

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 40

Number: **P-40**
Title: Statewide Boating Safety
Reference: Nevada Boating Act
Effective Date: January 23, 1981
Amended Date: December 2, 1995
Reviewed Date: 2002

PURPOSE

To guide the Department of Wildlife in the development and implementation of a statewide boating safety program.

POLICY

1. The boating safety program shall include public boating safety education, boating law enforcement, boating accident investigations, administration, access facilities, marine pollution prevention, navigational aids, registration and titling.
2. The State shall endeavor to conform its laws and regulations with Federal law to the extent practicable. Uniformity of laws and regulations with adjacent states is a priority, particularly on boundary waters.
3. Establishment of mutual assistance agreements between the state and other governmental agencies having some boating safety responsibility are encouraged and should be implemented when necessary to ensure the most efficient utilization of resources.
4. Collision with another vessel is the most reported type of accident. The vast majority of boating accidents are caused by the boat operator and not by the boat or environmental factors. Wearing life jackets could have saved the lives of the majority of Nevada boating fatalities. Alcohol involvement is estimated to contribute to many of Nevada's boating accidents and over half of the nation's fatalities. The timely and accurate identification of boating accident trends plays an important role in developing boating education, law enforcement work programs and budgets. Consequently, the Department must pursue public boating accident reporting and conduct investigations of all serious boating accidents.
5. The Department recognizes that boating safety education is essential. Further, that there exists a wide variety of needs from operating a yacht to safely handling a canoe. Nevertheless, some degree of uniformity is essential and boating safety education will be provided to as many persons as possible. This should

be accomplished by concentration on common factors such as respect for the marine environment, learning and observing rules of the road, knowing equipment requirements, and learning to share Nevada waters safely and courteously.

6. An effective vessel titling and registration system is a vital part of the boating program. The goal is to provide convenient, efficient service to the public while maintaining the absolute integrity of title and registration documents. Every effort should be made to minimize vessel theft.
7. Whenever possible and necessary for public safety, the Department should place and maintain appropriate aids to navigation.
8. Consideration will be given to the acquisition and development of public access sites in order to reduce congestion or other unsafe conditions. The Department will coordinate with other governmental agencies to secure such sites.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, JANUARY 20, 1999.

B. Mahlon Brown, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners