



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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**WebWatch**  
**Division 8, 5NR**  
**April, 2013**

### **A. 2013 MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

RADM Maura K. Dollymore, Director of Health, Safety and Work-Life

1. April has been designated the Month of the Military Child in recognition of the sacrifices and contributions military children make to their families and our nation. Children of military families selflessly endure parental deployments and frequent moves, including the loss of friends and the need to adjust to new schools. Because of this, military children are an inspiration to others and a source of pride for their families. The Month of the Military Child is the perfect opportunity to say thank you in recognition to their many contributions.
2. Commanding officers and individual service members are encouraged to take the time to recognize the over 28,000 Coast Guard children and teens, either through participation in programs and events in their local communities, or by hosting events themselves. A calendar of celebratory suggestions can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wiomk> and [www.dodlive.mil/index.php/2012/04/month-of-the-military-child-saluting-our-military-childre/](http://www.dodlive.mil/index.php/2012/04/month-of-the-military-child-saluting-our-military-childre/)

### **B. AUTISM AWARENESS DAY**

RADM Maura K. Dollymore, Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life

1. Two years ago, the President proclaimed 2 April of each year as World Autism Awareness Day and called upon the American public to learn more about autism and take a more active role in the support of individuals affected by this developmental condition.
2. Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) symptoms range from mild to severe and the condition may pose significant communication and behavioral challenges for persons affected by it. To date, there is no cure for autism, but research shows that early identification and early intervention can greatly improve a child's development.
3. According to the Autism Speaks, Inc., the largest organization committed to autism research and advocacy, one school-age child out of every 50 is identified to be on the autistic spectrum. This number does not negate the official government estimate of one in 88 American children, but research suggests that increased autism awareness is helping



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

more children get an early diagnosis. At the same time, many children are going undiagnosed until age seven or older, which reduces their chances to receive early intervention services.

4. We are committed to providing support to Coast Guard personnel who have family members diagnosed with ASD. Our Family Resource Specialists in each Health, Safety, and Work-Life (HSWL) Regional Practice are available to provide information and referral to local military and civilian resources and services.
5. More information about autism and ASD may be obtained at <http://www.hhs.gov/autism/> and full text of the presidential proclamation is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/04/01/presidential-proclamation-world-autism-awareness-day>.

### C. SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

VADM J. P. Currier, Vice Commandant

1. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). This special emphasis campaign provides an opportunity for us to rededicate our efforts to eliminating sexual assault within the Coast Guard. Eradicating this criminal behavior from our ranks is essential to mission readiness and, more importantly, fulfills a foundational commitment to each other as shipmates.
2. Much has been accomplished over the past year in improving our ability to prevent and respond to sexual assaults. New policies enhanced training, improved access to victim support services and greater communications provide us with important tools to achieve our goal of eliminating sexual assault from the Coast Guard. We all know that more work remains.
3. To promote awareness and to reinforce the critical role of leadership in preventing and responding to sexual assaults in the Coast Guard, all Commanders, Commanding Officers, Officers-in-Charge, Deputy and Assistant Commandants, and Chiefs of Headquarters staff elements are directed to conduct a unit all-hands SAAM discussion during the month of April 2013.
4. These events should facilitate open, frank, and productive unit-level discussions about sexual assault prevention and response. Commands should incorporate the standardized toolkit available at: <http://www.uscg.mil/sapr>. The toolkit includes videos featuring the Commandant and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard providing personal



## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

messages on the imperative to focus our efforts on preventing sexual assault. Commands may hold or participate in additional SAAM events as desired.

5. This month, the Commandant will promulgate the Coast Guard SAPR Strategic Plan. This foundational document will be distributed to every command in the Coast Guard. It will outline our strategy to eliminate sexual assault Service-wide. This plan establishes measurable goals and objectives clearly delineating the path to a Coast Guard free from the destructive impacts of sexual assault. I direct every leader, manager, supervisor, service member, civilian employee, and Auxiliarist to actively participate in SAAM activities and Coast Guard efforts to eliminate sexual assault. Achieving our goal will require the active involvement of all hands; your shipmates deserve nothing less.

### **D. CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL**

RDML J. A. Servidio, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy

1. On 3 April 2013 we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Coast Guard International Ice Patrol. Since its founding by the Revenue Cutter Service in the wake of the tragic sinking of RMS TITANIC, International Ice Patrol warnings have helped safeguard mariners in the north Atlantic. In fact, over the last century, not a single ship that has heeded its warnings has struck an iceberg.
2. Background: In 2012 we commemorated the centennial of the 1912 sinking of RMS TITANIC after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. Immediately following this tragedy, two Navy ships, USS BIRMINGHAM and USS CHESTER, conducted patrols to warn transatlantic shipping of the iceberg danger. In April 1913, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service assumed this important maritime safety mission, deploying the Revenue Cutters SENECA and MIAMI on patrols out of Halifax, Nova Scotia throughout the ice season. In 1914, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service formally established and conducted the international ice observation and patrol service at the direction of the President of the United States, a service the Coast Guard continues to provide to this day.
3. Persistent fog, frequent severe storms, and icebergs, in combination with fishing vessels, oil platforms, and transatlantic shipping make the Grand Banks one of the most dangerous areas in the world for marine transportation. The International Ice Patrol, a First District unit, continues to conduct the North Atlantic ice patrol, now with assistance from aircraft and crews from Air Station Elizabeth City, NC. Leveraging technology, especially exploiting advances in computer modeling and constantly exploring more efficient ways to do business with advanced sensors and satellites, while partnering with industry and other agencies and nations, will further promote our vision of eliminating the risk of iceberg collisions.



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

4. I extend my appreciation and admiration to the women and men who serve on the Coast Guard International Ice Patrol. Bravo Zulu and Semper Paratus.
5. For more information on the International Ice Patrol, visit [www.navcen.uscg.gov/iip](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/iip).

### **E. OPERATIONAL TASKING (OPTASK) DIVERSITY FY2013 SITREP TWO**

VADM Manson K. Brown, Deputy Commandant for Mission Support

1. As Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS), I am pleased to provide an update on our latest efforts to operationalize the Commandants Diversity Strategy in U.S. Coast Guard Diversity Strategic Plan. Current limitations on travel and conference attendance should not hinder our diversity efforts. These limitations elevate the importance of unit and individual level support of diversity initiatives. ADM Papp provided direction in Commandants SITREP 2013 to renew our focus on retaining our diverse workforce, providing full support for all members to fulfill their greatest potential in the Coast Guard. I encourage each of you to review local opportunities to provide mentoring, professional development, and community outreach within the guidelines provided. U.S. Coast Guard Diversity Strategic Plan, along with valuable tools designed for commands, can be found by visiting the COMDT (CG-12B) web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/diversity/resources.asp>. Commandants SITREP 2013 is located at <https://cglink.uscg.mil/c3e9f538>.
2. The following highlights reflect recent progress in achieving Diversity Strategic Plan goals from around the Service.
  - a. Through combining diversity outreach and professional development opportunities, the Coast Guard played a prominent role at the 2013 Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Conference. Along with providing outreach to over 3,500 attendees, thirteen Coast Guard members received awards for their superior performance and accomplishments. The Coast Guard was also the featured service at the BEYA STEM Stars and Stripes Awards Ceremony honoring top military professionals for exemplary service. ADM Papp was the keynote speaker and recounted the history of Pea Island Life Saving Station Keeper Richard Ethridge. The list of Coast Guard awardees can be found in. National recognition programs such as this demonstrate the commitment necessary to retain our talented workforce. (Goals 3 and 4)
  - b. As a result of our increased support and outreach to the Native American community, the Coast Guard was placed in the top 50 best places to work for American Indians by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. This is the first time that the



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

- Coast Guard has received this recognition and is indicative of our steadfast commitment to attracting and retaining diverse talent. (Goals 3 and 4)
- c. Sector Mobile continued active participation in local community outreach programs through their Partnership in Education, volunteering at a local food bank and Ronald McDonald House. Outreach provides superb opportunities for members to become more involved in their local community and increase awareness of the Coast Guard and its opportunities. (Goal 3)
  - d. Headquarters and District Seven chaplains facilitated financial management training using the Financial Peace University program. Programs like this provide life-skills training that allow members to reach their full potential. I encourage all senior leaders and supervisors at all levels to promote this type of training for our military personnel and civilian employees, particularly our junior members. (Goal 4)
3. Supporting Goal 2 of U.S. Coast Guard Diversity Strategic Plan, the restoration of the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) system has been announced. COs and OICs are required to conduct DEOCS in accordance with Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual. Regional Civil Rights Service Providers (CRSPs) are trained and can assist COs and OICs with interpreting DEOCS results and developing appropriate follow up actions if indicated. A list of CRSPs is available at <http://uscg.mil/hq/CG00/CG00H/serviceproviders.asp>.
  4. Thank you for all of your leadership efforts to reinforce the importance of diversity and inclusion. I encourage you to provide your accomplishments and initiatives to your Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council representatives and Leadership, Excellence, and Diversity Council members for inclusion in future OPTASK Diversity messages.

### **F. ACADEMY RESERVE RECRUITING TEAM**

Mr. Curtis B. Odom, Director of Civilian Human Resources, Diversity, and Leadership

1. The Coast Guard is committed to building and sustaining an inclusive and diverse organization. Change in the demographics of our military workforce requires a dedicated and sustained level of engagement at all accession points, as outlined in Coast Guard Diversity Strategic Plan. For our officer corps, the Coast Guard Academy (CGA) is the accession point for all officers. An opportunity exists for up to three reserve officers to serve on short-term Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS). Reporting to the CGA Director of Admissions, these officers will recruit diverse cadet candidates and build awareness of the Coast Guard and the Academy throughout the nation.





## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

2. The CGA reserve recruiting officers will consist of reserve officers on active duty with a coordinator assigned at the CGA in New London, CT. Outreach activities will consist of engagement with high schools, college fairs, Congressionally sponsored service academy events, key CGA influencers, prospective students, and their families. Frequent travel to and summer assignment at CGA in support of diversifying the Academy admissions pool is also required. As stated in Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS), reserve officers will serve 180 days or less on short-term ADOS orders. Although not required, Spanish language fluency is desirable.

### G. 2013 NAVY LEAGUE INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Mr. Curtis B. Odom, Director of Civilian Human Resources, Diversity, and Leadership

1. I am pleased to announce the winners of the 2013 Captain David H. Jarvis and the Signalman First Class Douglas A. Munro Inspirational Leadership Awards. Bravo Zulu to the following winners:
  - a. CAPT David H. Jarvis Award: CWO John D. Rice, *CGC BOUTWELL* (WHEC 719)
  - b. Signalman First Class Douglas Munro Award: SK1 Joshua Figueredo, CG Sector St Petersburg
2. I applaud the efforts of these outstanding individuals and all award nominees. Through their collective actions and the actions of those who nominated them, they demonstrate that our people are the foundation for successful Coast Guard mission execution.
3. Honorable mention goes to the following nominees by category:
  - a. CAPT David H. Jarvis Award:
    - 1) LTJG Allison Murray, *USCGC STEADFAST* (WMEC 623)
    - 2) LTJG Richard Russell, CGD FOURTEEN
    - 3) CDR Gregory B. Tlapa, *USCGC HEALY* (WAGB 20)
  - b. Signalman First Class Douglas Munro Award:
    - 1) MK1 Derek D. Shay, *CGC BOUTWELL* (WHEC 719)
    - 2) BM1 Malia R. Chasteen, *USCGC HALIBUT* (WPB 87340)
    - 3) BM2 Christopher L. Holmes, CG LANTAREA (LANT-37-CF)



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

4. The selection panel members for these awards were:
  - a. CAPT Melissa Bert, COMDT (CG-0941)
  - b. CDR Aaron Roth, COMDT (CG-0951)
  - c. MCPO Richard Hooker, COMDT (DCMS)
  - d. MCPO Roger Walker, COMDT (DCMS) Service Center
  - e. YNCM Bobbie Sisto, COMDT (CG-00B)
  
5. The following are the other nominees by category for the Jarvis and Munro Inspirational Leadership Awards. I congratulate each of you on being recognized by your shipmates for this honor.
  - a. JARVIS AWARD:
    - 1) LT Adam C. Buckley, *CGC DEPENDABLE* (WMEC 626)
    - 2) LTJG David L. Bruns, CG PACTACLET
    - 3) CDR Sean Cross, CGD FIVE (d)
    - 4) CDR Brian Glander, CGD ELEVEN (d)
    - 5) LCDR Darwin A. Jensen, CG Sector Honolulu (s)
    - 6) CWO Michael Paquette, CG ATC
    - 7) LT Stewart L. Sibert, CG Sector Los Angeles Long Beach (SD)
    - 8) CDR Thomas C. Stuhlreyer, CG PACAREA (PAC 5)
    - 9) CWO Gregory, Tarker, *USCGC STEADFAST* (WMEC 623)
    - 10) LT Paul E. Turner, CGD SEVEN (d)
    - 11) CDR Gregory D. Wisener, *CGC FORWARD* (WMEC 911)
  
  - b. MUNRO AWARD:
    - 1) MK2 Robert DeJager, *USCGC BLACKFIN* (WPB 87317)
    - 2) OSC John P. Eastman, CGD FOURTEEN (DT)
    - 3) HS2 Eric Gillard, *CGC CONFIDENCE* (WMEC 619)
    - 4) DC1 Austin F. Hunt, CG Gulf Strike Team
    - 5) DC2 Matthew Johnston, *USCGC STEADFAST* (WMEC 623)
    - 6) MK1 Kevin C. Jones, CG AIRSTA New Orleans
    - 7) BM1 Anthony Kaminski, CG Sector Miami
    - 8) BM2 Jeremy R. Kay, *USCGC HEALY* (WAGB 20)
    - 9) MST1 Russell Strathern, CG Sector Honolulu (s)
  
6. Additional information on the Inspirational Leadership Awards program is available on the COMDT (CG-133) web site, [www.uscg.mil/leadership](http://www.uscg.mil/leadership).
  
7. Both winners will be recognized at the Navy League National Convention in Long Beach, CA from 19-23 June 2013.



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

### H. HALF MASTING OF NATIONAL ENSIGN

1. As directed by the President of the United States, the National Ensign shall be flown at half-mast until sunset on April 20, 2013 as a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence perpetrated on April 15, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts.
2. The national ensign shall be flown at half-mast on all Coast Guard buildings, grounds, and vessels not underway

### I. NEW NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY PROGRAM

CAPT Joel Rebholz, Acting Director Health, Safety, and Work-Life

1. For those who smoke or chew tobacco, discontinuing the use of nicotine-containing tobacco products is one of the most important steps to improving health today and in the future. TRICARE now covers nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products and other related medications to support efforts to quit tobacco use. These medications are now available at military pharmacies and through the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery (where available), but not through TRICARE retail outlet locations (civilian pharmacies). Covered NRT medications are available to TRICARE eligible beneficiaries (18 years and older) with a written prescription from their provider. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries are not included in this program. For more information on how to obtain these medications, visit the TRICARE Web site at: <http://www.tricare.mil/quittobacco>.
2. The NRT medications included in this program are:
  - a. Nicotine nasal spray (brand name Nicotrol NS),
  - b. Nicotine inhalation (brand name Nicotrol),
  - c. Nicotine transdermal (brand names Nicoderm CQ and Habitrol),
  - d. Nicotine gum (brand names Nicorette, Nicorelief and generics),
  - e. Nicotine lozenge (brand names Nicorette, Commit and generics),
  - f. Bupropion SR tablets (brand name Zyban and generics), and
  - g. Varenicline tablets (brand name Chantix).
3. Nicotine addiction can be a complex and challenging problem to overcome and often requires additional assistance. The Coast Guard provides numerous resources to help you break this addiction:
  - a. U Can Quit 2 is available to all TRICARE beneficiaries. This resource offers an on-line chat with an expert coach who will answer all questions and provide support. The program also allows chat with others who are trying to quit. To find out more go to: [www.ucanquit2.org](http://www.ucanquit2.org).





## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

b. CG SUPRT, available to active duty, selected reservists (SELRES), civilian employees and family members. Visit:  
<https://www.achievementsolutions.net/achievementsolutions/en/cgsuprt/Home.do>

4. Breaking the tobacco and nicotine habit is a difficult process, sometimes requiring several attempts before achieving lifelong nicotine freedom. I applaud the efforts of those who make this attempt and urge commands to support them. Success will be rewarded by a healthier quality of life for the individual, family, and service.

### **J. NATIONWIDE DIFFERENTIAL GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (NDGPS)**

U.S. Coast Guard Directorate of Marine Safety, Security & Stewardship

Today the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) published a Federal Register notice announcing the USCG and the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) are analyzing the current and future user needs and requirements of the Nationwide Differential Global Positioning System (NDGPS). The NDGPS was designed to broadcast signals to improve the accuracy and integrity of the Global Positioning System (GPS) derived positions for surface transportation, as well as other civil, commercial, scientific, and homeland security applications. This analysis will be used to support future NDGPS investment decisions by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the DOT beyond fiscal year 2016. The notice seeks comments from federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other interested members of the public regarding current and future use of the NDGPS, the need to retain the NDGPS, the impact if NDGPS signals were not available, alternatives to the NDGPS, and alternative uses for the existing NDGPS infrastructure.

### **K. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION RENEWAL FEES**

LCDR Rodney Wert, Directorate of Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship

The U.S. Coast Guard announced publication of a Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register today. Through this rulemaking, the Coast Guard proposes to include a new annual fee of \$26 for renewals of endorsements upon a vessel's Certificate of Documentation. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 requires the Coast Guard to establish user fees for services related to the documentation of vessels, and this will enable the Coast Guard to recover the costs of providing the service. In establishing these fees, the Coast Guard is required to use the criteria found in 31 U.S.C. 9701, including that the fees be fair, based on the costs to the government, and reflect the value of the service or thing to the recipient, the public policy or interest served, and other



## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

relevant facts. The proposed rule and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov> , search docket number: USCG-2010-0990.

This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only. Please refer to the document(s) published in the Federal Register for specific details and requirements of subjects announced here.

### **L. MARPOL ANNEX V AMENDMENTS**

LCDR Rodney Wert, Directorate of Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship

The U.S. Coast Guard is publishing an interim rule with request for comments to revise its Regulations to conform to the MARPOL Annex V amendments, which entered into force on January 1, 2013. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V (Garbage) amendments prohibiting the discharge of garbage from vessels unless expressly allowed were adopted by the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environmental Protection Committee in July 2011 and implemented domestically through the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. Under this rule, the only allowed discharges will be certain food wastes, cargo residues, cleaning agents and additives in wash waters, and animal carcasses. The interim rule and related materials may be reviewed at: <http://www.regulations.gov> Docket number: USCG-2012-1049.

### **M. NATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL 2012 LIFE JACKET WEAR OBSERVATION STUDY NOW AVAILABLE**

Nicole Vasilaros, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

The National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) has recently released the 2012 Life Jacket Wear Observation Study. This report provides data and analysis in addition to a comparison of information from the previous thirteen years' studies (1999-2011). Tracking the changes in life jacket wear rates over time provides important statistics for those individuals and groups responsible for educating the public about boating safety, improving boating safety programs, and for legislative efforts targeting safety improvements for recreational boating.

The study shows that over the last three years there has been an overall increase of 1.5 percentage points for total wear rates. The average life jacket wear rate for all boats and boaters combined for 2012 was 22.6%, a small increase from 2011 (21.8%) which in turn was a small increase from 2010 (21.1%). For more information, or to read they report in its entirety, visit this link: <http://www.uscgbloating.org/statistics/pfd.asp>.



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

### **N. 2013 AMERICAN BOATING CONGRESS GOES DIGITAL!**

Lauren Dunn, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

The 2013 American Boating Congress (ABC) has gone digital! If you are in search of information on important policy issues or hoping to brush up on industry economics, learn more here! ABC policy briefs and other reports can be found in this digital magazine produced by ABC co-host Soundings Trade Only.

ABC speakers for 2013 will feature an influential group of policy specialists and industry authorities, as well as legislative and regulatory officials including Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV). Additional confirmed speakers to-date include Frank Peterson, RBFF, Deerin Babb-Brott, Director, National Ocean Council Office, Rear Admiral Dean Lee, USCG and Ken Walsh, White House Correspondent, US News and World Report.

### **O. OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RELEASES PLAN TO PROMOTE OCEAN ECONOMY AND RESILIENCE**

Lauren Dunn, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

Recently, the Obama Administration released its final plan for translating the National Ocean Policy into on-the-ground actions to benefit the American people. With significant public input from a wide spectrum of individuals and interests, the final Implementation Plan focuses on improving coordination to speed Federal permitting decisions; better manage the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources that drive so much of our economy; develop and disseminate sound scientific information that local communities, industries, and decision-makers can use; and collaborate more effectively with State, Tribal, and local partners, marine industries, and other stakeholders. Without creating any new regulations or authorities, the plan will ensure the many Federal agencies involved in ocean management work together to reduce duplication and red tape and use taxpayer dollars more efficiently.

Encouragingly, new language is included in the plan as a positive indication that the Administration has been listening to the concerns of fishing and boating. From the Ocean Economy section,

*"The recreational fishing and boating communities directly contribute to and help fund (through excise taxes and license sales) many marine conservation, State wildlife and fishery programs, and other initiatives that provide further benefits through vehicles such as the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These are just some examples of the value provided by healthy marine waters."*

Read the entire Plan at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/policy>.



## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

### **P. PERSONAL WATERCRAFT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION FOCUSES ON RESPONSIBLE RIDERSHIP AND SAFETY**

Lauren Dunn, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

A recent discussion of safety and responsible ridership from the Personal Watercraft Industry Association was picked up in the Los Angeles Times, as well as multiple other press outlets. The piece notes many of the improved design features, stability and engine technology on today's personal watercraft (PWC.) However, PWIA also stresses the importance of safety, education and responsibility in order to fully enjoy a PWC.

The PWIA offers important safety tips, rider rules, local laws and PWC etiquette for riders of every skill level. Information on instructional courses and downloadable safety materials, including a brief handbook titled Riding Rules for Personal Watercraft and PWC Orientation Checklist <http://www.pwia.org/assets/cabinets/Cabinet474/RidingRulesBro.pdf> can be found at <http://www.pwia.org>. Additional information can also be found through the United States Coast Guard.

### **Q. E15 EDUCATIONAL EFFORT CONTINUES WITH VIDEO AND SMARTER FUEL FUTURE ADVOCACY WORK**

Lauren Dunn, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

Jim Currie, Legislative Director for the National Marine Manufacturers Association, has developed a video that discusses the dangers of E15. E15 is a blend of fuel containing 15 percent volume ethanol and 85 percent volume gasoline. While E10 has been proven to be a safe and reliable gasoline for more than 20 years, the same cannot be said about E15. Despite this reality, EPA approved E15 for sale into the general gasoline pool for vehicles made in and after 2001. Numerous studies show that gasoline blends containing more than 10 percent ethanol can cause engine damage in boats, cars and smaller engines including chainsaws, lawnmowers, and snowmobiles. As a result, vehicle manufacturers have warned that the use of E15 will void warranties, leaving consumers vulnerable to expensive repair bills. View this video in full at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on2E6VACqXc&feature=youtu.be>

### **Q. NMMA SUPPORTS US COAST GUARD PROPOSED RENEWAL FEE FOR DOCUMENTED VESSELS**

Nicole Vasilaros, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

The USCG is proposing a \$26 renewal fee for documented vessels. The Documentation Center is facing incredible backlogs as it manages documentation for commercial, passenger, and recreational vessels. Providing USCG the resources to eliminate the backlog is essential



## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

The civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard  
Authorized by Congress in 1939

---

to market accuracy, bank lending, and law enforcement. NMMA and recreational boating businesses rely on up-to-date records for reliable statistical and market research. For financial institutions, proper documentation is essential for loan guarantees and certificates of title. Additional documentation is a critical component to effective law enforcement, where backlogs have potential security and theft implications. NMMA supports the renewal fee as a necessary means to improve the efficiency of the Documentation Center and provide the necessary resources for accurate recreational documentation.

### **R. SPECIES OF CORAL LISTED UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.**

Lauren Dunn, National Marine Manufacturer's Association

In May 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was petitioned by the Center for Biodiversity to list 83 species of coral under the ESA. NOAA underwent a review process during which they formed a Biological Review Team to determine the threats to coral extinction and the susceptibility of each species. NOAA also examined existing regulations and their efficacy in protecting coral species.

In December 2012, NOAA proposed listing 66 coral species under the ESA, and reclassifying 2 coral species from "threatened" to "endangered". Public comment is being accepted until March 7, 2012. Staff attended a public meeting in Dania Beach, Florida in January and is drafting official comments for submission. The rule is expected to be finalized in December 2013, at which point NOAA will undergo a separate rulemaking to establish critical habitat designations. Staff will work closely with NOAA to ensure critical habitat designations do not unduly burden recreational boating, fishing, navigation, or marina development.