

The UCOTA establishes standards for title and registration for boats fitting five requirements:

- Qualify as a state titling law that the Coast Guard will approve;
- Facilitate transfers of ownership of a vessel;
- Deter and impede the theft of vessels by making ownership information available to both government officials and potential buyers;
- Accommodate financing and mortgage arrangements for vessels; and
- Provide consumer protections during the purchase of a vessel through the act's branding initiative, which requires the title to be marked if the boating vessel has been significantly damaged.

Water safety is 'take-home' in rescue video



The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has produced a video that stresses water safety through the story of a south Georgia fishing trip that almost turned tragic.

Daniel Fields of Pembroke and two of his sons were bank fishing along the Oohopee River in Tattnall County on July 4, 2011, when first one of the boys, then the other fell in. Neither could swim. Fields, only a marginal swimmer, jumped in to help.

All were struggling in deep water when Sgt. Don Dasher and Ranger 1st Class Clint Jarriel of DNR's Wildlife Resources Division pulled them out, with the help of a bystander. Dasher and Jarriel had been checking anglers at the Ga. 147 bridge, their last stop of the evening on a busy July Fourth.

The video posted on the Wildlife Resources Division's YouTube channel features interviews with the Fields and the

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conservation officers, and emphasizes safety tips such as the use of personal flotation devices.

As of Aug. 15, 32 people have drowned in Georgia lakes, rivers and ponds this year.

Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver said the video's take-home message is that "accidents happen." For non-swimmers and in accordance with safe-boating laws, "It's best to wear your life jackets and be prepared," Weaver said.

"Oohopee River Rescue" is available at www.youtube.com/GeorgiaWildlife.

Lawmakers in the state House and Senate recently honored Jarriel and Dasher with resolutions.

Wisconsin buys boat decontamination system from Boating Industry

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has purchased a boat decontamination unit that kills invasive species with hot water.

These units are common in Western states, but this is the first unit east of the Mississippi, according to an article in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.

The unit cost \$16,000 and was purchased through federal funds via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It looks like a pressure washer and can pressurize and heat water to 140 degrees. This instantly kills species such as zebra mussels. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to decontaminate a boat and trailer.

At this point, the unit is being used for demonstrations and education.

WSIA awarded U.S. Coast Guard safety grant

The Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) has been awarded a U.S. Coast Guard federal grant to help with the Coast Guard's mission to increase awareness of boating safety and reduce boating accidents and deaths.

The federal grant worth \$637,341 was awarded to the educational arm of the WSIA, known as the Water Sports Foundation (WSF).

"The WSIA has become a consistent champion of recreational boating safety especially in the world of towed water sports and now we get to expand this work into all aspects of recreational boating safety," said WSIA Executive Director Larry Meddock.

The WSF will be working with Bonnier Corporation to spread the message through a variety of media, including boating safety websites, video "webisodes," interactive games, banner ads, a social media campaign, video messaging, newsletters and print ads. "We have been challenged by the U.S. Coast Guard to make a difference in boating safety and we believe that over time, our comprehensive plan will ultimately change public behavior and attitudes," said Jim Emmons, project administrator of the U.S. Coast Guard grant.

The WSF and the WSIA are two non-profit organizations headquartered in Orlando, Florida that promote water sports safety and the unencumbered access of public waterways for the pursuit of watersports activities. For more information contact the WSIA at 407.251.9039 or visit www.wsia.net.

