



RBOC

Protecting your boating interests.

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SUMMER 2016

BOATER BRIEF

SPECIAL EDITION

Boating Under the Influence – Clarifications on the Way

RBOC supports the provisions of AB 1829 that is moving forward to update the boating under the influence [BUI] law as part of a continued effort to increase safety on our state’s waterways.

Addressing BUI remains important. According to the 2013 report of the state Division of Boating and Waterways, 32% of all boating fatalities in the state involved alcohol during the period 2009 to 2013.

AB 1829 would clarify existing law and would remove obsolete language regarding the arrest of a person suspected of operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.



Vessel Operator Certification – Coming Soon!



RBOC-supported legislation, SB 941 [Monning-DeSaulnier, Chapter 433, Statutes of 2014], requires that boat operators pass a boating education examination and obtain a vessel operator card issued by the Division of Boating and Waterways [DBW] in order to operate a boat in California that is propelled by an engine.

Importantly, online education including the free BoatUS Foundation course will be an option. The BoatUS Foundation course is available at: <http://www.boatus.org/courses/>

The enacted law requires DBW to issue a vessel operator card to individuals who have passed an approved examination. The requirement to obtain a vessel operator card will apply initially to operators 20 years of age or younger with a phased-in implementation date depending on the age of the individual.

The seven-year phase-in begins in 2018 and would eventually apply to everyone as of 2025:

- January 1, 2018 Persons 20 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2019 Persons 25 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2020 Persons 35 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2021 Persons 40 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2022 Persons 45 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2023 Persons 50 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2024 Persons 60 years of age or younger
- January 1, 2025 All persons regardless of age

RBOC is working with DBW as it implements a new requirement that operators of boats powered by engines pass a state-approved course and obtain a certificate.

