

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Mexico State Parks Deputy Director Appointed to National Boating Safety Advisory Council**



**Toby Velasquez**

**Santa Fe, NM** – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) announced on Friday that New Mexico State Parks (State Parks) Deputy Director Toby Velasquez was appointed to serve on the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). The appointment comes from U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Charles Johnson and will allow Mr. Velasquez to provide critical review and input to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The 21-person council includes 7 representatives consisting of state officials that advise the USCG on boating safety regulations and a broad range of boating safety matters.

“We’re proud that New Mexico will have a stronger voice when it comes to significant decisions on our nation’s boating policy,” said EMNRD Secretary David Martin.

Velasquez has worked with State Parks since 1999, becoming Chief of Boating and Law Enforcement in March 2006 and Deputy Director earlier this year. Velasquez works toward increasing the public’s perception and awareness regarding the seriousness of boating safety through education, outreach, community involvement, partnerships and law enforcement. A native of the beautiful Mora Valley, and proud long-time resident of the Pojoaque Valley, he is active within his community and serves on the Pojoaque Valley District School Board.

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Velasquez also coaches and mentors youth through non-profit organizations, and promotes outdoor recreation, sportsmanship and teamwork. Velasquez is a graduate of Mora High School and alumnus of New Mexico Highlands University.

“It is an honor to represent New Mexico in such a meaningful way,” said Deputy Director Velasquez. “Ensuring New Mexicans are safe on the water is the centerpiece of the work we do and I am fortunate to be able to help ensure everyone enjoys recreational boating safely.”

The NBSAC was established by the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, for more information, please visit [www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org).

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