

BOATING OPERATIONS PROGRAM

One of the Department's major objectives is to protect the public's right to safe and enjoyable boating on the waters of California. To accomplish this, Cal Boating:

Promotes boating safety and education,

Assists local boating law enforcement agencies,

Ensures uniformity in boating regulations, and

Licenses for-hire boat operators and yacht and ship brokers.

These responsibilities are performed by the Boating Operations Division, which is divided among the following four units: Safety and Education, Enforcement, Regulations, and Yacht and Ship Broker's Licensing.

The Operations Division also works closely with the U.S. Power Squadrons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, two national volunteer organizations dedicated to making boating safety education available to the public. In addition to assisting Cal Boating with special projects, these expert boaters help distribute the Department's free boating safety literature to the boating public at the courses they teach and at public safety events.

BOATING ACCIDENT PROGRAM

Boating accident statistics are compiled under a state law that requires any boater who is involved in an accident to file a written accident report with the Department in the case of:

a death, disappearance, or injury requiring medical attention beyond first aid;

damage to a vessel or other property exceeding \$500;

or the complete loss of a vessel.

The purpose of this law is to provide a data base for accident analysis. Information contained in the reports is confidential and may not be used in prosecuting those involved for any violations which may have occurred, nor in civil litigation of any kind. The reports are a tool for identifying areas of concern so that Cal Boating programs can be directed toward promoting boating safety, education and law enforcement in those areas. The details of each reported accident are analyzed to determine the cause, ways in which the accident might have been prevented, and specific safety-related problems. Methods and programs can then be developed to reduce accident and fatality rates, including recommendations to the Legislature for changes in boating law.

Each year, Cal Boating releases a comprehensive study of boating accidents in California, which provides information on accidents, fatalities, and injuries. This report, entitled *California Boating Safety Report*, includes special topics such as personal watercraft, youth operators, alcohol-related fatal accidents, law enforcement activities and Department safety programs.

Accident statistics for the past two years are as follows:

| | 2000 | 2001 |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Boats Registered | 904,843 | 976,909 |
| Number of Accidents | 906 | 907 |
| Number of Injuries | 524 | 502 |
| Number of Fatalities | 51 | 48 |
| Property Damage | \$3,038,400 | \$2,841,900 |

For a copy of the *California Boating Safety Report*, visit the Department's Website, at www.dbw.ca.gov, or call the Accident Program, at (916) 263-8189.



SAFETY AND EDUCATION

K-12 Education

As mandated by Article 16 of the Education Code, the Department's aquatic and boating safety education program provided materials to more than 700,000 public school students during this biennium. A priority has been placed on elementary-level education in keeping with the Department's philosophy that aquatic and boating safety skills learned at an early age serve to protect students throughout their lives.

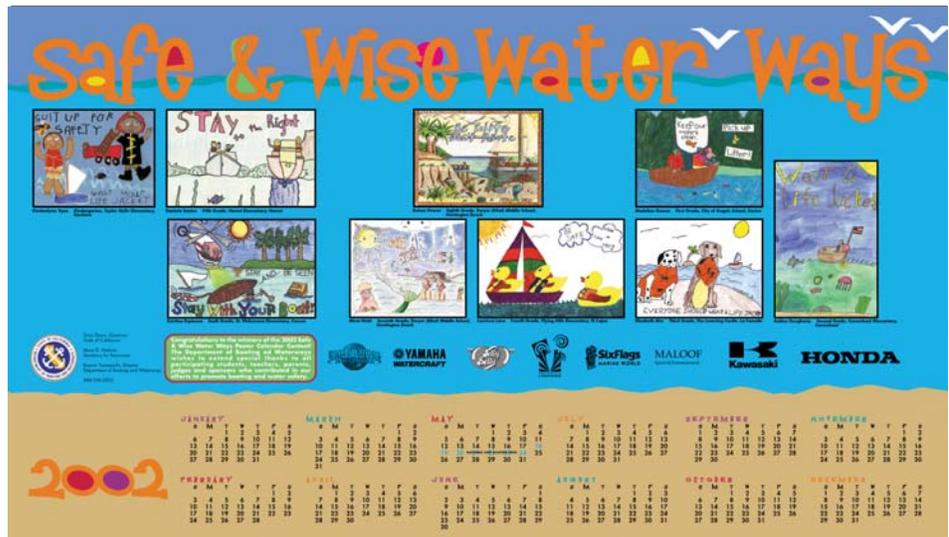
Curriculum materials for aquatic and boating safety education were made available to all public schools at no charge. The elementary school curriculum is a series entitled *AquaSMART, Water & Boating Safety*. The series is divided into three parts, for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. For high school students (grades 9-12), the *AquaSMART Boating* program is available.

Each program in the *AquaSMART* series for elementary schools covers 10 basic aquatic and boating safety lessons and consists of a teacher's guide with lesson plans, reproducible student activity sheets and a supplemental video. Parent participation is encouraged by providing lesson summaries to be distributed by the teacher and also involving them in some of the student activities. Students in grades K-2 are guided through the lessons by three animated characters, Splasher the Frog; Diver the Duck; and Surfer the Seal. An *AquaSMART* Team of students and experts covers the 10 lessons for grades 3-5. The 10 lessons for grades 6-8 are presented in an interview format of water safety experts. The student activity sheets for grades K-2 and 3-5 are also available in Spanish.

AquaSMART Boating, introduced for high school students in the spring of 1999, completes the *AquaSMART* series, specifically covering the basics of boating with an emphasis on safety. Materials provided to instructors include student workbooks, exams, certificates of completion, instructor's guide and supplemental video. Four types of boating are featured in the video and workbook, including powerboating, sailing, paddling and personal watercraft (PWC).

A complete chapter on personal watercraft is strategically designed so it can stand alone if an instructor wants to focus on this aspect of boating. Personal watercraft are often the boats of choice for youthful operators, and accident statistics reveal that persons under 18 years of age are involved in a large number of PWC accidents. U.S. Coast Guard volunteers continue to assist the schools that ask for help with the *AquaSMART Boating* course.

The *AquaSMART* curriculum series, reaching beyond schools, is used by youth organizations like Boy/Girl Scouts, aquatic day camps and Risk Watch (a fire department-sponsored youth safety program). The impact of *AquaSMART* extends beyond California's borders as other states and countries have adopted various components of the series. Annual advertisement to all the public schools elicits curriculum orders year round. Lesson plans and suggestions for incorporating each lesson into other disciplines encourage teachers to use these materials.



Annual Safe & Wise Water Ways Poster Contest

Nearly 9,000 students participated in the eighth and ninth Safe & Wise Water Ways annual poster contest. Students in the K-8 grade levels were invited to submit original artwork depicting aquatic and boating safety themes. One winner from each grade level was selected and featured on the Department’s annual calendar poster. Corporate sponsors, such as American Honda, California Canoe & Kayak, Jelly Belly, Kawasaki Motors Corp., Sacramento ABC affiliate KXTV-TV, Maloof Sports Entertainment (NBA and WNBA), Six Flags Marine World, Universal Studios, Stearns, and Yamaha contributed to the success of this program by providing awards for the winners.

Poster contest prizes were distributed to the winners at awards presentations at each winner’s school, usually held during a student body assembly with the winners’ families and the media in attendance.

At the awards ceremony for the 2000 poster contest, athletes who competed in the 2000 Olympic Games in Australia in boating sports were on hand to present the prizes to the students. Cliff Meidl, a sprint (flatwater) kayak paddler, and rower Xeno Muller, presented medals and life jackets to the elementary school winners.

Students participants create artwork depicting aquatic safety themes learned in Cal Boating sponsored study. They not only become “water wise” themselves, they help others stay safe by passing on these safety lessons.

The California Boating Safety Course

The Department provided 70,000 copies of the *California Boating Safety Course* to the public during this two-year period. Produced and copyrighted by the Department, this correspondence course allows boaters to study at home at their own pace and covers state and federal boating law, rules of the road, boat handling, required equipment, navi-



gational aids, accident reporting, and special topics. Approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard, this course includes an optional exam with two answer sheets. Once completed, the answer sheet can be forwarded to the Department for grading. Those who successfully complete the course are awarded Certificates of Completion which are recognized by many insurance companies for discounts on boat insurance policies.

Public Outreach

The Department performs public outreach activities to deliver boating and aquatic safety information to as wide an audience as possible. Department representatives visit schools, participate in boat shows and safety fairs, and offer public lectures on specific boating safety issues as requested. These programs annually reach approximately 40,000 individuals.

In 2001, the Department's *Get HOOKED on Boating Sober* Campaign was introduced at boat shows around the state. Boat show attendees were asked to answer questions on the dangers of mixing alcohol and boating, or to try on a pair of Fatal Vision goggles, which simulate the effects of being under

the influence of alcohol. In return for taking part, visitors to Cal Boating's booth received a *Get HOOKED* T-shirt.

Cal Boating conducts a multi-media campaign, including radio, Internet, and outdoor boating safety messages. The campaign targets the waterways where the greatest number of boating accidents occur.

In 2000, the Department of Boating and Waterways developed and launched the outdoor media element of the campaign, "Road Signs for the Waterways."

In 2000, Cal Boating also debuted boatsmarter.com, with its easy-to-remember address for its Webpage on boating safety that links boaters to the Department's Website. The colorful "road sign" billboards from the outdoor campaign, addressing a variety of aspects of boating safely, were adapted for use on the Website.

During this biennial period, the multi-media boating safety awareness campaign was expanded to run year-round in Southern California and continues to run May to October in Northern California.



In 2002, the program placed 52 permanent billboards and 300 all-weather posters statewide, at launching ramps, park entrances, fuel docks. In addition, 100 waterproof posters were placed at marinas on trash barrels provided by California's Adopt-A-Beach program.

The Boating Safety Awareness radio campaign debuted in 2000. Airing on 40 radio stations statewide, this campaign continues to grow with award winning radio messages informing boaters of the state's new life jacket law, boating and alcohol, the Department's boating safety course, *California Boating*, and the overall message, *Boat Smart-Boat Safe*.

Awards

During this biennium, the Boating Safety Education Unit garnered several awards from the State Information Officers' Council:

2000

ADDY Awards

- Gold Awards (multiple awards-Outdoor Media Campaign (Drunken Idiots, Flotation Device))
- Gold Award – Web Page www.boatsmarter.com

- Gold Award – *Safe & Wise Water Ways* Poster/Calendar
- Silver Award – boatsmarter.com Slogan

2001

ADDYs - The Sacramento Advertising Club's award competition for excellence in creative, effective advertising.

- Gold Award – *Life Jacket Law*, Radio
- Silver Award – *Fish Have Gills*, Print
- Silver Award – *Fun Zone Ahead*, Outdoor
- Silver Award – *The Other Guy*, Radio
- Silver Award – *Boat Safe Campaign*, Outdoor

SIOC - The State Information Officers' Council awards are given for excellence in communications products

- Gold Award – *Safe & Wise Water Ways*, Poster/Calendar
- Gold Award – *Splasher Pak*, Promotional Device
- Silver Award – *Life Jacket*, (with KXTV-TV's News 10), PSA Video
- Silver Award – *AquaSMART LIVE* , Educational program
- Silver Award – *Life Jacket Law* PSA Audio

National Safe Boating Council Awards

The mission of the National Safe Boating Council, Inc. (NSBC) is to enhance the safety of the recreational boating experience through education and outreach.

Boating Education Advancement Awards are given to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations that have developed and implemented new and innovative boating education programs that reach boaters to address some of the major safety concerns of today's vessel operator.

2000 Western Region Boating Education Advancement Award - *AquaSMART Boating*, High School Curriculum

National Water Safety Congress

The National Water Safety Congress (NWSC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting recreation water safety in the United States. The Congress was organized in 1951 in response to a growing number of recreation related drownings. There are two basic approaches to attain goals of reducing fatalities, injuries, and property damage related to water recreation: education and enforcement.

NWSC Awards of Merit: These awards are presented annually for those individuals, organizations, firms or agencies that have made a significant contribution or an outstanding effort to enhance or promote water safety at the community or state level.

2000 Award of Merit – B. Chris Brewster, Chief Lifeguard for City of San Diego

2000 Award of Merit – Jana Clarke, DBW Media Campaign

2000 Award of Merit – Roger Hagie, Kawasaki Motors Corp., USA

2000 Award of Merit – Gregory (Scott) Miller, Ventura Harbor Patrol

2000 Award of Merit – Colorado River Substation, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

2001 Award of Merit – Wes Dodd, Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department

2001 Award of Merit – Steve Ladwig & Dave Nakamura, CSU Humboldt

2001 Award of Merit – Duncan Milne, Access to Sailing

2002 Award of Merit – Art Grueneberger, *AquaSMART Live*

2002 Award of Merit – Amy Rigby, DBW Safety Report

2002 Award of Merit – Gloria Sandoval, DBW Program Contributions

2002 Award of Merit – Nancy Shephard, Teaching Aquatic Safety to Kindergarteners

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

2001 Officer of the Year, California – Deputies Mark Ballin and Fred Doke, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Marina Del Rey Station

2002: Officer of the Year, California – Deputy Patrick Fergus, Orange County Sheriff's Department Harbor Patrol Unit.

The Aquatic Centers Grant Program

Aquatic Centers operated by the University of California, California State universities, private universities, California Community Colleges, and non-profit organizations, provide classroom and on-the-water boating safety education in kayaking, canoeing, water-skiing, power boating, sailing, personal watercraft operation, and other aquatic activities.

Cal Boating uses State and Federal funds to provide grants to the operators of Aquatic Centers for scholarships and the purchase of boats and equipment used in the boating safety education classes.

During this biennial period, Cal Boating awarded 82 grants totaling \$1,240,000 to 36 organizations. The grants were used to purchase boating safety educational equipment used by students at the Aquatic Centers and for scholarship programs that provided funds for boating safety classes for disadvantaged youths and persons with disabilities. The Aquatic Centers participating in Cal Boating's program taught aquatic and boating safety to 240,000 students during this period.

The following organizations received grants during this biennial period:

Colleges and Universities

California State Universities

- California Maritime Academy
- California State University Chico
- California State University Humboldt
- California State University Monterey Bay
- California State University Northridge
- California State University Sacramento
- California State University San Diego

University of California

- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Davis
- University of California Irvine
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of California San Francisco
- University of California Santa Cruz

Community Colleges

- Feather River College
- Orange Coast College
- Southwestern College

Other Colleges/Universities

- Stanford University

Cities and Counties

- City of Carpinteria
- City of Oakland
- City of Santa Rosa
- County of Orange

Non-Profit Organizations

- America True
- Bay Area Association of Disabled Sailors
- Environmental Traveling Companions
- Healing Adventures
- Newport Aquatic Center
- Pacific Corinthian Youth Foundation
- River City Oar and Paddle Foundation
- Sailing Education Adventures
- Sailing Fascination
- Save the Bay
- Stockton Sailing Club
- U.S. Adaptive Recreation Center
- U. S. Sailing
- Vallejo Yacht Club
- Ventura Maritime Foundation



The Abandoned Watercraft Program

In 1997, Senate Bill 172 (Rainey) established the Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund (AWAF) and created a new program to make grants available to public agencies for the removal of abandoned watercraft and substantial navigational hazards from California's waterways. Grant funds may be used for the removal, storage and disposal of abandoned, wrecked or dismantled recreational vessels, or any other objects that pose a substantial hazard to navigation, from navigable waterways or adjacent public property, or private property with the landowner's consent.

During this biennium, the Department granted a total of \$1,045,789 to 22 local agencies, in FY 2000-01, \$399,989, and in FY 2001-02, \$645,800.

Grants from the AWAF must be matched by a 10% contribution from local agency grantees. The program began in January of 1998, and by June 30, 2002, had distributed a total of \$2,163,789 for the removal of abandoned vessels and other substantial hazards to navigation.

BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT

To meet Cal Boating's major objective to protect the public's right to safe and enjoyable boating on the waterways of California, the Enforcement Unit has established two primary goals:

To provide for adequate boating law enforcement through local agencies.

To ensure that enforcement of California boating laws is uniform throughout the State.

The Enforcement Unit meets these goals through programs that provide financial aid and officer training to local boating law enforcement agencies. During this biennium, Cal Boating provided approximately \$17.9 million to local governments to fund boating enforcement activities and equipment purchases and train boating law enforcement officers, as detailed below.

Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program

Cal Boating's Boating Safety and Enforcement Financial Aid Program was established to provide supplemental State funding to counties with a high incidence of visitor boating but an insufficient tax base from resident boaters to support an adequate boating safety and law enforcement program. A county must first expend the taxes collected from its resident boat owners before qualifying for this funding. The amount of financial aid is determined by available State funds, the number of required patrols, patrol personnel costs, and patrol operations and maintenance costs.

A total of \$16.2 million in funding aided the boating law enforcement programs of 37 counties and two cities during this biennium. These funds were used for personnel, operation, maintenance, and equipment costs. Services supported by this aid include: enforcing State and local boating laws, assisting boaters in distress, inspecting vessels, supervising organized boating events, and conducting search-and-rescue operations and recovery of drowned bodies.

The equipment grant program also provides grant funds to local government agencies for the purchase of patrol boats, trailers, engines, and other equipment necessary to ensure adequate enforcement of State boating safety laws and regulations. During this biennium, 44 grants totaling \$1.5 million were made to agencies throughout the state.

Boating Law Enforcement Training Program

California boating law is enforced by more than 100 public agencies throughout the state. However, boaters can expect the law to be enforced uni-

formly on all of the state's waterways because of Cal Boating's extensive Boating Law Enforcement Training Program.

The California State Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certifies all training courses offered by Cal Boating. These training classes instruct officers on boating law, basic boating skills, rescue boat handling, marine fires, coastal piloting and navigation, boating intoxication enforcement, and accident investigation and reconstruction. Approximately 837 officers were trained during this biennial period. Cal Boating provided \$200,000 for law enforcement training, \$67,874 of which funded the attendance of 96 qualified officers whose agencies did not meet POST reimbursement criteria.

The *Accident Investigation/Reconstruction* course continues to be a highlight of the program. Live, staged vessel crashes provide attending officers with a realistic experience of the way that investigative procedures and reconstructive methods are used to investigate an accident on the water. This class was featured in the August-September 2001 issue of *Small Craft Advisory*, published by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Additionally, Cal Boating worked closely with the California Boating Safety Officers Association and the California Association of Harbor Masters and Port Captains to maintain the Open Water Rescue and Enforcement master's program. Although designed for agencies that provide coastal boating law enforcement, the course is open to any boating officer in the state. This course, designed to provide training in a wide range of enforcement and search-and-rescue activities, includes classes in navigation, boat handling, marine fire fighting and boating law

enforcement. Approximately 614 officers received training in this segment of the program. When an officer has successfully completed all segments of the course, he or she is entitled to receive a Master's Certificate from Cal Boating in recognition of fulfilling all requirements of the Open Water Rescue and Enforcement program. Since the program's initiation in 1987, 196 officers have been awarded Master's Certificates, 22 of whom received their certificates during this biennium.

LICENSING

Yacht Brokers

Cal Boating's yacht broker licensing program serves as a means to protect the public from fraudulent acts by persons engaged in the sale of used vessels and provides a level of competence for brokers and salespersons. In 1999, together with the California Yacht Brokers Association, the Department published *How to Buy a Used Boat* in support of this goal.

Licenses for yacht and ship brokers, yacht and ship broker's branch offices, temporary salespersons, and yacht and ship salespersons are issued following successful completion of an examination, criminal background check, and bonding. As of July 1, 2002, there were 382 brokers, 21 associate brokers, 840 salespersons, and 98 branch offices licensed by Cal Boating.

Department staff inspects brokerages for compliance on a regular basis. Based on reports from these inspections and complaints from the public, unethical transactions by both licensed and unlicensed persons are investigated. Valid complaints are resolved through arbitration and legal action, including the suspension or revocation of the license, and civil penalties.

For-Hire Vessel Operators

Cal Boating issues for-hire vessel operator licenses to ensure the competence of operators who carry passengers for hire on waters solely under the jurisdiction of the State, primarily inland lakes. To be licensed, an applicant must meet minimum physical requirements and pass a written examination. Also required are practical demonstrations of safe boat handling, rescue techniques, registration-and-equipment compliance inspections of the vessels used by the licensees. Licenses are valid for five years and can be renewed for additional five-year periods. As of July 1, 2002, there were 487 licensed for-hire operators.