



NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION



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20 May 2015

**SUBJECT: European Boating Association (EBA) Meeting
Venice, Italy, 10-11 April 2015**

My report to EBA is appended.

Attendance was 37 with representatives from 17 countries; Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States (NBF), plus representatives from ISAF/IMO, Boating Digest, and The Barge Association. "Cesky svaz jachting" of the Czech Republic resigned their membership.

EBA reported previously that through their member organizations they represent 20 million recreational boaters.

The following topics were discussed and are of interest to us in the U.S.

A. Administrative Matters:

1. **Peer Bent Nielsen**, Danish Sailing Association, having completed his 8 years as EBA President, turned the gavel over to **Willem Dekker** of the Netherlands Motorboat Club as the new President.
2. President Dekker presented a proposed strategic plan for EBA which was adopted. This plan described "Communities of Interest" as a way to better focus EBA efforts: **Inland Waterways – Mediterranean - Eastern Atlantic/North Sea - Baltic Sea**. The purpose of this approach was to identify and discuss issues of concern to EBA members, where EBA stands (its position) on matters it might want to influence, and how best to proceed. [ed. An interesting concept that might have value by U.S. organizations where there are major regional differences affecting recreational boating].

B. International Certificates of Competency (ICCs). There was minimal discussion on UN Resolution 40 or ICCs at this meeting. There was on the European Commission's interest in skipper licensing which might possible extend beyond commercial skippers. EBA Secretariat will publish an EBA position statement relative to recreational boaters.

C. CEVNI Rules. EBA missed the deadline for comments for CEVNI 5 published electronically in March 2015 and in hardcopy in Jun 2015. EBA will be involved in preparing the sixth edition.

D. Technical - ISO TC188 (WG refers to ISO working group)

1. A brief review of the current status of the WG activities regarding, lifejackets, man overboard prevention, liferafts, and alternative to parachute flares was provided by the Secretariat.
2. The new performance standards for LED navigation lights (ISO 19009) is nearing publication and EBA has been pivotal in its drafting to ensure compliance with the COLREGS. Further it has been suggested that a modification of COLREG Rule 22 with this new technology offering greater intensity and visibility distance than conventional incandescent bulbs. Nothing new was reported, however.

E. Environmental

1. **End of Life Boats** – After considerable discussion and two presentations about the complexity (abandoned, not registered, unknown owner, new boats not built) and importance of this issue the Working Group was tasked with drafting a position statement for approval in Berlin. France, Finland, and Sweden have disposal systems in place. It was noted that in the automotive industry little recycling effort was undertaken until the EU introduced legislation that directed them to do it and to ensure that the cost was not borne by the last owner. (<http://www.boatdigest.eu>).

2. **Alien species** continue to be a significant concern in the EU. The Parliament on 16 April 2014 approved legislation that bans species declared to be of “Union” concern and the EC would establish a stakeholder group to discuss the list. The legislation requires member states to ascertain routes of introduction and spread of invasive species and set up surveillance systems and action plans; i.e. stepped up checks at EU borders and better coordinated actions. The regulation applies to both intended and unintended introduction which is of concern to recreational boaters. Emma Barton (RYA) agreed to draft a “code of conduct” for recreational boaters as suggested to EBA by the Council of Europe. “Life+” is a new funding program by the European Commission to combat the invasion of alien species. EBA is a member of the EC advisory board.

F. Regulatory - Limited regulatory discussions affected only European waters.

Next Meetings – Berlin, Germany – 16-17 October 2015
Palma, Mallorca – 15-16 April 2016
Vienna, Austria – 21-22 October 2016
Palma, Mallorca – April 2017
Stockholm, Sweden – October 2017
Palma, Mallorca – April 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. David

P/P Robert P. David
Director, International Relations



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NBF Report to the European Boating Association, April 2015

("repeated" means continued importance and repeated from last report)

1. General Comments.

a. The **US Coast Guard (USCG)** Reauthorization bill passed and includes – i.) requires preservation of unused LORAN infrastructure for at least 1 year, ii.) can only be disposed if Department of Homeland Security (DHS) certifies it is not needed as complement to and backup to GPS, and iii.) authorizes DHS to engage in cooperative agreements to provide redundant capability if GPS signals are disrupted, i.e. e-LORAN.

b. **Rescue 21 Coastal VHF-DSC Network** – fully operational except Alaska. Alaska forecast to be complete by 2017.

c. **Cybersecurity** has become a major issue and the Coast Guard has held meetings and published documents to alert all maritime users.

d. The **USCG** continues, since 2004, to seek legislative authorization to establish a uniform federal requirement for mandatory education of boat operators, so far without success.

e. **Anchoring in Florida.** This issue is back under debate by the Florida legislature and Florida land owners objecting to transients anchoring too close to their property. Proposals have been made by the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), but the major point of contention is local versus state authority to regulate. Anyone venturing into Florida waters need to check with local authorities about current regulations.

f. **Invasive species** (Asian carp, mud-snails, milfoil, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, etc.) continue to create problems in many areas resulting in boating restrictions, cleaning requirements, and inspections. Asian carp leaping from the water have actually injured boaters! (repeated)

g. As of 13 April 2014 the **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** discontinued printing & distributing paper charts. Charts will be printed by certified NOAA agents, currently 14 (repeated)

h. **National Safe Boating Council (NSBC)** – NSBC was founded in 1958 with the mission is to enhance the recreational boating experience through education, training and outreach. Membership consists of over 330 U.S. and Canadian organizations; 65% nonprofit, 35% for profit. NSBC manages the annual spring National Safe Boating Week campaign in the U.S.

2. **National Boating Federation (NBF)** – www.n-b-f.org, continues to be represented on key US boating councils, advisory groups, and government forums.

a **Downloadable Brochures** available on the NBF website:

- 1) **DSC-Digital Selective Calling – Today's SOS;**
- 2) **Only You Can Take the Search Out of Search and Rescue** – cell phone brochure;
- 3) **The Life You Save Could Be Your Own – EPIRB/PLB -**

b. **Ethanol Addition to Gasoline.** NBF continues active opposition to ethanol addition to marine fuels, both the current 10% and the proposed 15%+, due to continued safety problems with degradation of fuel tanks and

lines. The Congressional Budget Office acknowledges significant problems with the Renewable Fuels Standards, the legislation behind this issue. (repeated)

c. **Personal Flotation Devices Labeling and Standards.** NBF supports the U.S. Coast Guard proposed removal of type codes in the regulations to assist the industry in developing consensus standards, harmonization with Canada and other nations, easier understanding by recreational boaters: “Types I, II, III and Type V (with Type I, II, III performance)” become “**wearable**,” “Type IV” will be considered “**throw able**.” No final action expected until 2016. NBF has requested a USCG grant to develop an informational brochure about these new standards for **personal floatation devices**.

3. United States Power Squadrons (USPS) – www.usps.org

a. **On-water Training Program.** This program continues on two fronts; teaching and certification by USPS at various sites around the country with trailerable boats supported via a USCG grant for the fourth year, and through the individual squadron **Boat Operator Certification Programs**.

b. **Boating Skills Virtual Training Units (BSVT).** 5 Units costing about \$15,000 each have been acquired for classroom use funded by a USCG grant. These hands-on units cover docking, departing a dock, use of spring lines, crossing/overtaking, trim control, and other maneuvers and with a night mode. The Canadian Power & Sail organization is acquiring a unit that operates in either English or French (other languages are now possible by the vendor). These virtual trainers have become a real hit at boat shows.

c. **General Comments.** USPS continues with its broad based educational programs from basic to offshore and celestial navigation along with many technical courses and shorter seminars. On-line courses are being offered as part of an “Educational Outreach” effort via BoatUS and Univ. of South Florida. USPS continues its partnering program with **Brunswick Corporation**, a major boat builder, through their Dealer Advantage program and 3,600 dealers to provide boat operator education. (repeated)

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. David

Robert P. David, Past President
Director, International Affairs

NEXT Meetings.

National Boating Federation - Annual Meeting – 25 April 2015, Seattle, WA
- Exec. Committee – October, San Francisco, CA

U.S. Power Squadrons - Governing Board – 25-30 Aug. 2015, San Diego, CA
- Annual Meeting – 14-21 Feb. 2016, Orlando, FL
- Annual Meeting – 19-26 Feb. 2017, Orlando, FL