



BOAT PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD  
Business Meeting Report  
Friday, September 30, 2022

Lt. Carmen Rickel, Chair

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I wish to thank the NASBLA Executive Committee, Tim Dunleavy, our Executive Committee Liaison, NASBLA Staff, and our United States Coast Guard representatives Jeff Wheeler, Deputy Chief of Boat Forces, Vann Burgess, Boating Safety Division, Senior RBS Specialist, and especially the members of this year's BOAT Advisory Board.

The BOAT Advisory Board had its last meeting in Lexington, Ky on December 8-9, 2022, which was the first in-person meeting since the last Board meeting in March 2020. The meeting agenda was built around launching the 2022 BOAT Program year, which turned out to be exceptionally successful.

In the calendar year 2022, the BOAT Program delivered or committed to 103 direct delivery courses, 84 in-direct delivery courses delivered by accredited agencies, and 26 United States Coast Guard delivered courses, for a total of 217 BOAT Program courses delivered in the 2022 calendar year. Training a total of more than 2,500 students. This is an increase of 76 courses and 300 students. The BOAT program has been busy, and as we sit here today, we have instructors in New Jersey on the water teaching America's maritime officers. Please join me in a round of applause for the entire team of NASBLA's BOAT program, they have had a successful year of training, the NASBLA national training standard.

The BOAT Program led by Dave Considine dealt with several transitions in key personnel positions; Chris Moore our long-standing BUI Grant coordinator retired late in 2021, Richard Moore, also a key figure and Program Manager for BUI retired from the position, and we are thrilled that Todd Radabaugh stepped in, Todd was already a well-established BUI Lead Instructor and has led the BUI Program through a seamless transition.

On the United States Coast Guard side, over the last 2 years, we have had the honor of working with Lt. Peter Hutchison, who served as the Coast Guard liaison between the BOAT Program and station commanders in supporting and delivering training utilizing the NASBLA training curriculum and course materials. Lt. Hutchison coordinated 26 NASBLA courses delivered by Coast Guard Station personnel. Lt. Hutchison upon his transfer this July has been replaced by Lt. Eddie Oropeza. We look forward to working with Lt. Oropeza and welcoming him as a new member of the BOAT Advisory Board.

The highlight of the Advisory Board's work this year has been the establishment, review, and refinement of the Waterborne Armed Threat Emergency Response (WATER) course. During the last NASBLA conference, Advisory Board Chairman Ken Ryan sought interest and received an endorsement from the NASBLA membership in support of this training as a standard. The BOAT Advisory Board, appointed a focus group led by Josh Underwood of St John's County Marine Unit, assisted by Casey Zolper of Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Brad Williams, BOAT Program Manager, ret. Florida Wildlife Commission, who worked together to make refinements to the final course and presented their findings and the final product to the Advisory Board for acceptance. The WATER course is finally ready for distribution.

I was joined by the Program Manager for the WATER course, Will Plumas, as we made a special presentation to conference attendees as part of a conference Breakout session, yesterday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM.

The Inland Boat Operator and Marine Patrol Fundamentals course, released last year, has already delivered three Train the Trainer courses in 2022, involving trainers from 18 states. A success story based on Advisory Board's efforts in responding to member agencies, seeking this valuable training.

On behalf of The BOAT Advisory Board, I encourage all of you to help us by providing stakeholder input with any of our board members either in attendance or by reaching out to us after the conference. We look forward to hearing from all of you. Several Advisory Board members are here today and I ask that they stand and be recognized.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I move for the NASBLA Membership's acceptance of this report.