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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Houston Safe Boating Council's WADE Program is Awarded "Take Em' Boating" Grant from the National Safe Boating Council**

Manassas, VA (June 12, 2007) – The Houston Safe Boating Council has been awarded the second annual National Safe Boating Council "Take Em' Boating" Grant for their program Water Activities Day Events or WADE. The first WADE was held on Lake Houston in July 1996 with 14 students in attendance. Since then the Houston Safe Boating Council has had at least 1 WADE every summer with 2 most years. Targeted to teens age 13 to 18, WADE teaches students four different types of boating including sailing, paddling, power boating and personal watercrafts. The courses are taught with a one to one student to teacher ration to ensure quality boating education with an emphasis on safety. The WADE program encourages their students to become life long boaters through education, instruction and appreciation of the water.

The National Safe Boating Council "Take Em' Boating" grant was developed to promote and develop interest in boating for future generations. Funded by the Outboard Marine Corporation (OMC) Foundation on behalf of the former employees of the OMC the "Take Em' Boating" grant seeks to continue their legacy and interest in boating safety, environmental awareness, and the marine industry.

"The Take Em' Boating Grant is an excellent recognition program that we hope will encourage organizations to develop creative and innovative programs to get kids into boats" said NSBC Executive Director Virgil Chambers. "It's important to show our youth the benefits of getting out on the water in boats, showing kids that exercise and fresh air is a great life style."

The \$5000 grant is awarded annually to the selected youth program that gets kids ages 6-18 safely into boating while promoting the future of the marine industry through environmental education, safety awareness and boating enjoyment. The "Take Em' Boating" grant was established by the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The NSBC is comprised of over 333 national, regional, and local boating and water safety agencies, organizations and corporations that are all committed to boating safety.