

## **NEWS RELEASE** (11/4/11)

*For immediate release*

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### **NASBLA appoints new chair of Education Standards Panel**

*LEXINGTON, Ky. (Nov. 4, 2011)* – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) has appointed Jeffrey Johnson, Alaska’s boating law administrator, as the new chair of the Education Standards Panel. Johnson fills a vacancy created by former Panel chair, Pam Dillon, stepping down effective November 1 to take a new position on the NASBLA staff as Education Director.

The objective of the Education Standards Panel is to review, develop and revise the National Boating Education Standards using open, consensus-based procedures that conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) essential requirements for due process. The seated Panel will review the National Boating Education Standards on a five-year basis beginning in 2011, with the most currently approved version of the Standards forming the basis for the first review.

Jeffrey Johnson received his bachelor of science degree in Park and Recreation Resources from Michigan State University. He then began working with the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in 1981, as a law enforcement ranger in Sitka, Ninilchik, and Anchor Point. In 1984, he became the first park ranger assigned to Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park, one of the nation’s largest. He was promoted to the Division’s central office to manage recreation restoration projects in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1994. Johnson is also an experienced boat operator and marine safety instructor, developing the Division’s powerboat operator training and certification program.

Johnson was named Alaska’s first BLA in 1998, which allowed him to work closely with a coalition of partners including the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary, Alaska boating organizations, and legislators to draft the Alaska Boating Safety Act. When the Act was signed into law in May 2000, Alaska became the last state to establish a recreational boating safety program. Johnson now manages the state’s Office of Boating Safety and coordinates the Alaska Boating Safety Program. As an active member of the professional boating safety community, Johnson has served two terms as president of the Western States Boating Administrators Association (WSBAA), and he was elected president of NASBLA in 2006. Johnson has received many awards including the U.S. Forest Service Merit Award, two commendations from the State of Alaska, two WSBAA President’s Special Recognition Awards, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Partnering for Excellence Award, the U.S. Coast Guard’s Public Service Commendation and NASBLA’s Herbert C. Bonner Award.

“As chair of this Panel, Jeff Johnson’s vast experience with boating education standards as well as boating safety will be a valuable asset to achieving its ongoing objective,” said NASBLA CEO John Johnson.

For more information on the Education Standards Panel, please visit [www.nasbla.org](http://www.nasbla.org).

*The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators 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 83 million American boaters.*

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