

**Division of Boating and Waterways
California Boater Card
February 2019**

Summary:

The California Boater Card (CBC) program provides and documents mandatory boating safety education for operators of a vessel that is propelled by an engine in California waters. California is one of 49 out of 56 states and territories with some form of mandatory boating education. The possession of the card requires operators to take a boating safety education course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), pass the corresponding exam, and apply and pay for the CBC.

Since Senate Bill 941 went into effect in 2014, DBW has determined which boating safety courses and exams that are NASBLA and State approved. DBW has designed and developed the program website and posted links to approved boating safety courses and examinations. DBW has also developed the design of the card and determined the card fee of \$10. The Division began accepting applications for the CBC in November of 2017 and have been issuing cards since February 2018. The Division has received over 23,000 applications for the CBC thus far, and has issued over 19,000 cards.

Budget:

The Department received a loan of \$4 million from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund to develop and establish the program. The loan will be repaid within 8 years.

The Fiscal year 18/19 budget allotted \$1 million. The staff funded includes a Staff Services Manager I, two Associate Governmental Program Analysts, an Office Technician, and an Accounting Officer.

Goals and Objectives for FY 19/20:

1. Continue with media campaign, program outreach and advertising to the public and all other interested parties.
2. Finalize regulations
3. Develop program legislation report, which is due in April 2019.
4. Work with DMV to include CBC insert in vessel registration renewal.