Summary of Small Boat Summit 2017 Feedback Forms

The NOAA Small Boat Summit was held in September 2017, at the David Skaggs Research Center in Boulder, Colorado. The main topic was to introduce the 4th edition of the Small Boat Standards and Procedures Manual.

A total of 65 NOAA personnel attending, including the Small Boat Safety Board, Small Boat Program Office, Vessel Program Coordinators, Vessel Operations Coordinators, and waterfront personnel. Keynote speakers were: Dr. David Quivey, Director, NOAA Environmental, Safety and Sustainability Office; and Mr. Gary Reisner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, OMAO.

There was an 86% response rate; 43 feedback forms returned from the 50 non-SBSB or Program attendees.

Below are charts of the responses. A few clear trends were identified. The Summit met or exceeded the expectations 97% of the responders and 80% learned something new about being a VOC. Networking and a desire for more was a critical element of the Summit. Breakout sessions proved valuable and there is a want for more with a variety of areas in the next Summit. A change of format to a workshop focused Summit instead of a conference, more presentations by both internal and external subject matter experts (SMEs) and programs. There were a range of suggestions for improvements and clarifications of the SBSPM as identified in the charts.
What was the most valuable part of the summit for you?

- Networking: 42%
- Discussing Concerns: 12%
- Breakout Sessions: 15%
- Familiarization With New Manual: 14%
- Website / VOP / VIM: 6%
- Understanding the Program / SBSB: 6%
- Inspections: 2%
- Metrics: 3%
- Understanding the Program / SBSB: 6%

What would you recommend to make the next Summit better?

- More networking: 24%
- Breakouts with choices of subjects: 29%
- Presentations from VOCs: 16%
- More breaks: 3%
- Outside agency / vendors speakers: 13%
- VOC Training: 9%
- Other: 6%
What other topics and / or presenters would you like to see included next time?

- Presentations / breakouts by class / subject: 66%
- Presentations by VOCs / VPCs: 15%
- SME's (inside and out): 17%
- No recommendations: 2%

Suggested Breakout Sessions:

- Training: 17%
- Acquisitions: 17%
- Maintenance: 13%
- Inspections: 9%
- UxS: 8%
- Surplus: 8%
- Safety: 8%
- Equipment: 8%
- Navigation: 8%
- Funding: 8%
- Enviromental: 4%
Do you have any recommend improvements or corrections to the small boat standards and procedures manual?

No 50%

Clarification 33%
- Liability Waivers 3%
- Access to Legal 3%
- More support less requirements 5%
- Enforcing Float Plan 3%
- Concern of cumulative burden adding up 5%

Topics for Clarification

- Clarify "suggested" verbiage in manual 25%
- Minimum standards for drills 25%
- Clarification VOC / OICs / supervisor responsibilities 17%
- Clarification of requirements for paddle craft 8%
- Clarify emergency response requirements 17%
- Clarify manning requirements 8%

No 50%