

# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (NASBLA)**

[www.nasbla.org/boat](http://www.nasbla.org/boat)

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Q – What is NASBLA?**

*A – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model legislation, education standards and publications. NASBLA's mission is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment.*

### **2. Q – What is NASBLA's BOAT Program?**

*A – The Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program establishes a national standard for the training, qualification, credentialing and typing of maritime law enforcement and rescue personnel. While the BOAT Program is not mandatory, adoption and implementation of the program will provide a true national standard for the purpose of maritime interoperability at the federal, state and local levels. Standardization ensures maritime agencies can interact together and will bolster their ability to act as force multipliers nationwide.*

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**3. Q – Did the U. S. Coast Guard play a role in the development of NASBLA’s BOAT Program?**

*A – Yes, the program was adapted from the U.S. Coast Guard’s boat forces training framework. The BOAT Program is comprised of vital maritime training and management components, including:*

- *System Policy*
- *The Training and Qualification Process*
- *Boat Crew Qualification Tasks*
- *Program Manager Roles and Responsibilities*
- *Boat Crew Currency Maintenance*
- *Documentation Requirements*

**4. Q – Why is NASBLA’s BOAT Program important to the Coast Guard?**

*A – “The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program has created a comprehensive standard for training and typing in support of all hazards response. Through collective partnerships of federal, state, county, and local first responders, the BOAT Program will unify national resources and enhance the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s capabilities in the safety and security of our citizens within our maritime domain.”*

*Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O’Hara  
Deputy Commandant for Operations  
U.S. Coast Guard*

**5. Q – Can a Coast Guard member sign off qualification tasks for state & local partners?**

*A – Yes, certified Coast Guard boat crew members and coxswains may sign off qualification tasks for state and local partners appropriate to the level of certification that they hold.*

**6. Q – What is NASBLA’s BOAT Tactical Operators Course?**

*A – This course provides the skills and knowledge necessary for security zone enforcement (including escorts) and vessel pursuit similar to the Coast Guard’s Tactical Coxswain and Pursuit Coxswain resident courses located at Joint Maritime Training Center (JMTC).*

**7. Q – Does the CG support NASBLA’s BOAT Tactical Operators Course?**

*A – Yes.*

**8. Q – Can Coast Guard members attend NASBLA’s BOAT Tactical Operators Course?**

*A – Yes, coxswains at units with assigned Ports, Waterways and Coastal Security (PWCS) (escort/security zone enforcement) duties may attend.*

**9. Q – What does a Coast Guard member receive if they attend NASBLA’s BOAT Tactical Operators Course?**

*A – Coast Guard coxswains who attend this course will receive a letter of course completion. In addition, and similar to other Boat Forces resident “C” schools, the students will receive a list of completed qualification tasks (aligned with BOAT Manual Vol III). This course will not provide certification - that responsibility will remain with the unit Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge.*

**10. Q – Is attendance and successful completion of NASBLA’s BOAT Tactical Operators Course considered the same as attending tactical training at Joint Missions Training Center (JMTC) including a graduates ability to sign off tactical qualification tasks.**

*A – Yes. Once a member is properly certified by their Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge they are considered an instructor and have the ability to sign tactical qualification tasks. This will be updated in BOAT Manual Vol III.*

**11. Q – How much does NASBLA’s boat tactics training cost and who pays?**

*A – Current cost of the five-day course is \$24,000 for up to 20 students. The Office of Boat Forces will not fund this course. However, they are working with FORCECOM in an effort to identify additional funds.*

**12. Q – Can Coast Guard coxswains become NASBLA instructors?**

*A – Yes, to become a certified NASBLA instructor a member must successfully complete the BOAT Tactical Operators Course, attend a second course as an assistant instructor, and attend a third course as a primary instructor. Members should contact NASBLA with specific questions.*

[www.nasbla.org/boatinfo](http://www.nasbla.org/boatinfo)

**13. Q – Does NASBLA have a database to capture who is certified or credentialed?**

*A – NASBLA is establishing a national database that program managers can access, and that captains of the port, emergency operations centers, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can access for immediate identification of qualified personnel in their region and throughout the country.*

**14. Q – Is there currently another known entity or vendor that provides exportable tactical coxswain training that meets U.S. Coast Guard standard?**

*A – No. Currently NASBLA is the only vendor identified by the Coast Guard to provide this training.*

**15. Q – May a NASBLA instructor operate a Coast Guard boat for the purpose of delivering tactical training?**

*A – Yes. NASBLA has established a rigorous selection process to field the most experienced and qualified instructors from marine law enforcement agencies across the country. While NASBLA instructors are authorized to operate Coast Guard vessels for the purpose of delivering tactical training, this is typically limited to the demonstration of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures. Students do most of the driving. A currently certified Coast Guard coxswain must be onboard each Coast Guard boat, and NASBLA instructors must receive area familiarization prior to the commencement of training.*