RESOLUTION 2007 - 2

In support of initiating a change to the Code of Federal Regulations in order to facilitate approval of the Boating Accident Decision Matrix by the U.S. Coast Guard, which will help to more clearly define boating accidents.

WHEREAS, 33 CFR173 Subpart C generally requires reporting of boating accidents in the event of a death, significant injury or property damage of $2,000 or more; and

WHEREAS, many U.S. Coast Guard Strategic Plan and Recreational Boating Safety program goals and measures are directly linked to boating accident data gathered and reported by the states; and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of new and innovative watercraft are being introduced to our nation’s waterways; and

WHEREAS, various data entry personnel are required to interpret boating accident reports in each state and territory, and there is a wide level of experience in the field of boating accident investigation and reporting; and

WHEREAS, there have been both written and verbal alterations to CG-449, Standard Method of Reporting (Boating Accidents) which have contributed to unnecessary confusion and inconsistent accident reporting; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators’ (NASBLA) Boating Accident Investigation, Reporting and Analysis Committee (BAIRAC), in conjunction with the states and other RBS stakeholders, thoroughly researched and vetted a Decision Matrix; and

WHEREAS, NASBLA voted unanimously to support the approval and use of the Decision Matrix, or initiating a change to the CFR on September 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Coast Guard response identified general acceptance of the Decision Matrix with some exceptions, due to conflicts with 33CFR173 and 33CFR174.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators meeting on September 10, 2007 in Burlington, Vermont, does hereby request the United States Coast Guard to initiate a change to the applicable Code of Federal Regulations to adopt the Decision Matrix that was previously endorsed by the NASBLA membership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad W. Allen for action.

September 10, 2007

Jeffrey S. Johnson, President