



## US Sailing Government Relations Committee

*US Sailing National Conference  
Austin, Texas  
February 15, 2017*

*James P. Muldoon, Vice President  
Joanne M. Dorval, Asst. Vice President*



## Agenda

1. US Coast Guard Update
2. US Coast Guard Grant Program
3. Recreational Boating Legislative Issues Update
4. General Update



## US Coast Guard Update

### National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC)

- US Sailing representation: Rich Jepsen
- Newly appointed Subcommittee Chair: Prevention through People

### 2017-2021 Strategic Plan

- US Sailing represented on Strategic Plan Workgroup
- New plan took effect January 1, 2017

### New Administration Impact on USCG Office of Boating Safety

- Freeze in Regulations
- Civilian Hiring Freeze



## NBSAC Focus

- **New regulatory climate:** NBSAC is moving away from regulatory guidance to providing non-regulatory advice
  - Focus on general safety education and outreach
  - Concentration on skills education
  - Addressing HUMAN-propelled deaths and injuries
- **USCG Commitments:** Current direction:
  - Expanding recreational boating education, training and public outreach
  - Providing partial relief to programs needed instructor licensing
  - Creating a data collection effort that starts to illustrate how human factors contribute to casualties
  - Normalizing regulations on things as varied as finding alternatives to pyrotechnic distress signals for recreational boats



## USCG Strategic Plan

- In 2007, the NBSAC implemented the first *National Recreational Boating Safety Program Strategic Plan (RBS SP)* aimed at reducing fatalities and injuries.
- In January 2017, the US Coast Guard published the **2017–2021 RBS SP** highlighting 3 main initiatives:



*Initiative #1: Improve and expand recreational boating education, training, and outreach*

*Initiative #2: Update, leverage, and enforce policies, regulations, and standards*

*Initiative #3: Improve upon and expand recreational boating data collection and research*

<http://www.uscgboating.org/library/strategic-plan/Strategic-Plan-of-National-Recreational-Boating-Safety-Program-2017-thru-2021.pdf>



## Administrative Actions

**Freeze on Regulations:** Impacted US Coast Guard recreational and commercial activity (*remove 2 regs for every 1 passed*)

- Engine cut-off switch & Propeller guards
- Hold on Federal Register announcements
- NBSAC received waiver for announcement and meetings

[www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/24/implementation-regulatory-freeze](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/24/implementation-regulatory-freeze)

**Hiring freeze:** Excludes Military but includes civilian support positions

- Office of Boating Safety has two open billets
- Division Chief leaving this Spring
- Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety retirement



[www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/31/federal-civilian-hiring-freeze-guidance](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/31/federal-civilian-hiring-freeze-guidance)

## US Sailing Grants: USCG

### Current Grants

- US Sailing's currently implementing two *On-Water Standards grants*:
  - 2014: Finalizing SAIL Skills-based American National Standard—\$650K
  - 2016: Developing an Instructional Approach Standard (IAS)—\$240K

### Grant Applications (\$5M fund)

- 2017 grant application recently submitted entitled: *Systemic Support for Implementing the 2017-2021 National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan*
  - Provides *process guidance* to ensure projects funded are in strategic alignment
  - Provides *grassroots education and outreach* to expand standards use in the field

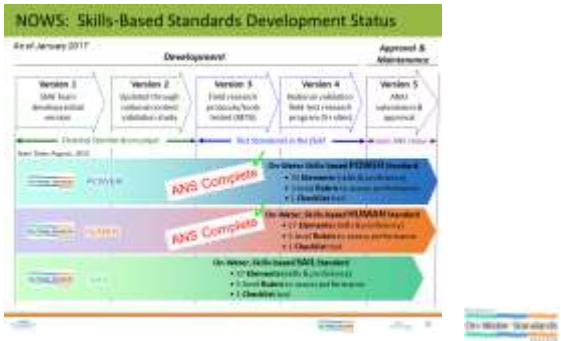


## US Sailing Grant Revenue: USCG

US Sailing/US Powerboating Coast Guard Grant History

Year	Amount	Category	Notes
2002-03	\$40,000		Hypothermia
2003-04	50		
2004-05	50		
2005-06	\$25,000		Wrecks
2006-07	\$19,900		Partnering
2007-08	50		
8 year avg.	2008-09	\$19,452	Partnering
\$17,419	2009-10	\$35,000	Partnering
		<b>\$139,352</b>	
6 year avg.	2010-11	\$309,000	Partnering Powerboat
\$388,933	2011-12	\$379,900	Partnering Powerboat Standards
	2012-13	\$444,700	Partnering Powerboat Standards
	2013-2014	\$311,000	Partnering Powerboat Standards
(2-years)	2014-2015	\$650,000	collaboration Powerboat Standards
	2016	\$240,000	Standards
6 year Total		<b>\$2,333,600</b>	
Overall Total		<b>\$2,472,952</b>	

## American National Standards Development



## American National Standards Development



## American National Standards Development

### Technical Support Documents (TSD): "How To Guides"

- For designing and delivering quality recreational boating instruction using American National Standards (ANS)
- POWER & HUMAN ANS complete, SAIL standard in final stages



<http://www.onwaterstandards.org/>

## Legislative Issues Update

- Ethanol
- Fire Extinguisher Regulations
- Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact
- Boating Education State Requirements
- Life Jacket Wearage
- BUI Laws
- On-Water Instruction Licensing Issues (OUPV)
- National GMDSS Implementation / Navigation





## Ethanol

- Ethanol 15 in gasoline causes extreme wear and tear on recreational boating engines
- Trump Administration/EPA delaying 30 regulations finalized by Obama administration – including Renewable Fuel Standard (thru 2020)
  - 64% of American adults said they weren't sure or didn't pay attention to the type of gas they used
  - 66% said they will use least expensive grade of gasoline whenever possible
  - 60% assume ANY gas sold at gas stations must be safe for ALL of vehicles and equipment
- Trump Administration/Congress may change Renewable Fuel Standard after March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017



## Fire Extinguisher Regulations

### Commercial and Recreational vessel requirements combined:

- USCG unintentional action – attempting to correct now

### New Regulations: Boats built after August 22, 2016:

- Replaces “weight based” system with UL rating system
- 12 year expiration for fire extinguishers
- Monthly inspection log
- Professional recharging and inspection requirements annually



<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2016/07/22/7222016-final-rule-harmonization-of-standards-for-fire-protection-detection-and-extinguishing-equipment/>



## Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016

- December 9, 2016 law requiring financial assessment of outdoor recreation economy on the overall US economy
- Outdoor recreation represents 6 million jobs, \$646 Billion annually, contributions to travel and tourism, not just purchasing of boating products
- Provides direct and non-direct financial economic impact evidence for recreational outdoor industry
- Will lead to more grant and funding opportunities to business's/organizations/individuals in the recreational boating industry
- President Trump has voiced support for maintaining boating, fishing, and hunting on the nations public lands



## Boating Education State Requirements

### States without fully implemented boating education Laws:

- Alaska
- Arizona
- South Dakota
- Wyoming
- Idaho - Education required for PWC RENTALS ONLY, and those who have been convicted of BUI or other excess water violations
- California - Required Boating Education Laws will be phased in starting 1/1/2018



## Boating Education State Requirements



## Life Jacket Update

### Life jacket use for children 12 and under—similar to last year:

- State laws for Child life jacket wearage EXCEPT two which have none (Federal law in force – 12 years and under...)
  - Virginia
  - Wisconsin (April 2016 bill failed requiring wearage for under 13 years)
- Nine (9) other states have age requirements below the recommended standard of 12 and under.
  - Alabama, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota





## Inflatable Lifejacket Maintenance

**USCG Marine Safety Alert:** Inflatable Life Jacket Maintenance

- States importance of periodic checks to prevent failure
- Provides guidance on routine maintenance, service and inspection



<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg545/alerts/1316.pdf>



## BUI Laws

- Many States have a .08% threshold for Boating Under the Influence (BUI); Most developed countries have a .05% threshold
- Nearly 50% of boating related accidents involve alcohol
- From 2010-2015, alcohol was leading factor in 21% of fatal recreational boating accidents
- BUI is illegal in ALL 50 States: laws vary from state to state, with many loopholes

**Examples:**

**Maryland Senate Bill 30**—requested amendment

US Sailing supporting request to amend this law to prohibit any legal intoxication while operating a vessel

**Wyoming House Bill 117**

Decreases legal BAC from .1 to standard .08 for Powerboats

**Florida & Arkansas**

2017 proposals that include 5 nanograms of THC per millimeter blood eligible for BUI



## OUPV Instructor Licensing

- Law was designed for the responsibilities of professional mariners in commercial jobs – OUPV license is costly and burdensome
- Hosed Maritime Law Association (MLA), Recreational Boating Committee for two sailing cruises in the Baltimore May 2016
  - Demonstrated the SAIL standards
  - Promoted increased quality and consistency of instructor training to create a baseline for a national limited OUPV (LOUPV) license program
- NBSAC gained support from USCG to work with National Maritime Center to streamline an LOUPV requirement
  - Will negotiate on testing, sea time requirements and TWIC.
  - Little potential to change medical, eye exam, FA/CPR

Professional  
Mariners



Recreational  
Boating Instructors



## Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS)

- Sponsored by the USCG: Task Force assigned to the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services (RTCM)
- Internationally agreed-upon set of safety procedures, types of equipment, and communication protocols used to increase safety and make it easier to rescue distressed ships, boats and aircraft
- Recreational vessels do not need to comply with GMDSS radio carriage requirements, but will increasingly use the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) VHF radios.

**Progress made:**

- Electronic Aids to Navigation (eATON)
- Electronic Charts Approval—in place of paper charts
- Middle Earth Orbit Search and Rescue (MEOSAR): satellite to provide near-instantaneous, broad detection, identification, and location determination of beacons (2018)



## US ATONS / eNavigation

- The primary objective of the USATONS is to mitigate transit risks to promote the safe, economic, and efficient movement of all vessels
- USCG ATON physical system outdated and costly to maintain
- USCG has 453 electronic buoys in place nationwide (based on request by districts)
- Have NOT replaced any physical aids to navigation with electronic aids yet
- Has been conducting nationwide studies to determine level of service to provide
  - Atlantic and Gulf sea coasts completed
  - Pacific coast next



## eLORAN/GPS

- Legislation to fund eLORAN to back up GPS was proposed in 2015 and reintroduced in 2016
  - Passed by the House September 2016 – but not by the Senate
  - Legislation not enacted by the end of a Congress is cleared from the books

**H.R. 5978 (114<sup>th</sup>): Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act of 2016**

... provide for the establishment, sustenance, and operation of a reliable land-based enhanced LORAN, or eLORAN, positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide a complement to and backup for the Global Positioning System (GPS) to ensure the availability of uncorrupted and nondegraded positioning, navigation, and timing signals for military and civilian users in the event that GPS signals are corrupted, degraded, unreliable, or otherwise unavailable.



<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5978/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22H.R.+5978%22%5D%7D&r=1>



## Area Maritime Security Committees

### New Initiatives

- **PORT SECURITY SPECIALIST AND MARITIME ENFORCEMENT RATE COLLABORATION**—to assist with AMS assessments, facility inspections, and related critical infrastructure protection activities
- AMSCs to establish **Cyber subcommittees** to address cyber risk, information sharing, and resiliency.
  - goal is to establish a cyber community of interest and foster a culture of cybersecurity within the port

### Contact List

- Published a **LIST** of Executive Secretariats for their respective Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). Promotes maritime industry partners ability to directly contact representatives AMSC in their area

<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg544/amsc.asp>



## Government Relations Committee

Thank you!