

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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New Mexico State Parks Official Toby Velasquez Elected President of National Boating Safety and Security Organization

SANTA FE, NM – The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) elected Toby Velasquez, Chief of Boating and Law Enforcement for the New Mexico State Parks Division, as president of the nonprofit organization for the 2012-13 year. Velasquez was elected at the NASBLA's 53rd annual meeting, held in Mobile, Alabama, September 8-12, 2012. Velasquez is the first New Mexican, first Hispanic, and youngest boating law administrator to be elected as NASBLA President. Velasquez has previously served NASBLA as Committee Chairman, Treasurer, and Vice President. Velasquez is also a two-term president of the Western States Boating Administrators Association.

"This appointment reflects outstanding recognition for Toby and the state of New Mexico," said Tommy Mutz, New Mexico State Parks Division Director. "Well done and congratulations on being elected President of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators."

Chief Velasquez has worked with the State's Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's State Parks Division since 1999 and became the Chief of Boating and Law Enforcement in March 2006. 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. In addition, Velasquez believes it's important to maintain the integrity of our natural resources while facilitating multiple-use recreation opportunities so that people are aware of, stay in touch with, and value the outdoors. Velasquez, a native of the beautiful Mora Valley, enjoys hunting and fishing trips with family and friends and is an alumnus of New Mexico Highlands University and graduate of Mora High School. Velasquez is active within his Pojoaque Valley community coaching and mentoring youth through non-profit organizations promoting outdoor recreation, sportsmanship and teamwork.

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, the organization affects the lives of over 83 million American boaters. To learn more about how NASBLA continues to make the waterways safe, secure and enjoyable, visit <http://www.nasbla.org>.

Other officers of the association serving with Velasquez include:

Vice President	Herb Angell, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Treasurer	Kevin Bergersen, Arizona Game and Fish Department
Member-at-Large	Eleanor Mariani, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Member-at-Large	Darren Rider, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Member-at-Large	Dave Harris, Utah State Parks
Past President	Jim Graybeal, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control



*Toby Velasquez,
Chief of Boating and Law Enforcement for New Mexico State Parks Division*

State parks are great places to find new interests, socialize, and create new memories. Always make safety your first priority, being prepared on the water could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. State law requires that you wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger wear a lifejacket while on the deck of a moving vessel. The State Parks Division offers **FREE** boating safety classes around the state and on-line throughout the year.

Celebrate New Mexico's Centennial at YOUR state parks; for more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com



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Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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