



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Melanie A. Kenderdine, Cabinet Secretary Designate
Dylan Fuge, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Toby Velasquez, State Parks Division Director

Contact:

Wendy Mason
Marketing & Public Relations Manager
NM State Parks Division
wendy.mason@emnrd.nm.gov
505-819-1785

Sidney Hill
Public Information Officer, EMNRD
sidney.hill@emnrd.nm.gov
505-629-2900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 20, 2024

2024 International Boating and Water Safety Summit hailed a success with New Mexico State Parks leading the way

More than 200 people from nine countries attended the Albuquerque event sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Parks Division is being recognized by the National Safe Boating Council as a valuable partner in organizing and smoothly executing the 2024 International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) held the week of April 8th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque.

“New Mexico State Parks set the bar high demonstrating what a difference a strong state partner makes in hosting our International Boating and Water Safety Summit,” **said Peg Phillips, Executive Director National Safe Boating Council (NSBC).**

“Manuel Overby and his team were just phenomenal from conference planning, arranging speakers, connecting with local dignitaries, and driving attendance. We are so grateful for their partnership.”

The IBWSS is hosted by the National Safe Boating Council, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard, and brings together boating and water safety industry professionals to network and learn about the latest in boating and water safety to save lives globally.

“We’re honored that New Mexico, and the State Parks Division could contribute to the great success of this year’s summit,” **said Toby Velasquez, Director NM State Parks.** “Our work with the National Safe Boating Council is more than a partnership. It’s a collaboration that helps save lives in New Mexico and around the world. We are proud that our Chief of Law Enforcement and Boating Safety, Manuel Overby, and

division staff were instrumental in the planning and implementation of such an important training event highlighting recreating safely and responsibly on the water.”

According to the NSBC, 240 people from nine countries attended the IBWSS this year, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, United Kingdom, and United States. Many long-time attendees remarked that it was the best summit they've ever been to!

The event, which took place during the week of April 8-11 preceded National Safe Boating Week which is May 21–27 this year. National Safe Boating Week, also sponsored by the NSBC, focuses on preventing on-the-water experiences turning into tragedy, drawing attention to the number of preventable deaths in boating-related incidents. Last year 10 people died in boating related incident in New Mexico. It's a stark reminder that life jackets save lives! Wear it! Chalecos Salvavidas Salvan Vidas, Usalos!

Your New Mexico State Parks also offers free boating safety courses in-person around the state and online. All motorboat, personal watercraft, and sailboat operators born on or after January 1, 1989, must successfully complete a boating safety course to boat in New Mexico. Call 1-888-NMPARKS (1-888-667-2757) or visit emnr.dnm.gov/spd/ for details.

If you are interested in attending the IBWSS in Glendale, Arizona on April 14-17, 2025, log onto ibwss.org for registration information.



Manuel Overby accepts a plaque from the NSBC on behalf of NM State Parks for recognition of our “commitment and contribution to recreational boating safety.” Photo courtesy NSBC.



Manuel Overby provides the welcome address at IBWSS 2024. Photo courtesy NSBC.



Scott Chalmers Recreational and Boating Safety and Education Program Manager is instructing a break-out session at IBWSS. Photo courtesy NSBC.



Scott Chalmers talks to attendees at IBWSS during a break-out session. Photo courtesy NSBC.

New Mexico State Parks is a division of the [Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department](#). Our mission is to protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, provide first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promote public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.

iVAMOS! LET'S GO NEW MEXICO!

Follow us!



###

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and resource development services to the public and other state agencies. Learn more at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov>