

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee Meeting
NASBLA Executive Board Summary
July 15, 2015

Review of 5-year Planning Goals (2012 – 2017)

The following elements are considered and linked appropriately to each committee charge. In some cases updates are provided to specific elements, where progress is made during the committee year as a collective result of multiple charge initiatives.

All goals are proceeding according to the timeline. There are no significant obstacles or deviations to report at this time.

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.
Ongoing

2. Work with non-title states and territories in the adoption of vessel titling with a goal of adding three to five more states and/or territories onto the list of those that title vessels.
Ongoing

3. Assist states with planning for implementation of required changes to Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Reporting Database.
Ongoing

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 professionals community.

Updates: The USCG posted a proposed rule in the federal register on March 3, 2015 regarding “Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees (Federal register Publication)” and called for open comments. ID: USCG-2010-0990-2737

Summary of proposed rule: The Coast Guard seeks public comment on whether to increase the period of validity for renewing endorsements on Certificates of Documentation. A separate fee of \$26 for annual renewals of endorsements upon the Certificate of Documentation was established in a recent rulemaking. The Coast Guard is considering options for implementing multiyear renewals and updating the fee for services, and seeks information on factors to consider when implementing these changes.

Action Taken: Laurel Anders, Chair, submitted a letter/comment through the Federal Register as a state that administers U.S. Coast Guard recreational

boating safety funds and a representative of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and its Vessel Identification, Registration and Titling (VIRT) Committee.

The letter noted support for the multiyear renewal program and support for the increase of the renewal fee as proposed. Support of both of these proposals support the National Vessel Documentation Center.

Anders shared her letter with the VIRT committee and members were encouraged to submit comments as well.

Letter submitted by Laurel Anders (PA); [Copy of letter submitted](#)

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.

Ongoing

Numbering & Titling Sub-committee

Kem Kirk (OH), Chair

1. Assist the states and work with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) through their Enactment Committee, with promoting and supporting adoption of the of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. Develop support materials & tiger team to provide legislative support for interested states.

Ongoing

Deliverable:

- a. Status of each state in pursuing the adoption.
There has been legislative action on UCOTAV in the following jurisdictions; [Report \(May 2015\)](#)
 - b. E.M. Miller authored an article in Small Craft Advisory on “Branding”.
2. Expand the use and development of educational products to inform states and their agents about HIN Validation. Promote the use of the “HIN Verification and Validation” PowerPoint presentation, developed in 2014 as a “Registration & Titling 101” educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling people.

Ongoing

Note: This charge also includes the potential development of a “Registration & Titling 101” online course/module. This course development is being lead by Rick Barrera.

Deliverable:

- a. Promotional plan for the HIN Verification & Validation PowerPoint.
[Proposed promotional plan](#)

Updates:

- a. Charge team is continuing work on development of the “Registration & Titling 101” online course. This will need to carry over to the next committee year before completion. The final electronic course may also include the information provided in the HIN Verification & Validation PowerPoint.
3. Develop resources to assist states in preparing 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 being HIN Validation is January 1, 2017.

Ongoing

Deliverable:

- a. Anders (Chair) and Burgess (USCG) held an open discussion at the BLA Workshop and compiled a list of comments and questions from the BLA’s that they would like to see the committee work on.
 - b. Session proposal submitted for the 2015 NASBLA Annual Conference to present a session on lessons learned from states that have already implemented the changes as well as an overview of the changes that need to be made.
 - c. Cover letter for the “STEPS FOR STATES TO IMPLEMENT USCG CHANGES 4-22-14.docx” document.; [Copy of full document with cover letter.](#)
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 details associated with and management of the community.

Ongoing

Deliverable:

- a. Populate the VIRT committee Connect library with resources in the library function.

Update: Charge team is compiling feedback from the committee on which committee work products, reference documents, etc. should be placed in the VIRT committee Connect library. Once compiled charge team will begin populating the VIRT Connect library.

5. Develop an online reference where states can go to find current registration fees, including title fees. This should also include documented vessel fees for each state.

Ongoing

Deliverable:

- a. An up-to-date version of registration and titling fees for 2015 has been compiled. The documents will be sent to every state for verification. Once verified, the documents will be posted to the VIRT Connect library. Committee will then move forward in deciding how to update, publish and disseminate an annual version in the future.

Vessel Identification System (VIS) Sub-committee

George Birdwell (TN), Chair

1. Work to promote and increase state participation in the Vessel Identification System (VIS). Concentrate on largest, coastal states.

Ongoing

Deliverable:

- a. [Letter to the NASBLA Enforcement & Training committee](#) on the benefits of using the VIS.
 - b. [Letter to States not currently participating in VIS](#), requesting participation.
 - c. Session proposal submitted for the 2015 NASBLA Annual Conference for a session on the benefits, functionality of the Vessel Identification System (VIS) and success stories from state who are already using it.
 - d. [Updated VIS map of participating states](#)
2. Working with Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, identify a minimum of two performance metrics states can use to evaluate registration and title programs.

Ongoing

Performance metrics states can use to evaluate registration and title programs:

- a. Baseline HIN accuracy (percentage of correct HIN's in each states database).
- b. Interstate Vessel Registration documentation to other states:
 - i. Does your state submit an interstate vessel registration document to other states when you register or title a vessel from another state?
 - ii. How often does your state submit an interstate vessel registration document to other states when you register or title from another state?

Deliverable:

- a. A 2015 VIS Survey was sent to state agency BLAs, registration & titling and law enforcement contacts in each state and territory. The final responses are being compiled. Final results of the survey will be complete prior to the end of the committee year/2015 NASBLA Annual Conference.
3. Working with 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.

Ongoing

Measures of program uniformity for states in registering and titling vessels.

- a. Has your state adopted the Uniform Certificate of Title Act (UCOTA) for vessels?
- b. What format does your state use to issue a Hull Identification Number?

Deliverable:

- a. A 2015 VIS Survey was sent to state agency BLAs, registration & titling and law enforcement contacts in each state and territory. The final responses are being compiled. Final results of the survey will be complete prior to the end of the committee year/2015 NASBLA Annual Conference.

Other updates and discussions

1. ****Executive Board approval requested:** The committee decided that the “*Model Procedures for: Replacing Vessel Hull Identification Numbers & Assigning Vessel Hull Identification Numbers*” needed to be revised. The committee made the edits during the committee meeting. The updated model procedure is being submitted to the NASBLA Executive Board for approval.

See Attachments:

- [Replacement Assigning Vessel Hull Identification Numbers Modified051215 ForExecBoardApproval.doc](#)

- [Replacement Assigning Vessel Hull Identification Numbers Modified051215 TrackChanges ForExecBoardApproval.doc](#)

2. **Discussion:** The VIRT committee would like to look into holding their annual in-person meeting around the International Association of Marine Investigators annual meeting, as many committee members attend that meeting as well. Eric Lundin will be looking into the logistic of this and will discuss further with committee members and NASBLA staff.

Members:

Mark Brown, Board Liaison
Laurel Anders, Chair, PA
Mike England, Vice Chair, GA
Kem Kirk, N&T Chair, OH
George Birdwell, VIS Chair, TN
Sharon Carrick, MD
Mark Cranford, OK
Madelynn Fenske, AZ
April Hughes, AZ
Julie Baker, FL
Seth Wagner, FL

Eric Lundin, CT
Vicki Rhodes, DE
Janice Santos, MA
Brenda Verner, PA
Toni Wilson, WA
Vann Burgess, USCG
Jack Ellis, Info Link
Dick DuMont, Statistical Survey Inc.
Hannah Helsby, NASBLA Staff
Rick Barrera, NASBLA Staff