

# USPS

## Report to the NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION

21 October 2006

1. **USPS Boat Operator Certification.** This comprehensive program was adopted in August 2006 and is being further developed with specific seminars.

**OBJECTIVE.** To certify USPS members at various levels of recreational boating proficiency recognized across the boating community – domestically and internationally. The goal is to have USPS certification accepted as the national certificate for the USA and meet or exceed the requirements of UN Resolution No. 40, *International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft*.

**CERTIFICATION LEVELS.** To be documented on a wallet-size card and a frame-able certificate.

**Inland Pilot** – inland waterways and sheltered waters close to land in good weather during daylight.

**Coastal Pilot** – coastal boating (on the seas or Great Lakes) in nearby waters, during daylight.

**Advanced Coastal** – extended coastal boating and cruising, including night operations and more challenging weather conditions.

**Offshore Navigator** – beyond the sight of land and aids to navigation for extended periods, including 24 hour operation and in severe weather.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.** Person must be at least 16 years of age, be mentally and physically capable of operating a boat, and have sufficient visual and auditory ability to do so. Certification requires completion of all requirements as prescribed for each level; specific USPS courses, specific USPS or non-USPS seminars, specific skills demonstrations (some on the water).

**OPTIONAL ENDORSEMENTS.** These can be added at any level but the specific requirements may be different at different levels.

**CAN** – Canadian rules and navigation aids

**IW** – Inland waterways; locks, dams, river currents, canals, etc.

**PWC** – operating a jet ski or personal watercraft

**SB** – operating a sailboard or windsurfer

**WS** – towing a water skier

**EURO** – European rules and navigation aids (CEVNI)

**PD** – Paddling a canoe or kayak

**SA** – operating a sailboat

**TR** – trailering a boat

2. **UN Resolution 40 Adoption Status.** As reported in April several organizations had submitted resolution to the U.S. Coast Guard asking them to pursue obtaining “statutory authority” to pursue issue in the recreational boating area. The Commandant, with the support of his staff, submitted a request for a Legislative Change Proposal to accomplish this. Unfortunately, the Congressional Committee with oversight of the Coast Guard removed this recommendation from consideration. Thus we are back to ground zero since nothing more can be done from within the Coast Guard. Our recreational boating organizations will regroup this fall and look for alternate approaches. Obtaining this authority for the Coast Guard will be essential to moving forward with adoption of UN Resolution No. 40. I repeat the statement from my last report to refer any Americans with ICC problems to me and urge them to advise their Congressional representatives.

3. **USPS Vessel Safety Check Program** is conducted along with that of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Currently USPS has 2,403 certified vessel examiners who have conducted 23,057 safety checks so far this year.

4. **USPS Public Education** has three major public education offerings; *The Squadron® Boating Course*, *Boat Smart®*, and *America's Boating Course®*. Approximately 26,000 people registered for these programs this past year. New short seminar type programs have also been developed and introduced: *GPS, VHF/DSC Radio, How to Read a Chart, and On Board Weather Forecasting*. Coming this fall the following seminars, *Knots for Mariners, Boat Handling Under Power, Sail Trim, On Board Emergencies, Using Digital Charts, and Heavy Weather Sailing*, will be added to our offerings under the new banner... "USPS University".

5. **NBF/USPS Educational Awards**. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of these joint awards and they are being presented to 26 squadrons for exceptional work through public boating education programs. These 26 squadrons taught a total of 4,067 students, another increase over the previous year.

6. **USPS Member Courses**. Three totally rewritten courses are being beta tested this fall: *Seamanship, Junior Navigation, and Engine Maintenance*. We are also adding an elective for *Offshore Weather* and looking into an *Advanced Seamanship* course.

We hope you will encourage your club to contact the nearest squadron so they can take advantage of all we have to share to keep recreational boating safe and fun for the whole family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert P. David  
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Past Vice Commander