



## **National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on State Mandatory Boating Education**

**Date:** September 10, 2007  
**Committee:** Education

### **Background**

Outlined below is the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Policy Position on State Mandatory Boating Education. There are three types of mandatory boating education options available for the states to implement. The first is the creation of mandatory boating education based on the born-on or after date of the boat operator. The second is based on a phase-in approach to mandatory boating education over a period of time and the third option targets only a specific age group of boat operators (i.e. teens) for mandatory boating education. Currently, 47 of the 56 states and territories have one of the three types of mandatory boating education in place. Those states who have already implemented mandatory boating education have shown an overall decrease in the number of fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. For instance, states which have had mandatory boating education in place for at least 20 years have an average of 3.89 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. States which have had mandatory boating education in place for 10-19 years have a slightly higher average of 5.52 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats and states which have had mandatory boating education in place for 1-9 years have an even higher average of 6.68 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. States which have no mandatory boating education in place have an average of 12.28 fatalities per 100,000 registered boats. As a result of the increasing interest in mandatory boating education, NASBLA has developed the policy position stated below.

### **National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy**

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, meeting on September 10, 2007, endorses the efforts by its member states to require mandatory boating education for recreational boat operators. NASBLA will support the efforts of its member states to draft and submit bills to their state legislatures for this purpose.

## **Policy References**

United States Coast Guard Boating Statistics (2001 to 2005)

NASBLA Boating Education Standards

NASBLA Model Act on Mandatory Education (2005)

NASBLA Resolutions on the topic from 1987, 1989, 1998

NASBLA survey results from the summer of 2006

Comments on states' interest in mandatory education

## **Policy Letters**

A Comparative Analysis of Recreational Boating Policies: "Quick Phase-In" Education vs. Other Education Policies