

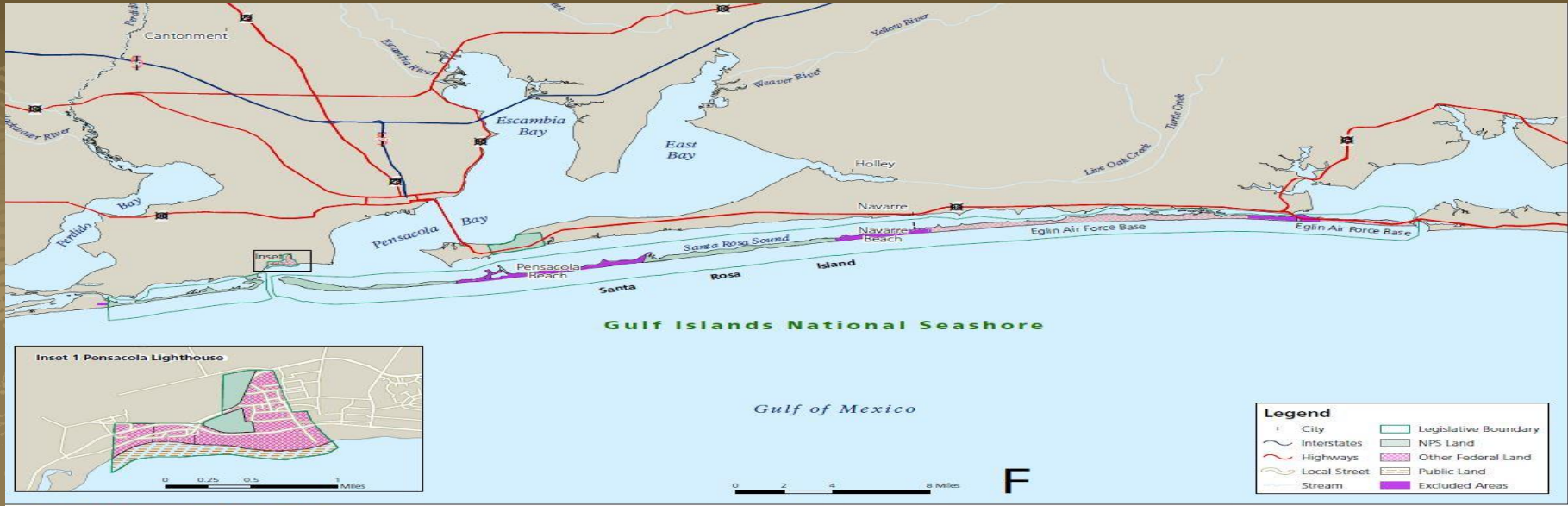
Gulf Islands National Seashore  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Gulf Islands National Seashore Crab Island Commercial Services Planning

Okaloosa County Pre-Season Water Safety Meeting  
February 8, 2023

# Gulf Islands National Seashore



- NPS Boundary-Intercoastal South and 1 mile into the Gulf/East pass westward to Perdido Key with MS mainland area and islands.
- Crab Island-Large Submerged Sandbar Near Marler Bridge.
- Large seagrass bed-nursery area-Gulf fisheries-critical resource in the NS.
  - Seagrass habitat diminishing (entire Gulf coast, including the NS)
  - Reduced water quality/storms/prop scars and turbidity



# Crab Island - Overview

- Highly popular recreation location/Seasonal in nature & weather dependent
- Hundreds of boats, including commercial vessels
  - Traversing and anchoring
- Issues
- Changes (County Ordinances, NPS Management)



# Crab Island Commercial Services Strategy Planning Process

- Formal Planning Process (Environmental Assessment or EA and Commercial Services Strategy or CSS)
- General Management Plan (GMP)
- Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA) 2019-2023
- Final Stages/Steps

# What is a Commercial Services Strategy?

- **NPS Definition of Commercial Service**
  - Product, service or activity offered to park visitors for compensation
  - Operation by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party within NPS boundary
  - Commercial Services-vital role w/services that the NPS does not/cannot provide
- **A Commercial Services Strategy (CSS) allows a park to:**
  - Prepare conditions for visitor use and commercial services;
  - Identify allowable commercial services;
  - Framework for necessary and appropriate (N&E) criteria;
  - Review allowable commercial services against N&E criteria;
  - Identify high priority commercial services and proper procurement method and;
  - Outline an action plan for implementation.

# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island?

- Visitor Safety
- Resource Protection
- Compliance with GMP Management Zones
- Compliance with NPS and other Federal Commercial Operations Laws/Regulations

# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island?

## Visitor Safety

- Public Health
- Drownings/Near Misses
- Tide
- Accidents/BUIs/etc.



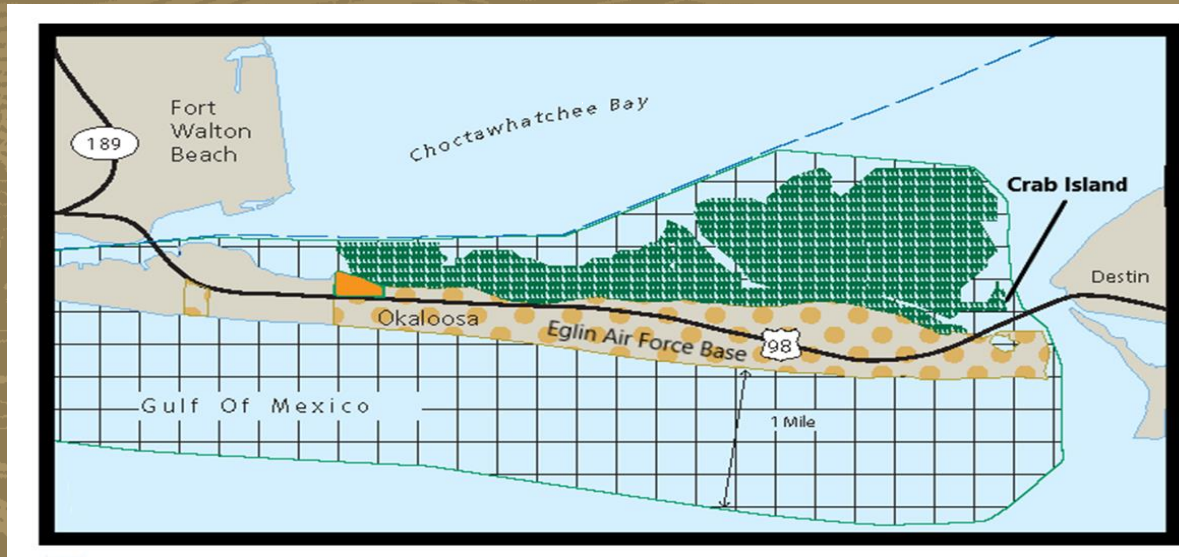
# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island? Resource Protection

- Prop Scars-1/2 of 13 miles in the NS located at CI
- Seagrass Bed Damage
- Restaurant Waste
- Refueling Vessels/Generators
- Solid Waste
- Lack of Restrooms





# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island? GMP Management Zones



- GMP Finalized in 2014
- 2 Management Zones for the Crab Island Area-Natural Settings with Dispersed Recreation and Seagrass Bed
- 5 addtl mgmt zones in GMP-Diverse visitor opportunities; recreational beach; Non-motorized with primitive use; Resource mgmt and science priority; and NS operations

# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island? GMP Management Zones

## Natural Settings with Dispersed Recreation Zone

- Visitor Use-Limited Encounters
- Natural Resources-Managed to Maintain or Restore
- Very Limited Facility Development



# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island?

## GMP Management Zones

### Seagrass Bed Zone

- Active seagrass or suitable for seagrass development
- Management-prevent resource damage
- Visitor Use-enjoyment natural settings
- Minimal Facility Development-Mooring Buoys/Nav Aids
- Restrictions-May be non-motorized only for resource protection



# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island? GMP Management Zones

## Diverse Visitor Opportunities

- Visitor Use-Wide variety of use, including dense populations
- Natural Resources-Managed for visitor use/Restoration during off season
- Currently exists only in 4 very small locations (Pickens, FL CG, Barrancas and NLO)
- Wide variety of facility development



# Why is a Commercial Services Strategy needed for Crab Island?

## Compliance with Federal Law

- Federal Law/Regulation
  - Necessary and/or appropriate
- An **APPROPRIATE** service: ALL of the following:
  - Consistent with NS Purpose
  - Consistent with all laws, regulations and policies
  - Does NOT compromise public health and safety
  - Does NOT cause unacceptable impacts to national seashore resources or values
  - Does NOT unduly conflict with other park uses and activities
  - Does NOT exclude the general public from participating in limited recreational opportunities
- A **NECESSARY** service : One or more of the following:
  - Contribute to Visitor understanding and appreciation
  - Enhances visitor experience (consistent w/NS purpose and significance)
  - Assist with visitor use mgmt. and education
  - Provides an Essential service not easily accessible from the NS

# What commercial services may look like in the future?

## ■ Possible Option-

- Do not implement the CSS.
- No GMP zone modification.
- No or severely limited commercial services allowed

## ■ Possible Option-

- Implement the CSS.
- Modify the GMP Zone.
- CUAs allowed-poss. introduction of concessions contract (s)

## ■ Possible Option-

- Implement the CSS.
- No GMP zone modification
- Limitation of commercial activity to meet GMP zone

# What commercial services may look like in the future?

- CUA vs Concessions Contract
  - Contract/Permit Length
  - Requirements for each
  - Process
- Planning Process
  - Where are we?
    - Regional Director Briefing/Presentation
    - EA/CSS Review
  - Next Steps?
    - Open House/Public Meeting
    - Public Comment Period
  - Final Decision?
    - Final Decision

## 2023 Season Requirements

- Application w/payment of \$100 application fee (using Pay.gov platform)
- Food and Beverage Addendum (if applicable)
- Current Vessel Registration(s)
- Current Commercial Liability Insurance (USA addtly insured)
- Current State/County Business License
- Mariner's/Captain's License (with operations of 6 pax+)
- Acknowledgement of Risk (Waivers NOT permitted)
- State/USPHS Food Inspection Report (if applicable)
- Scuba/Snorkeling Instructor Certification (if applicable)
- 2022 Annual Report (returning operations)
- Submissions will begin to be reviewed on Feb 6
- Final 2023 permits expected before 1 March



# Thank You



## Questions?

National Park Service  
U.S. Dept. of the Interior

Darrell Echols – Superintendent  
Rich Devenney-Commercial Services Manager  
Jennifer Watson-Concessions Specialist  
Gulf Islands National Seashore

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. A long bridge spans across a body of water, connecting a sandy beach area in the foreground to a densely populated town on the right. The water shows varying depths of blue and green, indicating different seabed compositions. The sky is clear and blue.

# **OCWOC WATERSPORT SAFETY**

Things to keep in mind

# OCWOC OBJECTIVES:

- Share knowledge & resources with industry stakeholders
- Protect the interests of watersport operators
- Enhance the safety of boating with public-private cooperation
- Become a good steward of the community

Website



# ORDINANCES IN PLACE

City of Destin –



City of Fort Walton Beach –



Okaloosa County –







Crab Island –



FWC Livery -



# WRIST BAND SYSTEM

XXXX	 Approved Driver Name: _____	
XXXX	 Driver w/ Boater's License Name: _____	
XXXX	 Approved Driver (w/ Parent onboard) Name: _____	
XXXX	 Not Approved Driver - Can not drive	

# SAFETY VIDEOS

- Waverunner Safety Video



- Navigational Safety Video



- Pontoon Boat Safety Video

- Goal – to complete before Summer season

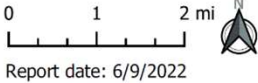
# COUNTY NO WAKE ZONE MAP



Download here



Okaloosa County Uniform Waterway Markers







# FUEL CONTINGENCY/OIL ABATEMENT PLAN

- Oil Sorbent Hydrocarbon Containment Boom to go around the longest vessel on the property
- Hydrocarbon Absorbent Pads
- Granular Absorbent



# U.S.G.G. AUXILIARY VESSEL SAFETY CHECK

- Coast Guard Auxiliary Safety Inspection
- If NAV lights are an issue of failing, use battery operated in a watertight container



# SAFETY STICKERS

OCWOC sticker:

- Each membership will include a sticker for all your registered vessels.
- Passenger capacity sticker



- Watch your Step sticker



# SAFETY STICKERS

- No drinking & driving sticker



- Rules of the Road sticker

### NAUTICAL RULES OF THE ROAD

**REMEMBER THESE RULES OF THE ROAD**

- Head On:** Keep right or steer to starboard. Pass port to port, like cars.
- Crossing:** Give way to the boat ahead and to the right, slow or stop.
- Danger Zone:** Give way if a boat is in your danger zone.
- Passing:** When overtaking another boat, give way and steer clear.

**Give Way Boat** – must alter course and speed to avoid a collision. **Stand On Boat** – must maintain direction and speed unless a risk of collision is imminent.

**THE "PECKING" ORDER**

Generally, the higher category on list has priority:

- Unable to steer
- Limited in turning ability
- Restricted by draft
- Commercial boats engaged in fishing
- Sail and human powered
- Recreational power driven

**HORN SIGNALS**

- Boat astern & second
- Protruded Mast & 4-bell
- Turning to Starboard
- Turning to Port
- Going Aft
- Leaving Dock
- Open Bridge
- Danger

© DCWOC  
To find a basic or advanced boating course, visit [www.boatUS.org](http://www.boatUS.org)

### ASSISTANCE CALL PROCEDURES

for help on the water or on the road

Soft grounding, dead battery, out of fuel or flat tire?

**Call TowABoatUS**  
on **VHF 16** or  
BoatU.S. 24-Hour Towing Dispatch at  
**800-391-4869**

On a boat, call the BoatU.S. app for quick service and location services. In an emergency situation, contact the Coast Guard or local authorities immediately.

**EMERGENCY CALL PROCEDURES**  
for true emergencies and vessel in distress

**Fires, sinking, person overboard or medical issues?**

- On a DSC-equipped VHF radio press and release the **DISTRESS** button. If properly installed (including an NBDG) a distress call is placed automatically. When interfaced with your GPS your position is also transmitted. Visit [www.boatUS.com/EMD](http://www.boatUS.com/EMD)
- On a non-DSC VHF radio, on Channel 16 press the transmit button and hold "May Day" three times. Give the vessel name, description, position, nature of emergency and number of people on board.

**Ensure all people are wearing a life jacket.**  
An intentional foul call is a Federal offense.

**OR**  
**Call 16**

# SAFETY STICKERS

- Example of some Safety equipment location stickers



- Engine Cut-off Switch Lanyard Sticker

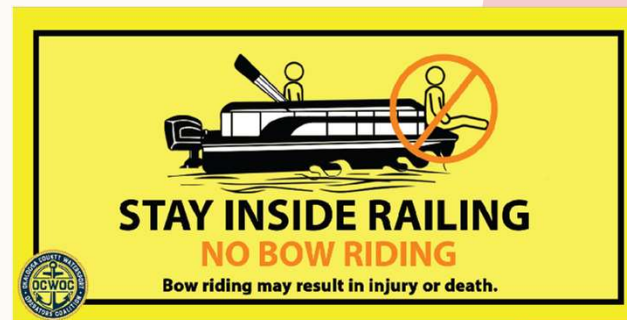


# SAFETY STICKERS

- Slide down Feet First sticker



- Stay inside railing sticker



- No jumping off boat sticker



# SAFETY STICKERS

- Paddlecraft reflective sticker



- If found paddlecraft sticker

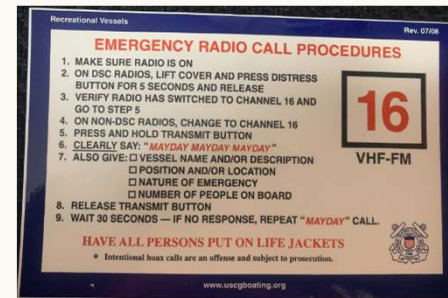


- Life Jacket wear it sticker



# SAFETY STICKERS

- VHF Procedures sticker





# USING TECHNOLOGY

Online Waivers – ability to get information to all customers ahead of time, instead of just main person making reservation

- Map of waterways
- Pre-training videos
- Give boating & Crab Island Safety tips to all passengers ahead of time.

If you are driving a Pontoon Boat or Waverunner and born after January 1, 1988; you will need a driver's license & a boater's license. You can do it ahead of time by [clicking here](#). If you are born before January 1, 1988; you will just need your drivers license.

Reminder while at Crab Island & boating in our waterways:

1. Be sure not to anchor or swim on the East & South side of Crab Island, especially when the current is going out (towards the Destin Bridge). With strong currents, quick & deep drop offs; it is very dangerous and you could be swept away from crab island or even possibly drown.

2. Always keep an eye & be close to all children

3. Stay away from the Jetties, especially when the current is going out (towards the Gulf of Mexico). It is very dangerous.

4. Do not let your driver drink & drive. Law enforcement is out and will issue a BUI & take the person to jail. Don't ruin your vacation.

5. Please follow all the no wake zones. You will get a citation for speeding in the no wake zones.

6. Keep inside the rails while the boat is in motion. Never ride on the front of the boat, while the boat is in motion.

7. Never jump off boats into water, as the depth may not be as deep as you think.

Be sure to watch our Boating waterway navigational video by [clicking here](#)

If you're renting a pontoon boat, be sure to watch our Pontoon boat safety video by [clicking here](#)

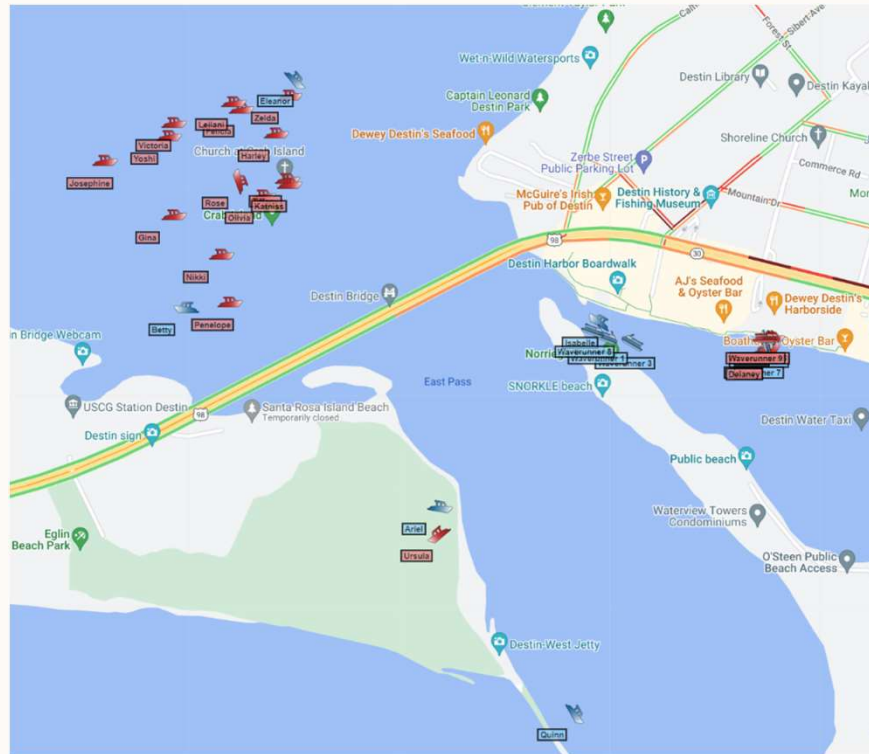
If you're renting a waverunner, be sure to watch our Waverunner safety video by [clicking here](#)

If you have any questions, feel free to reply to this email.

# GPS & GEOFENCING

## GPS & Geofencing

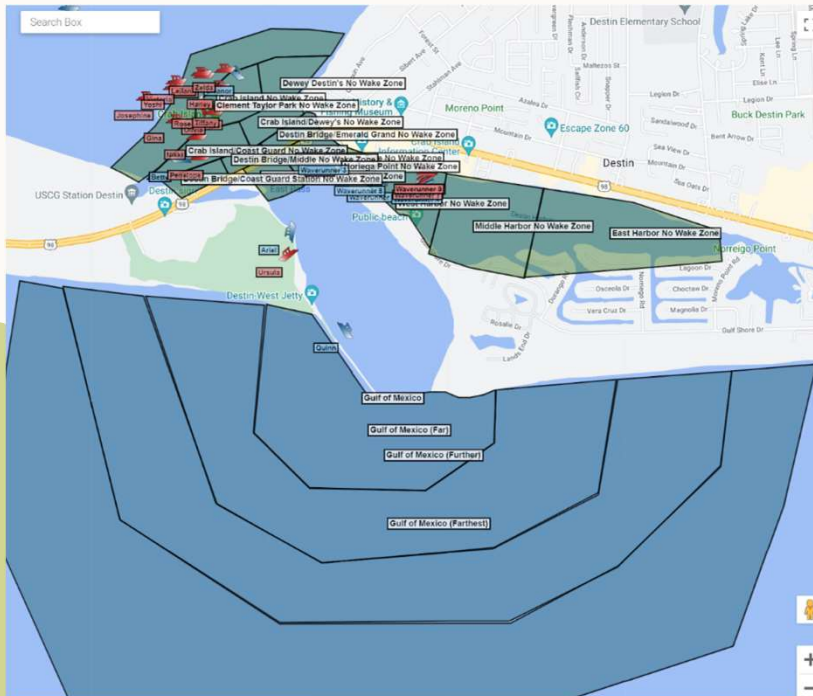
- Know where vessels are at all times



# GPS & GEOFENCING

## GPS & Geofencing

- Know when vessel is speeding in no wake zones
- Know when vessel goes out of bounds, such as Gulf of Mexico



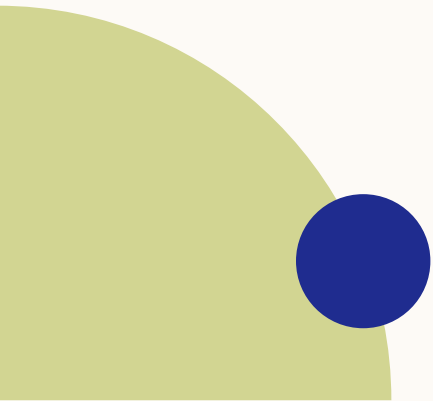
# GPS & GEOFENCING

## GPS & Geofencing

- Alarm that will go off on vessel, so customer knows



# **BOAT OKALOOSA WATERSPORT INFORMATION APP**



# HOW TO BECOME A OCWOC MEMBER?

- We ask all watersport businesses to become a member
- Funding is used to develop/promote safety, such as these safety videos & safety stickers
- Scan here to get more info





**THANK YOU**

*Any questions or comments*



# ***“PREVENTION” Saves Lives***

**8Feb2023 Okaloosa County, Florida Pre-Season Water Safety Meeting**

**Doug Ritchie, DCDR  
USCGAux Florida Panhandle**







***LIFE JACKETS SAVE LIVES***

***WEARING MAKES THE  
DIFFERENCE***



**WEAR IT**

A program of the National Safe Boating Council



[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)



# ***2021 USA Recreational Boating Facts Support “Wear It”***

***81% of Boating Deaths from Drowning***

***83% of Victims Not Wearing Life  
Jacket***

***66% of Drowning Victims Are Good  
Swimmers***

[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)





# ***LIFE JACKET LABELS CHANGING***

***Easier to Understand Graphics***

***Performance Level Number  
for  
Flotation and Stability***

***Turn Ability***

***Warnings***



[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)





# Lifejacket “Intended Use” Labels Old and New

FLOTATION AID - TYPE III PFD  
INTENDED USE BOATING VEST  
ADULT LARGE

USER WEIGHT: MORE THAN 90 LBS. ( 41KG )      CHEST SIZE: 40 - 44 IN.  
MODEL: WAVE      ( 102 TO 112 CM )  
U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVAL NUMBER 160.064/4093/0

USCG Approved wearable device for uninspected Commercial vessels less than 40 feet ( 12m ) in length Not carrying passengers for hire, and for recreational Boats.



**WARNING - TO REDUCE THE RISK OF DEATH BY DROWNING:  
READ MANUFACTURER'S "THINK SAFE" PAMPHLET BEFORE USING THIS DEVICE AND PERFORM "THINK SAFE" CHECKS EACH SEASON  
CHOOSE THE RIGHT TYPE AND SIZE PFD AND WEAR IT- FASTEN ALL CLOSURES AND ADJUST FOR SNUG FIT  
FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S USE AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS  
DO NOT CARRY HEAVY OBJECTS - HEAVY OBJECTS IMPAIR FLOTATION  
STRENGTH TESTED AT 50 MPH, NOT TESTED FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION FROM IMPACT.  
THIS DEVICE IS NOT TO BE FASTENED TO THE BOAT.**


MARINE LISTED FLOTATION AID



**ADULT UNIVERSAL**  
User Weight: >40 kg (>88 lbs)  
Chest Size: 76-132 cm (30-52 in.)

70


- Drowning hazard if not worn.
- Must be fastened and properly adjusted to float the wearer.

Choose and wear the device which fits you and your activity, visit [www.wearitlifejacket.org](http://www.wearitlifejacket.org).  
Read and keep the owner's manual and tags for info such as rearming, wear, and care.

“Old” style label

“New” style label





# CHOOSE THE DEVICE YOU WILL WANT TO WEAR

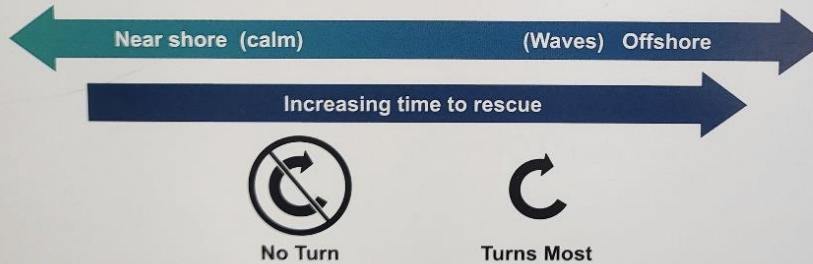
## SIZE & FIT

- Check label for user weight and chest size.
- Different body types float differently.
- Try your device on in the water to ensure your airway is clear.
- A good fit is secure, comfortable, and adjustable.

## TRY IT ON

## PERFORMANCE

- Lower level number generally offers greater mobility, comfort, and style with good flotation for most people.
- Higher level number generally offers greater flotation, turning, and stability in the water.



## CONSIDER YOUR ACTIVITY & ENVIRONMENT

## WATER SAFETY INFO

- In over 80% of boating fatalities the person was not wearing flotation.
- Most of these are sudden falls overboard or capsizing of a small boat.
- The first moments in the water are critical, even for experienced swimmers.
- Cold water shock causes involuntary gasping, loss of muscle control and swim failure.
- Long term immersion in cold water causes hypothermia and requires thermal protection and flotation in the HELP position to conserve energy.

## FLOTATION DEVICES SAVE LIVES



Higher the Number =>

Greater the Flotation, Stability, Turning



[www.safeboatingcampaign.com](http://www.safeboatingcampaign.com)





# “Intended Use” Label Warnings

- Icons indicate what activities the life jacket is or is not suitable for.
- If there is a slash through the icon the life jacket is not suitable for that activity.
- If there is slash through all four icons the life jacket is suitable for general boating.



Not for Water Skiing



Not for Tubing



Not for Personal Watercraft




Not for Whitewater Paddle Sports





# Safe Boats Save Lives


U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
United States Coast Guard



**VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS**

**SAFE BOATS HELP SAVE LIVES!**

**BOAT**  
*Responsibly*



## Free Vessel Exams





# *Free Vessel Exams for Recreational/Rental/Bareboat Valid for Year Indicated*



[www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org) and  
click on left column:

Get a Vessel  
Safety Check







# Free Vessel Exams for Commercial UPV "6 Pack" Valid One Year from Passing

UPV



- EXPIRES
- 2017
  - 2018
  - 2019
  - 2020
  - 2021
  - 2022
  - 2023

THIS VESSEL MEETS ALL USCG REQUIREMENTS FOR  
**UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS**

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

United States Coast Guard  
Department of Homeland Security

Enclosure (1) to LANT/PACAREAINST 16730.2

United States Coast Guard

## Requirements For Uninspected Passenger Vessels



Revised: March 2016, 0201



Email: [uscgaux@ritchiefam.org](mailto:uscgaux@ritchiefam.org)





# *Question*

*What Life Jackets must the Commercial UPV "6 Pack" have readily-accessible and why?*

## *Answer*

*Type I PFD's (New 100)  
because it's the life jacket  
most likely to Save Lives*





# ***Life Jackets and Vessel Exams “Prevention” Saves Lives***

***Thank you for your time today.***

***uscgaux@ritchiefam.org***



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
United States Coast Guard

**VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS**

**SAFE BOATS HELP SAVE LIVES!**

**BOAT**  
*Responsibly*

The poster features the U.S. Coast Guard logo at the top. Below it is a photograph of four people on a boat. The text "VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS" is prominently displayed in large, bold, black letters. Below that, a yellow banner contains the text "SAFE BOATS HELP SAVE LIVES!". At the bottom, the "BOAT Responsibly" logo is shown.

[www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

