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Waterways Management Committee
Social Impacts Workgroup
Survey Results
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Introduction

The Social Impacts Workgroup was tasked with determining the most common social issues that are challenging State Boating Law Administrators and to provide them with some of the tools that are being successfully used nationwide to resolve issues. As notable, are tools that have failed to mitigate waterways management efforts. The Workgroup chose to initiate a survey in an attempt to quantify what are typically considered qualitative issues of social impacts in the boating community and techniques used to mitigate such impacts.

Methods

A survey form (Attachment 1) was mailed out in March, 2000 to all State Boating Law Administrators (BLAs). The form was in a grid format with suggested techniques along the x-axis (from left to right) and potential social issues along the y-axis (listed from top to bottom of the page). Twenty-three (23) issues were presented and eighteen (18) techniques were suggested, allowing additional space for write in issues or techniques. Administrators were first asked to rank all issues with a 4 for very important, 3 equating to important, 2, relatively unimportant, 1, unimportant; 0, not an issue. Secondly, they were asked to rank the techniques used to solve each issue by using 4 to signify that a technique was very important to resolve an issue; 3, equating to important; 2, relatively unimportant; 1, unimportant; and 0,indicating that the technique was unsuccessful in resolving a particular issue. Finally, BLAs were asked to address whether the listed issues were regulated by state policy or Federal initiative.

Results and Discussion

Survey Response

Fifty-one percent (51%) of the 57 states and territories surveyed responded (29 responses returned out of 57 surveyed). More specifically, there was 55% participation from the Northern Region of NASBLA, 45% from the Southern Region and 53% participation from the Western Region.

Issues

Twenty–seven (27) issues were prioritized by NASBLA Region based on response totals. Following are the top ten issues for the Regions.

NORTHERN	SOUTHERN	WESTERN
Operator Behavior	Alcohol Consumption	Operator Behavior
Noise	Operator Behavior	Alcohol Consumption
User Conflicts	Speed	User Conflicts
Lack of Law Enforcement	Congestion	Congestion
Alcohol Consumption	Proximity	Lack of Law Enforcement
Speed	Wake	Overcrowded Conditions
Wake	Overcrowded Conditions	Wake
Aquatic Nuisance Species	Age of Operator	Proximity*
Congestion	User Conflicts	Speed*
Proximity	Litter	Amenities at Boat Launches*

Ties within the Region were broken by listing the issue that received more "very important" rankings first. Those that could not be broken were listed with an asterisk (*)

When issues were looked at nationally, the following priorities resulted.

COMBINED REGIONS
Operator Behavior
Alcohol Consumption
Speed
User Conflicts
Congestion
Wake
Proximity
Lack of Law Enforcement
Overcrowded Conditions
Noise

Two Northern and one Western state reported "Reckless Operation of Jet Skis" under "other". Several Southern states listed "Lake User vs. Lake Resident" under the "other" category. The same Southern states listed "Bass Tournaments, User Fees" and "Special Restrictions on Certain Lakes" as important issues.

Techniques to Address Issues

Results from the "very important" and "important" categories were merged because the numbers from the individual categories were too low to make meaningful differentiation for ranking. The following table lists the top three techniques utilized by states to resolve the issue in question. More than one technique listed under priority indicates a tie.

Techniques Generally Used

ISSUE	Technique 1	Technique 2	Technique 3
Amenities at Boat Launches	Stakeholders Groups	Public Hearings	Informational Meetings
Aquatic Nuisance Species	Targeted Education	Informational Meetings	Stakeholder Groups
Boat Engine Horsepower Issues	HP Restrictions	Speed Restrictions	Bans on Watercraft/ Types of Engines
Erosion	Wake Restrictions	Speed Restrictions	Exclusion Zones
Harassing Wildlife	Targeted Education	Exclusion Zones	Increased LE/Bans on Watercraft
Lack of Law Enf.	Increase Law Enf.	Coop. with local Police Depts.	Pay Law Enf. Overtime
Method of Propulsion	Bans on Watercraft/ Engine Types, Propulsion Restrictions, Speed Restrictions	Targeted Ed, Recreational Use Zones	Horsepower Restrictions
Noise	Increase Law Enf.	Targeted Education	Quiet Hours/ Restricted Speed Hours, Bans on Watercraft /engines
# Parking Spaces at Boat Launches	Stakeholder Groups	Coop. with Local Police Dept., Informational Mtgs.	Public Hearings, Boat Launch Closure
Operator Behavior	Increase Law Enf.	Targeted Education	Speed Restrictions, Coop. with local PD
Overcrowded Conditions	Increase Law Enf.	Speed Restrictions	Targeted Education, Exclusion Zones, Usage Zones/Times
Boat Sewage	Targeted Education	Public Hearings, Informational Mtgs.	Stakeholder Groups
Litter	Targeted Ed.	Increased LE	Stakeholder Groups
Petroleum Releases	Targeted Ed.	Bans on Watercraft/ Engine Types	Exclusion Zones
MTBE	Bans on Watercraft/ Engine Types	Method of Propulsion, Targeted Education	Exclusion Zones, Info. Meetings, Public Hearings, Stakeholder Groups
Age of Operator	Increase LE	Public Hearings	Coop. with PD, HP Restrictions, Stakeholder Groups, Targeted Education

Alcohol Consumption	Targeted Education	Increased LE	Informational Mtgs.
Congestion	Increased LE	Targeted Education	Coop. with Local PD
Proximity	Increased LE	Targeted Ed	Wake Restrictions
Speed	Increased LE	Targeted Education	Speed Restrictions, Wake Restrictions
Wake	Increased LE, Targeted Education	Wake Restriction	Speed Restrictions, Coop. with Local PD
User Conflicts	Increased LE	Bans on Watercraft/ Engine Types, Speed Restrictions, Targeted Education	Public Hearings, Informational Mtgs, Coop. with Local PD, Usage Zones/Times

The following techniques, ranked irrespective of issue, are considered very important for resolving issues.

Techniques Deemed "Very Important" for Resolving Issues

Increased Law Enforcement
Targeted Education
Cooperation with Local Police Depts. For Patrols
Wake Restrictions
Speed Restrictions
Ban on Watercraft/Types of Engines
Exclusion Zones
Recreational Usage Zones/Times
Pay Law Enforcement Overtime for Specific Events
Informed Consent

When the "Very Important" designation was combined with those techniques deemed "Important" in resolving issues, there was a slight shift in the ranking.

Techniques Deemed "Very Important" and "Important" for Resolving Issues

Targeted Education
Increased Law Enforcement
Cooperation with Local Police Depts. For Patrols
Speed Restrictions
Stakeholders Groups
Informational Meetings
Wake Restrictions
Public Hearings
Ban on Watercraft/Types of Engines
Exclusion Zones

States listed: surveys, advisory committees, news releases, publications, erosion control devices (structural and non-structural), funding, pumpout facilities, cleaning facilities and public informational materials as very important or important in resolving particular issues.

The results for "Unimportant" will not be presented, as many states did not use designation so numbers were very low.

Several states indicated that some of the techniques were tried and shown to be "Unsuccessful". These are presented for informational purposes, as rankings could not be logically obtained. The number in the grid indicates the number of states that listed that a particular technique as "Unsuccessful" in resolving a particular issue.

UNSUCCESSFUL

Directions:

RANK:
4 = very important
3 = important
2 = relatively unimportant
1 = unimportant
0 = not an issue
PLEASE ADDRESS ALL ISSUES.

TECHNIQUES:
4 = very important
3 = important
2 = relatively unimportant
1 = unimportant
0 = unsuccessful
PLEASE ADDRESS ALL TECHNIQUES

TECHNIQUES:

Issues	bans on watercraft/types of engines	boat launch closure	cooperation with local police dept. for patrons	exclusion zones	horsepower restrictions	increased law enforcement	informational meetings	informed consent	method of propulsion restriction	pay Law Enforcement overtime for specific events	public hearings	quiet hours/restricted speed hours	recreational usage zones/times	regatta event permits	stakeholders groups	speed restriction	targeted education (may include operator etiquette)	wake restriction	other _____	other _____ (Y,N)
Issues	1	2			1				1											
amenities at boat launches	2	3		1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		
aquatic nuisance species	1	2	1	2	2	1			1	1	1	1	1		1		1	1		
boat engine horsepower issues		2	2				1	1	2	1	1		1	1						
erosion		1	1				1		1	1	1	1		1	1					
harassing of wildlife		1	2						1	1	1	1		1	1	1				
lack of Law Enforcement	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2		2		1		
method of propulsion			1		1	1		1	1	1	1		1				1	1		
noise							1		2	1	1	1		1						
# of parking spaces at boat launches		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1			1			
operator behavior							1	1	1	1	1		1							
overcrowded conditions	1	2	1		1	1	1			1	1			1						
pollution:																				
boat sewage		1			1			1	1			1			1		1	1		
litter		1		1	1			1	1	1	1						1	1		
petroleum releases from engines		1	1						1	1							1			
MtBE		1	1				1	1	1	1										
other_____																				
safety issues:																				
age of operator	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		1		
alcohol consumption		1							1	1	1	1			1	1		1		
congestion	1	2	1						1						1					
proximity		1	1				1	1												
speed		1	1	1					1	1										
wake		1	1	1					1											
other_____																				

Some states utilize policy to resolve boating issues. The following table shows the number of responding states that use policy and/or Federal law to resolve issues.

	State Policy	Fed. Law
Issues		
amenities at boat launches		
aquatic nuisance species	4	2
boat engine horsepower issues	4	1
erosion		
harassing of wildlife	3	
lack of Law Enforcement		
method of propulsion	1	
noise	4	
# of parking spaces at boat launches		
operator behavior	7	
overcrowded conditions	2	
pollution:		1
boat sewage	5	5
litter	5	2
petroleum releases from engines	2	2
MtBE	2	1
other_____		
safety issues:		
age of operator	4	
alcohol consumption	5	
congestion	2	
proximity	4	
speed	3	
wake	4	

TECHNIQUES (TOOLS)

Directions:

RANK:
4 = very important
3 = important
2 = relatively unimportant
1 = unimportant
0 = not an issue
PLEASE ADDRESS ALL ISSUES.

TECHNIQUES:
4 = very important
3 = important
2 = relatively unimportant
1 = unimportant
0 = unsuccessful
PLEASE ADDRESS ALL TECHNIQUES

TECHNIQUES:

Column headers (techniques):
- bans on watercraft/types of engines
- boat launch closure
- cooperation with local police dept. for patrols
- exclusion zones
- horsepower restrictions
- increased law enforcement
- informational meetings
- informed consent
- method of propulsion restriction
- pay Law Enforcement overtime for specific events
- public hearings
- quiet hours/restricted speed hours
- recreational usage zones
- regatta event permits
- stakeholders groups
- speed restriction
- targeted education (may include operator etiquette)
- wake restriction
- other _____
- other _____
- Is issue resolved by policy? (Y,N); If yes, include policy
- Do you rely on federal initiatives for resolution? (Y,N)
- other _____ (Y,N)

RANK **Issues**

amenities at boat launches
aquatic nuisance species
boat engine horsepower issues
erosion
harassing of wildlife
lack of Law Enforcement
method of propulsion
noise
# of parking spaces at boat launches
operator behavior
overcrowded conditions

pollution:
  boat sewage
  litter
  petroleum releases from engines
  MtBE
  other _____

safety issues:
  age of operator
  alcohol consumption
  congestion
  proximity
  speed
  wake
  other _____