

NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 22, 2016
Arlington, VA

Resolution Number 2016-96-04

Pontoon Boat Casualty Mitigation

Propeller-related casualties have been a long standing concern of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council.

In the last five years, there have been 12 propeller-related deaths and at least 54 propeller-related injuries on pontoon boats. A careful analysis of the associated deaths and injuries should be undertaken to determine the circumstances that led up to each of these accidents.

Casualties may have simply been prevented by better outreach and education to the consumer detailed around designated occupant positions while underway or the analysis may reveal design or construction solutions that could be developed to enhance consumer protection from falls overboard or being struck by the propeller while in the water.

To address this issue, the National Boating Safety Advisory Council, meeting in regular session in Arlington, VA on October 22, 2016, recommends that the U. S. Coast Guard initiate a project in collaboration with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) certified pontoon boat manufacturers, staff and contract engineers, and other interested parties to develop the analysis determining the factors that led to each of the accidents involving pontoon boats over the past 5 years;

Recommendations from that analysis may include but are not limited to:

- Development and issuance of a USCG Boating Safety Circular or USCG Recommended Practice,
- An enhancement to a current ABYC standard or creation of a new standard, noting that a voluntary collaborative approach might be more efficient and more rapidly implemented than by direct regulation.

/s/ L. Daniel Maxim

L. Daniel Maxim, Chairman
National Boating Safety Advisory Council