

# **USCG National Recognition System (*with OUPV License Umbrella*) for recreational boating safety education**

Presented by  
James P. Muldoon  
&  
Jahn S. Tihansky  
*April 30, 2015*

# Purpose

- Purpose
  - Describe **USCG National System of Standards** initiative
  - Report on proposed legal pathway for a **USCG National Recognition Program for recreational boating educators**
  - Explore potential for legal support for a **Special OUPV License *Umbrella* program** to enable **On-Water instruction**

# Background & Need

# Boating education

- Many boating education **programs at all levels** across the country
  - National, local communities
  - National Governing Bodies, Mom & Pops
  - Sailing, paddling/rowing, powerboating
- Boating education ensures **safe and enjoyable** experiences on the water
  - Brings folks back to the water
  - Grows the marine industry

# On-Water Focus

- USCG recognized the need for expanded opportunities for On-Water instruction
  - **Recreational Boating Safety Strategic Plan (2012)** aimed at expanding availability of high-quality on-water training
- Current focus, developing National **On-Water Skills-based Standards** for operating
  - Recreational boats
  - SAIL, POWER and HUMAN-propelled domains
  - Beginners (entry-level)
- Standards will be completed and approved as **American National Standards (ANS)** by end of next year (2016)

# On-Water Curriculums

- Expect standards to be favorably received by the diversity of entities providing boating education
  - **Broad Community: Organizations, States, Marine Industry**
  - On-Water standards represent the **highest quality** recreational boating instruction **curriculum components** available across the country
  - Will be **freely available** to curriculum designers
  - For **voluntary use** in their instructional programs

# National System of Standards

- As part of this effort, the community “entities” are being organized within the **USCG’s National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation**
  - provides a framework for a **comprehensive, integrated** approach to standards
  - **Enables inclusion** and **non-dominance** of **different entities** across the recreational boating instruction community
  - creates one **recreational boating constituency**
- Opens opportunity for the USCG to **recognize entities** that:
  - adhere to the **National System of Standards**, and
  - use the **highest quality curriculum** in their training programs

# Instructor credentialing & OUPV license

- Shift in focus to On-Water training **highlighted a key barrier** to expansion of on-water instruction and growth of the industry
- Current maritime laws require **fee-based programs** to employ instructors with OUPV credentials
- Believe the law was designed for the **responsibilities of professional mariners** rather than instructors who focus on teaching people how to operate recreational boats
- Recreational boating instructors:
  - are not teaching or certifying people to operate commercial craft or operating those craft themselves
  - Their focus is the **safe operation** of **recreational craft**



# Legal resolution

- Thousands of recreational boating instructors & recreational entities will be **negatively impacted** if current OUPV license rules are required
  - **Need a licensing pathway** that fits the **scope, responsibilities** and **economic realities** of on-water recreational instruction
- Boating education leaders are exploring the potential for a **proposed solution** that involves:
  - a **Specialized OUPV Licensing Program** for recreational instruction
  - under a **National USCG Recognition System**

# The proposed solution

The national solution involves:

- USCG recognizing national recreational boating safety education entities that comply with **high quality training standards**
- Entities gain **USCG Recognition** by agreeing to follow a deliberate process that demonstrates they adhere to **best practices** & instruct **using American National Standards (ANS)**
- Recognized entity earns **Specialized OUPV License *Umbrella* Status**
- **Qualified instructors** deliver the Recognized entity designed on-water courses **under Specialized OUPV License *Umbrella***
- **Entity self-certifies (Stands behind)** that its instructors are proficient to teach the entity's **Recognized** curriculum (*update curriculum and instructor certifications as National Standards changed over time*)

# Community Support

- Introduce **Jahn S. Tihansky**
- Address real world experiences
- Components of proposed Specialized OUPV License components

# Professional background

- Over 40 yrs **sailing/boating throughout the world**
- 21 years as sailing instruction professional
- **Owner/past operator J World Sailing School** in Annapolis 21 yrs
  - Instructed over 12,000 people to sail/improve their skills
  - 3x rated best sailing school in the country by Practical Sailor reader surveys
  - Have taught curriculum ranging from beginner to ocean passage making & racing
- 10 years as Director Varsity Offshore Sailing Team at U.S. Naval Academy
  - Developing sailing, leadership & professional skills of novice sailors
  - 2012 USNA Coach of the Year
- US Sailing certified:
  - Keelboat, Cruising and Coastal Nav Instructor
  - Keelboat Instructor Trainer
- Served on US Sailing National Faculty
- USCG 50 Ton Master Near Coastal license (not current)

# Training experience

- **J World franchise** provided pre-existing well developed curriculum
  - - Eye opening on water training/orientation (*didn't know what I didn't know*)
- US Sailing **initiated keelboat certification** program soon after (*another eye opener*)
- USCG license experience (*compulsory for diversifying programs*)
- **Little relevance** to our **operations/no measure** of **actual capability/competence**
- **Red flag** when **headlining a prospect resume**

# Recreational boating safety scope

Wide variety of On-Water programming in boating instruction...  
support a **national solution with recreational scope**

## Professional Mariners



## Recreational Boating Instructors



# Continuing Conundrum

- Were we **legal to operate** with most instructors **unlicensed**?
- We queried **Baltimore CG REC CTR** re: limited OUPV having heard of **SUNY program**.
- Still **not really viable**

# Challenges

- **Part time, seasonal transient** staff
- **Limited financial resources** to invest
- Already allotting **sizable amount** to training



# Components of a Specialized OUPV (individual of the entity)

Components of the Specialized OUPV would ensure **highly trained instructors** follow **best practices** and **use ANS'** in delivering boating safety courses. For example—*Individual instructors will:*

- Teach on **navigable waters** as appropriate level of instruction
- Adhere to all **navigation rules** for federal rules to be working within commercial traffic
- Have current **First Aid, CPR** certification (youth and adult)
- Undergo **background checks (instead of expensive TWIC program)**
- Acknowledge Specialized OUPV is only for **On-water Recreational** boating safety education
- Deliver courses within the **scope of the organizing entity**
- Be qualified to instruct **anywhere in the country**
- Adhere to the **entities' credentialing requirements** for number of hours providing on-water instruction

# Closing remarks

# Exploring legal pathways

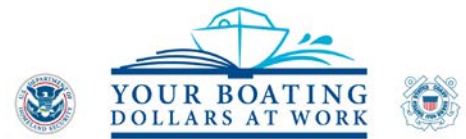
Recreational boating leaders are currently exploring legal pathways to implement the following:

- **USCG Recognition System**
  - for national recreational boating safety education entities providing the highest quality instructor training
- **Specialized OUPV Licensing *Umbrella* Program**
  - For recreational boating entities who train instructors adhering to established best practices and following ANS in their training programs

# Closing comments

- By implementing such a system, the boating public will:
  - Have **greater access** to high quality on-water instruction
  - Experience **safe and enjoyable** activity on the water
  - Be more likely to **buy boats**.... and
  - Help **foster growth** of the marine industry.

# Questions?



*Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.*