor

- ✓ **Deliverables:** A standardized MSO for outboard motors.
- ✓ **Implementation:**
- ✓ **Measures of Effectiveness:**
- ✓ **Status:** Charge has not moved forward as we have liked it too. Additionally, more meetings are needed with NMMA, ABYC, and outboard motor manufactures, etc.
- ✓ **Next cycle recommendation:** Charge should be carried over for next year.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

COMMITTEE LEADERS and STAFF

Maria Perez-Allen, Chair
California
916-902-8784, maria.perez@parks.ca.gov

David Trader, NASBLA Ex. Board
West Virginia
304-558-2784, David.W.Trader@wv.gov

Rick Barrera, Committee Staff
NASBLA
Rick@nasbla.org, 859-225-9487

Caroline Mantel, Vice Chair
Boat History Report
800-441-7599, Caroline@boathistoryreport.com

U.S. COAST GUARD

Kristen Williams, C.G. Headquarters
202-372-1067, Kisten.a.williams@uscg.mil

Tim Rafter, C.G. Headquarters
202-372-1052, Timmothy.M.Rafter@uscg.mil

Will Hillyer, C.G. Headquarters
202-372-1077, William.y.hillyer@uscg.mil

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jack Ellis
Info-Link
305-661-3030, Jack@info-link.com

Ben Murray
NMMA
301-793-2001, Bmurray@nmma.org

Christine Wagner
New England Marine Documentation (NEMD)
781-721-4500, Christine@boatdoc.com

Caroline Mantel
Boat History Report
1-800-441-7599, Caroline@boathistoryreport.com

Aaron Hallenberg
WSIA
253-686-3968, aaron@wsia.net

Mike Sayre
Marine Retailers Assoc. of Americas (MRAA)
202-935-2930, sayre@MRAA.com

STATE MEMBERS

April Hughes
Arizona
602-236-7403, Ahughes@azgfd.gov

Gloria Palencia
Wisconsin
608-220-1142, Gloria.Palencia1@Wisconsin.gov

Michelle Johnston
Utah
302-739-9916, mjohnston@utah.gov

Becky Peralez
Texas
512-389-8786, Rebecca.Peralez@tpwd.texas.gov

Chris Charles
Indiana
317-232-4805, CCharles@dmv.IN.gov

Daniel Brown
Georgia
706-557-324, Daniel.Brown2@dnr.ga.gov

David Dunlap

Alaska
907-269-3750, David.dunlap@alaska.gov

Grant Brown

Colorado
303-791-1954, grant.brown@state.co.us

Priscilla Smith

Alabama
334-517-2947, priscilla.smith@alea.gov

Mariah Kanode

Ohio
614-265-6504, Mariah.Kanode@dnr.Ohio.gov

Karen Fahy

New Jersey
609-713-9476, Karen.Fahy@njsp.gov

Devin Torres

Guam
671-475-8508, Devin.torres@gpd.guam.gov

Sydney Grant

Arkansas
870-828-4666, Sydney.grant@agfc.ar.gov

Susie Crist

Tennessee
615-781-6553, Susie.spriggs@tn.gov

Cindy Langer

Kentucky
502-892-3849, Cindy.langer@ky.gov

Madison Cook

Florida
850-617-9485, Madisonb.cook@myfwc.com

Maria Perez-Allen

California
916-902-8784, Maria.Perez@parks.ca.gov

Harmony Sibley

Nevada
775-688-1507, hsibley@ndow.org

Leslie Mackey

Alabama
334-242-0454, Leslie.Mackey@revenue.alabama.gov

Denise Burroughs

California
916-657-0576, Denise.Burroughs@dmv.ca.gov

Josett Cruz

Guam
671-475-8449, josett.cruz@gpd.guam.gov

Susan Stocker

Iowa
515-313-6439, Susan.stocker@dnr.iowa.gov

Tigh Savercool

Pennsylvania
717-525-5868, Tsavercool@pa.gov

Steven Treat

Grand River Dam Authority
918-944-6036, Steven.treat@grda.,com

Bobbie Marshall

Kentucky
502-892-3812, Bobbie.marshall@ky.gov

