

STATE OF CONNECTICUT WILL NO LONGER TEACH SAFE BOATING CLASSES

The State of Connecticut announced at the annual boating educators forum proposed changes in the method the State will be using to educate the boating public. Sometime in 2010 the State will stop offering classes in public education leading to a Safe Boating or PWC certificate. The State propose to offer an on-line course that will require a proctored exam to obtain the Boating certificate.

At first glance this would appear to put a huge damper on our PE program. However, when all the details of the program were disclosed I feel it can become an opportunity to actually attract the more then 5,000 student that the State currently serve with its classes.

First of all the on-line course will require a minimum of eight hours of time in front of the computer. It will not be a course that the student can just skim over and then take the test. The course will have timed function to prevent the student for skipping chapters. It will also have questions at the end of each unit that must be answered correctly to go on.

In addition the student will need to go to the State web site to obtain *Connecticut Conservation ID* number. This number must be used to take the course. The number will also be used throughout the process.

Upon successful completion of the course, the course provider will notify the State that the person holding that ID number has successfully completed course and can now take the proctored test. The student will now get on-line and enter his ID number and will be able to *Purchase* a coupon the will allow him to now make an appointment to take the proctored test. The student must then go to the specified location and take a proctored exam. If he passes the test his ID will be validated in the Connecticut Conservation system and he can now go on-line and submit is application along with a fee for his CPWC. He can also now print a 30 day temporary certificate. The process is not simple and requires as much if not more effort than simply taking the eight hour course that we now offer.

The cost to the student in the proposed program is estimated as follows:

To take the course, payment going to the course provider	\$39.00 -\$55.00 TBD
To take the exam	\$25.00-\$35.00 TBD
To get CPWC	\$25.00 Now but who knows!
Total estimated cost	\$89.00 - \$105.00
Total time to complete depending on the availability of the proctored test	Several days to several weeks

OR

The student can take our ABS class with the State supplement in one day. If the student obtains his Connecticut Conservation ID number prior to the class the Flotilla will be able to enter it on-line. The student will then be able to go home and purchase his certificate on-line and print his temporary certificate. If the Flotilla has internet capability they can offer this service to the students at the time of the class.

This feature, along with the speed in obtain the certificate and typically a lower cost should help the Flotillas attract more students.

The ADSO-PE, Steve Perrone plans to present the entire proposal and a estimated time table at Division 07,24 and 25 meetings held in April along with other changes in the program. He will contacting Division Commanders and their Prevention co-coordinators to make arrangements. He can also be reached at 203 387 3659 for any other questions or via e-mail.

I have already heard to much incorrect information and would like to put their minds at ease. I will also maintain a close contact with the State to get a direct line from them as changes are made.