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## **Alaska Marine Law Enforcement Officials Set to Crackdown On Impaired Boaters**

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – Alaska Wildlife Troopers will participate in Operation Dry Water and will be out in force June 24-26 looking for boaters whose Blood Alcohol Content exceeds the state limit of .08%. Operation Dry Water will include increased patrols as well as boater education. Impaired boaters can expect penalties to be severe. In Alaska, boating under the influence carries the same penalties as driving under the influence, including up to a year in jail and \$10,000 fine.

"We intend to stop intoxicated boaters and to educate as many boaters as possible about the hazards of Boating Under the Influence (BUI)," says Lt Steve Hall.

A boat operator or passenger with a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit runs a significantly increased risk of being involved in a boating accident. When impaired by alcohol, boating accidents are more frequent and more deadly for both passengers and boat operators, many of whom capsize their vessel or simply fall overboard.

BUI is a primary contributing factor in nearly 1 in 5 boating fatalities nationwide, and Alaska has gotten tougher in recent years in enforcing laws against this high-risk behavior. Boaters found operating a recreational vessel with a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or higher will find their voyage terminated and may have their vessel impounded.

Operation Dry Water, a multi-agency, education and enforcement initiative launched by NASBLA in 2009 in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, puts thousands of local, state and federal marine law enforcement officers on the water nationwide the last weekend in June to give BUI enforcement high visibility during the peak boating season.

"There will be arrests this weekend, and some boaters will face the consequences of boating under the influence," says Lt Steve Hall. "We want recreational boaters to enjoy themselves, but there will be zero tolerance for BUI."

Operation Dry Water is a joint program of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard. For more information, visit [www.operationdrywater.org](http://www.operationdrywater.org).

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*The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA offers a variety of resources, including training, model acts, education standards and publications. Through a national network of thousands of professional educators, law enforcement officers and volunteers, NASBLA affects the lives of over 83 million American boaters.*

*The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.*