



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on Boating Under the Influence Penalties

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Committee: Enforcement and Training Committee

Background

Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents according to the United States Coast Guard Boating Safety Division. The National Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan Strategy 6.4 states “Encourage NASBLA to work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of legislation that links BUI violations with a person’s motor vehicle driver’s license. Explore the feasibility and effectiveness of increasing penalties for BUI violators with high blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels (0.15 or higher).” Currently, 14 of the 56 member states and territories have legislation that links BUI violations to driving privileges in some way.

Policy

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators encourages all state and federal agencies to support and encourage legislation that would allow for BUI penalties to include motor vehicle driver’s license restrictions for convictions of BUI, and increased penalties for convictions of having a BAC of 0.15 or higher.

Policy References

2008 National RBS Strategic Plan Strategy 6.4

2008 NASBLA Reference Guide to State Boating Laws, Table 5.2 - Boating Under the Influence

USCG 2006 Statistic summary from the Boating Safety Division