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NASBLA opens public review period for Revised DRAFT National Boating Education Standards

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Oct. 16, 2013) – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) will be opening a 45-day review period for the newly revised National Boating Education Standards. The public review period will be forty-five (45) days, commencing October 17, 2013 and closing November 30, 2013.

Originally adopted in 1999, the National Boating Education Standards prescribe the minimum body of knowledge to effect *safe, legal, and enjoyable recreational boating*. “These Standards continue to serve as the basis for boating education courses approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard,” said NASBLA Education Director Pamela Dillon. According to state program reports, nearly 500,000 students completed a NASBLA-approved course and earned a boating education certificate based on these Standards in 2012.

NASBLA placed the document under the guardianship of the National Boating Education Standards Panel, whose primary function is to use an open, consensus-based process to assess the standards using risk-based analysis in order to “*provide national agreement and consistency in boating education program content and course delivery for the nation's boaters.*”

Based on public comments received during its ‘Call for Proposed Revisions’ period earlier this year, a DRAFT of the proposed revised standard opens for public review and comment on Oct. 17. Comments are encouraged from any party materially affected by the Standard.

(continued)

Input on the Standard, now labeled as *P-1-20XX Basic Boating Knowledge*, will be accepted exclusively via the EZ-ESP website, <http://esp.nasbla.org/esp>. Instructions for submitting comments (including how to obtain login credentials for the EZ-ESP website) and documents containing the current Standard (effective Jan. 1, 2012), the reformatted DRAFT Standard, a document illustrating *tracked revisions* to the Standard, and the Education Standards Panel Rules are available for download at <http://esp.nasbla.org/esp>.

The Panel will consider only substantive comments from the public which relate to specific revisions under consideration. The Panel will dispose of each received submission by accepting, accepting in principle, or rejecting the comment, and the disposition of each will be recorded in the Panel's meeting minutes and communicated to all persons registered on <http://esp.nasbla.org/esp>.

Questions, including queries regarding the EZ-ESP website and login credentials, may be emailed to the Panel at esp@nasbla.org. Submissions of available, relevant, and reliable boating accident and participation data and/or other applicable boating safety and education research studies and scientific resources may also be submitted to the Panel for its review and consideration via email at esp@nasbla.org.

The Education Standards Panel is authorized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. The association offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 76 million American boaters.