



USCG National On-Water Standards Project

Support team members included: - Paul Martory, Robert Reuther and Pete Ulie of the New Orleans Fire Department - Sergeant Clay Marques, and Jeffrey Farmer of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Law Enforcement Division - Ed Huntsman, USCG's 8th District Recreational Boating Program Manager - Jay Smith Rear Commodore, Daniel Rubin Treasurer, Buzzy McFerrin Manager, New Orleans Yacht Club - Greg Deis SN-CN, and Pete Lang, SN of the New Orleans Power Squadron

Sgt. Clay Marques and Agent Jeffery Farmer participated and helped to facilitate the project. Written By Ed Huntsman and LDWF. LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Law Enforcement Division and the New Orleans Fire Department supported the USCG National On-Water Standards Validation Project for human-propelled recreational craft hosted by the New Orleans Yacht Club May 1-3, 2015.

A team of boating experts participated in a two and a half day program to confirm On-Water skills for paddling/ rowing that educators can build into on-the-water boating programs across the country. "The validation process provides a phenomenal opportunity for the boating community to not just comment, but actively participate 'out on the water' to help develop the national Standard," said Ed Huntsman, USCG's 8th District Recreational Boating Program Manager, following the completion of the New Orleans HUMAN-Propelled Test.

Throughout the weekend, 12 community volunteers participated in 2-hour test sessions. They were asked to operate their craft through a series of beginner level maneuvers. Eight paddle/rowing experts observed the operation of the craft to determine whether the National Standard being developed effectively reflects beginner-level HUMAN-propelled craft operation.

The National Recreational Boating Safety Program is administered by the USCG with funds derived from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund to ensure "safe, secure, and enjoyable recreational boating experience..."

The Fund provides for grants administered by the USCG to states participating in the State Recreational Boating Safety Program. Louisiana is a participant of this program.

By complementing and deriving our goals from the National RBS Plan, Louisiana is not only working to make our waters safer, but the nations waters safer.

VISION

The vision of the LDWF/LED is to provide the citizens and visitors of the state of Louisiana with the safest, securest, and most enjoyable recreational boating experience possible while on Louisiana's abundant waterways and coastal areas by providing consistent and exceptional public safety and education.

MISSION

The mission of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division Boating Safety and Waterways Enforcement Five Year Strategic Plan is to minimize the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage incurred in recreational boating while cooperating with environmental and homeland security efforts. This mission will be fulfilled by implementing programs and activities in boating safety education and enforcement that have been identified as being effective in reducing boating crash incidents, injuries, property damage, and fatalities.