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## NASBLA Connect launched! Be a part of the online community



NASBLA

NASBLA has officially launched our online community -- Connect. If you have not utilized this exciting digital offering yet, we encourage you join us! You can access NASBLA Connect at <https://community.nasbla.org/home> or through [nasbla.org](https://nasbla.org).

We've created some short videos on [logging in](#), [updating your profile](#), [searching the directory](#), and [uploading a resource](#) to the library. We encourage you to check them out. If you would like to learn more you can also visit the [Quick Start Guide](#). [READ MORE](#)



## Key issues in recreational boating, changing boat-ownership model, shifting boater demographics discussed during BOATUS Advisory Meeting



BoatUS

A panel of distinguished boating leaders who serve as a sounding board for Boat Owners Association of The United States ([BoatUS](#)) gathered last week along with esteemed guests and BoatUS staff in Newport Beach to discuss key issues impacting recreational boating, including the changing boat-ownership model and shifting boater demographics. BoatUS is the nation's largest recreational boat owners group in the U.S. with more than a half-million dues-paying members.

The group also discussed legislative issues that help keep the association's focus on the evolving needs of

recreational boaters, including some who now get on the water without having to own a boat via boat-sharing clubs. The National Marine Manufacturers Association, U.S. Power Squadrons, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary all provided updates on activities. [READ MORE](#)



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## 2018 NASBLA BOAT Instructor Workshop wraps up



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

NASBLA hosted the 2018 NASBLA BOAT Instructor Development Conference, Dec. 3 - 4 in Lexington, Kentucky. Over 50 NASBLA credentialed instructors were in attendance. The conference agenda included topics such as the 2018 BOAT Program Review, New Learning Management System, Instructor Online Community, Microlearning Videos, Course Updates & Reviews and The Neuroscience of Learning.



The [NASBLA BOAT Program](#) constantly works to improve and develop the teaching styles and techniques of the program's instructors to continue to address the learning styles of adult learners/ students. To learn more about the BOAT Program visit [nasbla.org/BOAT](http://nasbla.org/BOAT). [READ MORE](#)

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## Engine cutoff switch requirement and 5-year vessel documentation included in passage of Coast Guard Authorization Act



BoatUS

Each year Congress authorizes the budget and overall spending level for the U.S. Coast Guard, which can have a direct effect on recreational boaters. The Frank Lobiondo Coast Guard Authorization of Act of 2018 was passed on December 4th and offers new safety and consumer-friendly benefits for boaters, anglers and sailors.

Included in the reauthorization is a provision requiring "manufacturers, distributors and dealers" to install engine cutoff switches on new boats "less than 26 feet overall in length and capable of developing 115 pounds or more of static thrust." The engine cutoff switch provision "includes, but is not limited to, inboard engines, outboard motors and sterndrive engines." Switches also need to meet [American Boat and Yacht Council](#) Standards.

For those who document their vessel with the U.S. Coast Guard [National Vessel Documentation Center](#), the length of time the certificate will be valid increases from one to five years, easing a boater's paperwork burden. [READ MORE](#)

## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



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## PRODUCT SHOWCASE



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## Get ready for spring boating by preparing for winter

U.S. Coast Guard via Navy Times

December is upon us and winter cold is in full effect throughout the Mid-Atlantic. Many boaters are off the water during the cold months, but safe boating in the spring and summer starts with proper winterization and preparation.

Every year when the boating season opens up, the Coast Guard conducts numerous rescues due to preventable incidents which could have been avoided if the proper steps were taken for winterization and proper inspections were done prior to departing for the first time of the season. Waiting too long may be a costly mistake. [READ MORE](#)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	More information
Jan. 8	Marine Law Symposium: Winning Expert Witness Strategies	Seattle	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
March 17–23	Spring Aboard Campaign — Take a Boating Course!	Nationwide	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
March 24–27	International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)	Jacksonville, Fla.	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
April 15–19	National Drowning Prevention Alliance Annual Conference	New Orleans	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
May 12–15	Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA)	Oklahoma City, Okla.	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
May 14–15	Life Jacket Association Annual Conference	St. Pete Beach, Fla.	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
July 5–7	Operation Dry Water: Heightened BUI Awareness & Enforcement Weekend	Nationwide	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
Sept. 22–25	Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting	St. Paul, Minn.	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>
Sept. 29–Oct. 2	60th Annual NASBLA Conference	Anchorage, Alaska	<a href="#">Visit for details</a>

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