



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on the NASBLA Charter Boat Safety Model Act

Date: September 8, 2008
Committee: Enforcement and Training Committee

Background:

On October 2, 2005, the sinking of the *Ethan Allen* in Lake George, New York, and the tragic loss of 20 lives propelled the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) to investigate the accident and identify a deficiency among the states in effectively regulating small passenger vessel safety. Many states have significant commercial passenger vessel activity on sole state waters but have inadequate safety programs or none at all. NASBLA responded to the tragic event by updating a 1992 Model Act for Charter Boat Safety that applies to any vessels carrying passengers for hire. This Model Act is intended to provide for regulation, inspection and licensing of charter boats; protect the safety and welfare of persons using them; and authorize the administering department to prescribe standards and promulgate rules.

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators encourages state adoption of the NASBLA Charter Boat Safety Model Act, will continue to work together with the NTSB, United States Coast Guard (USCG), state partners and other boating safety professional organizations to narrow inconsistencies between the USCG small passenger vessel program on navigable waters and the states' regulation of passenger vessel safety, and support state initiatives to enhance the safety of these vessels.

Policy References

1. NASBLA's website at <http://www.nasbla.org>
2. NASBLA Publication *Small Craft Advisory* Nov/Dec 2006 Vol.21-No.6
3. Remarks of Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman, NTSB, Before the 2006 National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Louisville, Kentucky, September 25, 2006.
4. Federal Register: April 26, 2006 (Volume 71, Number 80) Domestic Vessel Passenger Weights-Voluntary Interim Measures. Coast Guard, DHS.
5. NASBLA Charter Boat Safety Model Act

Policy Letters

1. Letter from NTSB Mark V. Rosenker to NASBLA President Jeffrey S. Johnson of March 1, 2007.
2. NTSB letter to State of New York Governor George E. Pataki from Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman, NTSB Safety Recommendation M-06-16 and -17, August 4, 2006.
3. NTSB letter to Admiral Thad W. Allen, Commandant, USCG from Mark V. Rosenker, Chairman NTSB Safety Recommendations M-06-15, August 4, 2006.