



Media Release
National System of Standards for Recreational Boat
Operation - USCG On-Water Standards Grant III (SAIL,
POWER, HUMAN)



Media Advisory * Media Advisory *** Media Advisory**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recreational Sailboat Field-Testing Program for On-Water, Skills-Based National Standard Complete

June 2016. The U.S. Coast Guard's National On-Water Standards grant management team is pleased to announce the completion of the third of three National field-testing programs. These programs, which have been in progress for over four years, gather data on the effectiveness of a draft of skills-based standards to function as National Standards. Both the HUMAN and POWER domains of recreational boating have finished gathering data, and the end of June marks the completion of data collection for the third domain, SAIL. Based on practical skills used on the water, this national research project will help identify potential changes needed to make the SAIL standard more effective at differentiating safe from unsafe entry-level recreational sailboat operation.

The last SAIL standard validation session was hosted by the **Buffalo Yacht Club** between June 20-24, 2016, but the program itself has been all over the country to test the drafted standard. The SAIL National Validation Program has been graciously hosted by **BaySail on the Chesapeake, Tidewater Marina**, in Havre de Grace, MD; **Orange Coast College: The School of Sailing and Seamanship**, in Newport Beach, CA; **Shake-A-Leg Miami**, in Miami, FL; **YMCA Camp Seafarer**, in Arapahoe, NC; and the **Annapolis Yacht Club** in Annapolis, MD.

Once completed, the SAIL Standard will function as an American National Standard (ANS) and be made freely available for voluntary use by individuals and organizations across the country interested in providing On-Water, entry-level, skills-based instruction in recreational sailboat operation. The complete report produced for the SAIL National Validation Program, and the updated SAIL Standard that results, will be posted to the On-Water Standards website, www.onwaterstandards.org, and our website can always be visited for the latest updates and news.

The outcomes of the National On-Water Standards Project will provide a definitive statement as to the skills associated with safe beginner-level recreational boat operation.

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THE NATIONAL ON-WATER STANDARDS PROJECT

This effort is part of the US Coast Guard's (USCG) work to implement a *National System of Standards for Recreational Boat Operation* that organizes both knowledge and On-Water, skills-based standards within one comprehensive system of recreational boating safety education. US Sailing, the grantee, has hired an impartial professional facilitator to spearhead the project so that all recreational boating constituencies are equally represented in the organization of this system. A core team of 43 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) is developing National On-Water Standards for SAIL, POWER, and HUMAN-propelled domains of recreational boating. More information can be found at www.onwaterstandards.org.

For more information related to the On-Water Standards Grant, the SME Team members and their role in the program, and other details about the National On-Water Standards Project, please contact National On-Water Skills Standards Facilitator K. Brian Dorval at grantfacilitator@gmail.com.