

SO.....WHO IS THE NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL (NBSAC) AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO THE RECREATIONAL BOATING INDUSTRY?



Familiarity with acronyms is a useful resource when dealing with Federal business, and few if any businesses escape the ramifications of what happens in our Nation's Capitol? So.....one important acronym worth knowing is **NBSAC**.

The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) was established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. The law requires the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Commandant of the Coast Guard by delegation, to consult with the Council to provide advice and recommendations on a comprehensive and broad range of issues related to boating safety matters. The Council's 21 members are drawn from the states, industry, national recreational boating organizations, and the general public at large, which ensures a strong and well-balanced voice for the broader recreational boating industry. Most regulatory and legislative directives relating to the boating industry evolve from this group's recommendations, hence its importance to the overall industry. Each member holds office for a term of up to three years.

Caroline Mantel, current Director of Business Development for Boat History Report (a new NMLA Associate Member) was recently appointed to NBSAC, and will represent the voice of the marine lending industry and the importance and impact of its work on recreational boating and boating safety. Caroline is the Director of Business Development at Boat History Report and serves as the Vice-Chair for the Vessel Identification, Registration, and Titling (VIRT) Committee under the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). In the past year, she was chosen as one of Boating Industry's Top 40 under 40, and honored with the prestigious NASBLA Award due to her efforts in advancing boating safety and standardizing HIN formats leading to greater accountability for the entire boating industry.

One issue currently on the radar of NBSAC is the US Coast Guard's proposed changes to its regulations for the Uniform Certificate of Title Vessels Act (UCOTVA), as a way of increasing States' participation in the Vessel Identification System (VIS). Caroline's participation on NBSAC will highlight the importance of the industry having accurate boat data, expose the limitations of its absence, outline the challenges the marine lending industry faces when trying to obtain reliable information, and reiterate the opportunity it provides to make more educated lending decisions. UCOTVA creates safer lending both in that the state would be able to confer preferred mortgage status on financial instruments that apply to undocumented vessels which benefit the owner of those vessels, but also by making better lending decisions based on "hull damaged" titles. Support of UCOTVA, and exposure of its importance to the broader boating community has huge potential to positively impact the marine lending industry.

If you would like additional information about Caroline's role on NBSAC, or on the proposed changes to UCOTVA, please contact her directly at caroline@boathistoryreport.com.

The U.S. recreational boating industry is an important part of American heritage and culture. Each year the industry generates \$170.3 billion in annual economic impact, supporting more than 35,000 businesses and 691,000 jobs. There are almost 12 million registered boats in the US, and every year, an estimated 100 million Americans participate in recreational boating.