

## **Nonprofit Organization Grants:**

Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety  
Recreational Boating Safety

Federal Grant Title:	National Non-Profit Organization Grant Program
Federal Agency:	United States Coast Guard
Funding Opportunity Number:	DHS-USCG-2022-001
Type of Funding:	Cooperative Agreement
CFDA Numbers:	97.012
CFDA Descriptions:	Boating Safety Financial Assistance

Grantee: National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)  
Grant Number: 70Z02322MO0005082  
Grant Title: Boating Incident Investigation & GPS Forensics Courses  
Period of Performance: 3 year grant

Award Amount: \$315,000.00

### **Summary:**

NASBLA is seeking grant assistance and Coast Guard support to continue the effort of the states and NASBLA to improve the reliability of incident reporting and data collection. Specifically, NASBLA is requesting funding for the Boating Incident Investigation and GPS Forensic courses.

During the last two years, there has been a sharp increase in recreational boat sales which has led to our nation's lakes, rivers, and other waterways being inundated with more and more recreational vessels. This increase in sales has also increased the number of new boaters on the waterways. With this increased congestion, officers and investigators have also seen a marked increase in boating-related incidents, crashes, injuries, fatalities and property damage incidents.

Officers calls for service to investigate these incidents have risen and scrutiny of investigations and reports are increasing as well. Criminal and civil litigation has skyrocketed in many places throughout our country and the demand for culpability by boaters, prosecutors, attorneys, and officers has begun to rise to a level that motor vehicle crashes have garnered for many years. This emphasizes the importance and the demand for professionally trained officers investigators in the technical role of incident investigation across the nation.

In regard to the need for training on GPS forensics, for many years, recreational boats were rarely equipped with any type of navigational type electronics. This technology was primarily expensive and used by coastal boats and higher priced vessels. As GPS technology began to become more affordable and commonplace on most all vessels from the dealer, officers

nationwide realized the incredible value of the data these units could provide for an investigation of a boating related incident or crash. Speed, direction of travel, navigation rules violations, track data, location of the incident, destination after the incident, historical travel routes, last visited locations prior to the incident, evasive maneuvers, operational characteristics, and other items can be hugely valuable to the impartial investigator to determine what was happening prior to, during, and after the incident. Having officers trained to recognize the possibility of this information and how to secure and analyze it is an important and now prevalent piece of boating incident investigations and determining contributing factors.

NASBLA has trained over 7,700 marine law enforcement officers in the skills of boat incident investigation since the first courses were conducted in 1988. Since NASBLA began delivering incident investigation courses, the demand for boating incident investigation has not waned, and NASBLA needs assistance from the Coast Guard to meet the demand of the states.

<https://www.nasbla.org/home>