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## Memorandum of Understanding



### National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

This *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) is between the *National Association of State Boating Law Administrators* (NASBLA) and the *United States Coast Guard Auxiliary* (USCGAUX), hereinafter referred to as the "Parties" to this Memorandum of Understanding. AUTHORITY: This agreement is authorized under the provisions of:

- a. 14 U.S.C. § 93(d), 822, 823a, 831
- b. 46 U.S.C. § 13109

WHEREAS, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national, non-profit association of state officials responsible for the development and implementation of state boating programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is a civilian volunteer organization administered by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard whose 35,000 men and women donate their time and expertise to support the Coast Guard and improve recreational boating safety;

WHEREAS, both organizations desire to form a covenant of mutual cooperation and collaboration in support of recreational boating safety objectives for the benefit of boaters throughout the United States;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and in furtherance of the mutual goals and premises hereof and the conditions hereinafter set forth, the parties do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

**I. The parties will work to support each organization's respective mission:**

A) *NASBLA's mission is to protect, promote and enhance safe and enjoyable boating on our nation's waters and to foster partnerships and cooperation among recreational boating safety interests.*

*The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators accomplishes its mission by:*

- *Providing a medium for the exchange of member views and experiences;*
- *Promoting greater uniformity in state and territorial law and regulations;*
- *Improving efficiency in administration and enforcement of boating laws;*
- *Establishing, maintaining national education standards and educational methods;*
- *Fostering national, interstate and Federal-State cooperation and coordination;*  
*and*
- *Ensuring the right of all persons to safely boat, share and enjoy our nation's waters through firm, fair and effective laws.*

B) *The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission in the Recreational Boating Safety Program is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, property damage, and environmental impact associated with the use of recreational boats, through preventive and other means, in order to provide safe use and enjoyment of U.S. waterways.*

*The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary accomplishes its recreational boating safety objectives through four primary mission areas including:*

- Providing liaison with the State Boating Law Administrators and other boating safety organizations including state, federal and other public sector agencies. Under this mission objective, the Auxiliary's Department of Boating assists active duty units, Auxiliary national departments, and Auxiliary districts in their efforts to promote and support recreational boating safety programs.*
- Increasing the demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities of the boating public and effecting positive behavioral changes which reduce the incidence of recreational boating fatalities, injuries, collisions and allisions. Under this mission objective, the Auxiliary's Department of Education designs, writes and produces courses that its membership uses to teach boating safety and related content to segments of the boating public.*
- Providing vessel safety checks to increase the knowledge of boaters about carriage requirements, equipment usage, environmental protection as well as overall recreational boating safety. This mission objective is implemented by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Department of Vessel Examination which is tasked with developing, coordinating and carrying out the Vessel Safety Check Program (VSCP), and transforming the Marine Dealer Visitation (MDV) program into a Marine Industry Partnership that includes, liveries, dealers, marinas, manufacturers, boaters themselves and the state boating agencies.*
- Conducting safety patrols, search and rescue activities, aids to navigation missions, utilizing both aircraft and vessels on joint and sole state waters, as a cooperative effort with the United States Coast Guard and individual States.*

- II. **The parties will work cooperatively to identify opportunities to strengthen both national and local collaborative efforts including fostering mutual support for the NASBLA National Education Standards, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Program, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Public Education Program, delivered through boater education courses taught nationwide.**
- III. **The parties will explore, and when appropriate, jointly pursue research projects mutually determined to be beneficial to recreational boaters. These projects include but are not limited to initiatives funded under the Aquatic Resources Trust Funds (Wallop-Breaux) administrated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The parties will work cooperatively to ensure that programs sponsored by both organizations benefit boaters and boating organizations.**
- IV. **The parties will maintain routine communications between each organization's policy-makers and staff to promptly address concerns that may arise on boating safety issues and to keep each organization well informed of policies, priorities, actions and other developments that might impact the parties' relationship and/or their ability to support the broader boating safety agenda.**
- V. **The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide associate members to key NASBLA committees to provide advice and counsel on specific topics.**

VI. This Memorandum of Understanding will become effective upon its signing and will remain in effect unless terminated by written notice by either party. This understanding does not constitute a binding agreement between or among the parties and/or their authorized representatives. Either party may request modifications or amendments to this agreement for amendment at any time by written notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have herewith set their hands and seals as of the day and year written.

For the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary:

  
**APPROVED**  
Everette L. Tucker, Jr., National Commodore

Date: 9-13-00

For the National Association of  
State Boating Law Administrators:

  
**APPROVED**  
Paul Donheffner, President

Date: 9-13-00

Witnessed:

  
**APPROVED**  
Ronald Weston, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard

Date: 9-13-00

Prepared September 13, 2000