



NASBLA BOAT PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

I am pleased to announce the formal release of the NASBLA BOAT Program's "Basic Crew Member Course" (BCM).

NASBLA and our project partners (the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boat Forces, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the National Safe Boating Council) have established a nationally standardized course curriculum to teach basic boat crew operations to a wide variety of marine law enforcement officers, first responders and others who support recreational boating safety and related maritime public safety missions. The Basic Crew Member Course is fundamental to the long-term effectiveness, personal safety and the professional development of marine law enforcement and its role in the National Recreational Boating Safety Program.

This is the foundational course you have all been waiting for, and it represents the baseline learning objectives contained within our NASBLA BOAT Program Manual.

Marine law enforcement officers and emergency responders at the federal, state and local levels nationwide play a critical role in maintaining the safety and security of our nation's waterways. Efforts to more effectively engage them are reflected prominently in the U.S. Coast Guard's National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan where a significant number of the plan's strategies relate specifically to improving the impact and effectiveness of marine law enforcement officers and first responders on the water.

To date we have trained over 400 federal, state and local boat operators for the safety and security mission in our Tactical Operators Course. Next spring we will be conducting a pilot for Boat Operators Search and Rescue Course, scheduled for delivery in March 2011. This course, along with the Basic Crew course, will round out our course offerings from the NASBLA BOAT Program to help you meet the true definition of "Adequate Law Enforcement" under a nationally standardized and accredited program – the only program recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard.

We are truly building Partners on the Water!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Fetterman", written over a horizontal line.

John C. Fetterman
NASBLA Director of Law Enforcement

To learn more about the Basic Crew Member Course, visit www.nasbla.org/boat.