

**SOBA Strategic Planning Survey 050310**Survey Status: **Active** Launched: 5/3/2010 7:03 AM Closed: N/A

Email Invites: 0

Visits: 83

Partials: 0

Screen Outs: 0

Over Quota: 0

**Completes: 41**  
*(Does not include blank responses)***GENERAL MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS****1. Please check which one of the following types of membership you currently hold.**

Voting Member - \$600/year	24	60%
Associate Member - \$500/year	4	10%
Advisory Member - \$300/year	4	10%
Individual Member - \$125/year	0	0%
Affiliated Professional Member - \$50/year	0	0%
N/A	8	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. How long have you been a member of SOBA?**

1 - 3 years	3	8%
4 - 6 years	7	18%
6 - 9 years	4	10%
10 or more years	15	38%
Not sure	6	15%
Not a member	4	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3. Should SOBA change its current membership structure?**

Yes	5	14%
No	31	86%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4. If you are a representative of a member state, which of the following best describes the agency where you currently work? (Check all that apply) (Skip if you are not a representative of a member state).**

A state boating or boating access agency or program	18	56%
A state fish & wildlife agency	17	53%
A state parks & recreation agency	5	16%
A state natural resources agency	8	25%
A state environmental or water quality agency	2	6%
Other (please describe)	4	12%

**5. Which of the following federal programs are pertinent to your current job responsibilities? (Check all that apply)**

Federal Sport Fish Restoration - Boating Access	30	75%
Federal Clean Vessel Act	19	48%

Federal Boating Infrastructure Grant	21	52%
Other (please describe)	10	25%

**6. Which of the following types of job duties best characterize your current job? (Check one)**

Design professional, like an engineer, landscape architect, or drafter	7	17%
Grants administration such as fiscal, contractual, compliance, or other aspects of grants	12	29%
Regulatory such as monitoring, testing, inspections, permitting, enforcement	0	0%
Operations and maintenance of boating facilities	3	7%
Executive responsibilities such as director of a program, division, department or agency	8	20%
Supervisory and directing the activities of staff	6	15%
Other (please describe)	5	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

**7. Overall, how relevant is SOBA to your current or past job duties? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Very	26	65%
Somewhat	13	32%
Not very	0	0%
Not at all	0	0%
Comments:	2	5%

**8. Are there other potential members that you feel should be encouraged or invited to join SOBA? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	11	28%
No	6	15%
Don't know	20	51%
If YES, who and why?	13	33%

**9. Overall, would you say SOBA dues are: (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Too low	4	10%
Too high	4	10%
About right	29	72%
Comments:	7	18%

**10. Could dues become a potential issue or barrier to your future participation in SOBA? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	19	48%
No	8	20%
Don't know	12	30%
If YES, please explain:	13	32%

**11. Should SOBA strive to become less dependent on membership dues in the future? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	17	44%
No	8	21%
Don't know	12	31%
If YES, how?	10	26%

**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

**12. Regarding our ANNUAL CONFERENCE, listed below are some of the principal services and products SOBA provides to its members and to others. Please tell us how important each of them is to you.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Annual Conference (overall)	26 63%	12 29%	2 5%	1 2%	0 0%
Educational Sessions	25 61%	12 29%	3 7%	1 2%	0 0%
Technical Workshops	27 66%	10 24%	3 7%	1 2%	0 0%
Exhibit Hall	12 29%	16 39%	10 24%	1 2%	2 5%
Awards Banquet	6 15%	21 51%	6 15%	7 17%	1 2%
Business Meeting	9 22%	14 34%	12 29%	5 12%	1 2%
Field Trip	11 27%	19 46%	7 17%	4 10%	0 0%
Interaction with colleagues	35 85%	4 10%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%
Meeting new people	25 61%	13 32%	3 7%	0 0%	0 0%
Socializing	11 27%	18 44%	9 22%	3 7%	0 0%
After hours events	11 27%	14 34%	9 22%	6 15%	1 2%
Conference Proceedings	16 39%	15 37%	7 17%	3 7%	0 0%

**13. Regarding our PUBLICATIONS, listed below are some of the principal services and products SOBA provides to its members and to others. Please tell us how important each of them is to you.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Quarterly Newsletter	16 40%	20 50%	4 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Website (overall)	19 48%	17 42%	3 8%	1 2%	0 0%
Website (Members-Only Section)	11 28%	19 49%	3 8%	1 3%	5 13%
Publications (overall)	16 40%	20 50%	4 10%	0 0%	0 0%
Design Handbook	27 69%	10 26%	2 5%	0 0%	0 0%
O&M Guide	22 55%	13 32%	3 8%	0 0%	2 5%
Build A Better Boat Ramp DVD	19 48%	14 35%	4 10%	1 2%	2 5%

**14. Regarding our PROGRAM AWARDS, listed below are some of the principal services and products SOBA provides to its members and to others. Please tell us how important each of them is to you.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Awards Program (overall)	15 38%	16 40%	7 18%	2 5%	0 0%
Individual Awards (Ivers, etc.)	13 32%	16 40%	9 22%	2 5%	0 0%
Project Awards	15 38%	17 42%	7 18%	1 2%	0 0%
State Excellence (Access & CVA)	14 35%	14 35%	10 25%	2 5%	0 0%
Congressional Awards	14 35%	15 38%	8 20%	3 8%	0 0%

**15. Regarding our STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, listed below are some of the principal services and products SOBA provides to its members and to others. Please tell us how important each of them is to you.**

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not Important At All	Don't Know
Partnerships and Advocacy (overall)	23 58%	14 35%	2 5%	0 0%	1 2%
US Fish & Wildlife Service	30 75%	6 15%	2 5%	1 2%	1 2%
RBFF - Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation	21 52%	14 35%	2 5%	1 2%	2 5%
NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators	15 38%	13 32%	8 20%	2 5%	2 5%
Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council	22 55%	10 25%	5 12%	1 2%	2 5%
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies	23 58%	9 22%	5 12%	1 2%	2 5%
National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA)	21 52%	11 28%	5 12%	1 2%	2 5%

**16. Considering all of the SOBA services and products listed above, please list in order of importance, up to five of them you use most often or support the most and why.**

32 Responses

**17. Are there any SOBA services and products you do not use that could be discontinued? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	2	5%
No	13	34%
No opinion	22	58%
If YES, what are they?	4	11%

**18. Are there other services and products you would like to see SOBA provide to members? If so, please list them below.**

12 Responses

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TRAINING, EDUCATION**

**19. Have you attended a SOBA conference? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	35	85%
No	4	10%
If YES, how many conferences have you attended?	31	76%

**20. Which was the last conference you attended? (Give year and location)**

37 Responses

**21. Do you plan to attend the upcoming conference in Park City, Utah on October 18-21? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	24	60%
No	11	28%
If NO, why not?	16	40%

**22. The current conference registration fee for members is \$375 and nonmembers \$425. This fee covers events over a four-day period, including: an opening reception, most meals (including the banquet and a dinner cruise, if available), breaks, a field trip, access to educational sessions, exhibit hall, workshops, and a field trip. Do you consider this fee to be a good value for all that is included? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	35	90%
No	0	0%
No opinion	3	8%
Comments:	6	15%

**23. SOBA relies on the annual conference to provide a significant portion of its revenues each year. In addition to registration fees, conference revenues include exhibitor fees and sponsorships. Do you think SOBA should become less dependent on conference revenues in the future? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	11	27%
No	17	41%
No opinion	12	29%
Comments:	9	22%

**24. SOBA strives to hold the annual conference in different geographic locations around the country, if possible. Is having the conference in varying locations important to you? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	33	80%
No	2	5%
No opinion	5	12%
Comments:	14	34%

**25. Each host state works with the Board to develop the overall program for the conference and arrange field trips and other local logistics. NMMA negotiates with the conference facility, works with exhibitors, and handles all bills and payments. If you are a member state, would you consider hosting an annual conference in the future based on the existing process? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	10	28%
No	6	17%
No opinion	18	50%
Comments:	13	36%

**26. The last four annual conferences have included a day-long technical workshop on topics such as the Clean Vessel Act, etc. in addition to shorter educational sessions. Is there a topic you would like to see addressed at a day-long technical workshop? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	18	45%
No	4	10%
No opinion	15	38%
Comments or suggested topics:	18	45%

**27. Do you think SOBA should consider sponsoring other technical or topical workshops separate from the annual conference to focus on regional or national issues of concerns to members? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	19	46%
No	8	20%
No opinion	11	27%
Comments or suggested topics:	17	41%

**28. Do you think SOBA should consider sponsoring webinars or other on-line educational or training programs? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	27	66%
No	2	5%
No opinion	11	27%
Comments or suggested topics:	6	15%

**SOBA WEBSITE**

**29. Have you ever visited the SOBA website (www.sobaus.org)?**

Yes	41	100%
No (If no, skip to the next section)	0	0%
Don't recall	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	41	100%

**30. How often do you visit the website?**

Daily	0	0%
Weekly	3	7%
Monthly	21	51%
Don't know	17	41%
<b>Total</b>	41	100%

**31. Overall, how would you rate the SOBA website as a useful tool for you?**

Excellent	1	2%
Good	31	76%
Fair	8	20%
Poor	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

**32. Are there portions of the website you think should be deleted?**

Yes	0	0%
No	34	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>

**33. Are there features you would like to see added to the SOBA website? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	12	30%
No	7	18%
Don't know	20	50%
If Yes, what features would you suggest?	13	32%

#### SOBA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

**34. Have you ever served as a member of the SOBA Executive Board?**

Yes	7	17%
No	34	83%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100%</b>

**35. Would you be interested and willing to serve a one-year term as a member-at-large on the Executive Board? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	12	31%
No	15	38%
Don't know	10	26%
Comments:	10	26%

**36. Would you be interested and willing to serve as an officer (i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary) of the Executive Board, requiring a multi-year commitment? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	7	18%
No	19	49%
Don't know	10	26%
If No, why?	12	31%

**37. Do you think the long-term commitment (i.e. up to five years) needed to serve as President is too demanding? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	14	34%
No	11	27%
No opinion	16	39%
Comments:	11	27%

**38. Do you think the current size (seven) of the Executive Board is: (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Just right	25	61%
Too small	0	0%
Too large	2	5%
No opinion	14	34%
Comments:	3	7%

**39. Do you think election to the Executive Board should be open to members from nonmember states? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	8	20%
No	25	61%
No opinion	8	20%
Comments:	4	10%

**40. Have you served as a member or chair of a SOBA standing committee in the past?**

Yes	7	18%
No	33	82%
<b>Total</b>	40	100%

**41. Have you served or are you currently serving as a member or chair of a SOBA task force?**

Yes	6	15%
No	34	85%
<b>Total</b>	40	100%

**42. Would you be interested in serving as a member of a short-term SOBA task force? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	16	40%
No	9	22%
Maybe	15	38%
If Yes, what is your area of interest?	7	18%

**43. Are there long-term issues that you think would warrant the re-establishment of standing committees in addition to short-term task forces? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	9	23%
No	5	13%
No opinion	25	64%
If Yes, what issues?	8	21%

**44. Besides serving as a Board member or a member of a task force, are there other ways in which you would be willing to serve and assist SOBA and its mission? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	12	30%
No	3	8%
No opinion	24	60%
If Yes, how?	10	25%

**SOBA BUSINESS PRACTICES**

**45. Have you had any interaction with SOBA's Executive Director at NMMA? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	8	20%
No	28	68%
Not sure	5	12%
If Yes, what was the occasion?	2	5%

**46. Overall, how would you rate the effectiveness and efficiency of SOBA's Executive Director? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Excellent	8	20%
Good	6	15%
Fair	1	2%
Poor	0	0%
No opinion	26	63%
Comments:	0	0%

**47. Do you have any concerns about SOBA utilizing the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) for management services? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	6	15%
No	25	61%
No opinion	9	22%
If Yes, what are your concerns?	8	20%

**48. If SOBA had additional revenues and could expand its services to members, do you think SOBA should consider increasing its contract parameters with NMMA for added staff support? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	11	28%
No	4	10%
No opinion	23	58%
Comments?	6	15%

**49. If SOBA had adequate revenues, do you think SOBA should consider directly hiring full-time staff instead of contracting for services? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	11	27%
No	15	37%
No opinion	14	34%
Comments:	10	24%

**STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS**

**50. SOBA currently has strategic partnerships with several other organizations, such as NASBLA, RBFF, AFWA, NMMA, etc. Are there any other organizations you think SOBA should consider developing strategic partnerships with? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	7	17%
No	8	20%
No opinion	25	61%
If Yes, which organization?	7	17%

**51. SOBA advocates on matters relating to public boating access as well as CVA, and BIG grants, primarily with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Are there any other issues you think SOBA should be advocating for on behalf of members? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	6	15%
No	9	22%
No opinion	25	61%
If Yes, what issues?	8	20%

**52. Are there any current or looming issues you think SOBA should be tracking and addressing on behalf of its members? (Check one and comment if applicable)**

Yes	12	32%
No	3	8%
No opinion	22	58%
If Yes, what issues?	12	32%

**53. In your opinion, what are the major challenges facing SOBA?**

23 Responses

**54. In your opinion, are there major opportunities SOBA should be prepared to take advantage of now or in the future?**

8 Responses

**55. Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the SOBA Board?**

11 Responses