

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS (NASBLA) AND**  
**THE CONFERENCE OF PROFESSIONAL OPERATORS FOR RESPONSE TOWING (C-PORT)**  
**REGARDING A MARINE ASSISTANCE INDUSTRY QUALITY PARTNERSHIP**

1. **PARTIES.** The parties to this Memorandum are the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing (C-PORT). NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. Its mission includes fostering partnerships among the states, the Coast Guard, and others; and maintaining national education and training standards. C-PORT is committed to representing the Marine Assistance Industry with all federal, state and local organizations while encouraging its growth and development through education.
2. **VISION.** A living Memorandum of Understanding must go beyond the commitment to form a relationship. It must also articulate an actionable relationship, which harmonizes the mission statements of complimentary organizations in a productive and non-binding allegiance. The mission of NASBLA is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment. The mission of C-PORT is to establish standards for professionalism and good business practices throughout its membership. These members are dedicated to providing prompt, professional and timely assistance to all boaters and to actively partner and cooperate with local law enforcement and U.S. Coast Guard. These mutual missions provide an opportunity to create a relationship serving our mutual goals through partnership with the states, the United States Coast Guard and their maritime partners as force multipliers on the water promoting the safety and security of America's waterways.
3. **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.** To realize the full potential of this Memorandum of Understanding the following strategies will form the basis for this relationship in a non-binding but committed relationship:
  - a. C-PORT will commit to participation in NASBLA's BOAT Program and the development of instructors who will bring subject matter expertise to the current cadre of instructors in delivery of the Basic Crew Member Course (BCM) and the Boat Operator Search and Rescue (BOSAR) course offerings.
  - b. C-PORT will work toward development of regional course offerings under the NASBLA BOAT Program to support connecting with the diverse population of potential students who would benefit from the BCM and BOSAR offerings.
  - c. NASBLA is committed to the national recognition of C-PORT as the towing and salvor industry's representative body to its membership of boating law administrators and the maritime community.
  - d. NASBLA and C-PORT are committed to the development of a Governmental Affairs relationship where areas of mutual benefit are identified and positively influencing national standards within and related to the recreational boating community.
  - e. C-PORT is committed to participation in national policy development with NASBLA concerning specific language to assist recreational boaters by timely response and salvage in support of the state's ability to accurately investigate and report recreational boating accidents.
  - f. NASBLA and C-PORT will engage cooperatively in marketing and social media exchange by sharing and promoting best practices and educational information to a

broad maritime community of recreational boaters and their supporting maritime agencies.

4. **PURPOSE.** This Memorandum outlines the partnership between the parties. The purpose of the partnership is to improve the effectiveness of maritime safety, security and response; to promote and strengthen the communication and working relationship between the parties; and to support the protection of the marine environments. The parties will seek to achieve that purpose primarily through cooperating through meetings and other forms of communication to keep the parties apprised of current information relevant to marine assistance operations, education and standards.
5. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The parties will
  - a. Confer regularly to identify specific steps of mutual interest, to be taken in pursuit of the purpose stated in the "Implementation Strategies";
  - b. Mutually determine how best to perform and measure progress for each of those steps;
  - c. Promote this partnership within their respective organizations and, as may seem best, involve their representatives at all levels in steps to be taken at the national, regional, or local levels; and
  - d. At least annually, meet to briefly describe and evaluate the partnership's activities and update this agreement as the relationship matures and assesses positive outcomes.

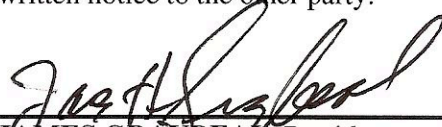
**POINTS OF CONTACT:**

NASBLA: Mr. John M. Johnson, Executive Director, 1500 Leestown Road – Suite 330, Lexington, Kentucky 40511; 859.225.9487


C-PORT: Ms. Tina M. Cardone, Executive Director, Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing, 1900 Oceanwalk Lane #133, Pompano Beach, FL 33062; 954.261.2012; tcardone@cport.us.

**SEVERABILITY.** Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to conflict with current law or regulation. If a term of this Memorandum is inconsistent with such authority, then that term will be invalid, but the remaining terms and conditions of this Memorandum will remain in full force and effect.

**EFFECTIVE DATE, TERMINATION, OR MODIFICATION.** This Memorandum is effective upon signature by both parties. The terms of this Memorandum will remain in effect until terminated or modified. The Memorandum may be modified by the written agreement of the parties, or terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party.

  
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**JAMES GRAYBEAL**, President  
National Association of State Boating Law  
Administrators (NASBLA)

9-12-11  
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Date

  
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**CHRISTOPHER SHAFFNER**  
Chairman, Conference of Professional Operators for  
Response Towing (C-PORT)

9/12/11  
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Date