



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Office of Marine and Aviation Operations  
NOAA Small Boat Program  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115-6349

08 May 2019

**MEMORANDUM FROM:** NOAA Small Boat Program

**SUBJECT:** Approved Equivalent Maritime Skills Courses

All small boat operators shall obtain a certificate proving basic boating and seamanship skills. In accordance with the NOAA Small Boat Standards and Procedure Manual, the minimum standard is the USCG Auxiliary Boating Skills and Seamanship (BS&S). Any equivalent course must cover all of the significant topics of the USCGAux BS&S curriculum and must be, at minimum, of equivalent duration (approximately 24 hours dependent on location) and an in person training. Requests for BS&S equivalency shall be sent to the Line Office Small Boat Officers (LOSBO) or the Small Boat Program Manager for review by the SBP Training Coordinator and Small Boat Safety Board.

To date, the Small Boat Safety Board has approved the following courses:

- NOAA Commissioned Corps – Basic Officer Training Class
- Any USCG Deck Officer License
- Federal Law Enforcement Small Boat Training – IBOT or MLETP
- STCW Fast Rescue Boat (FRB) AND one of the following:
  - US Merchant Marine Able-Bodied Seaman rating
  - A 2-day minimum, in person, NASBLA approved course
- Custom In Person Boatwise Course for NOAA Operators
- Chapman Powerboat Certification – Basic Power Boating (5 days)
- Clatsop Community College/MERTS (4 days)
- AMSEA - NOAA Small Boat Safety Training (4 days)
- Motorboat Operators Training Course - Scientific Boating Safety Association (3-5 days)
- Motorboat Operators Certification Course (MOCC) - Department of Interior (3-5 days)

