

2023 PRE-SEASON WATER SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Host: Okaloosa County in partnership with the Okaloosa Sheriff Marine Patrol

Partners: FWC, U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Park Service, Okaloosa Watersport Operators Coalition, City of Destin, City of Fort Walton Beach

Time	Item	Location
1:00 PM	Registration	Main Entrance Lobby
	Open House	Central Hallway Sand Castle & Dolphin
1:30 PM	General Session	Palm I & II
	<p>Speakers: Okaloosa Sheriff’s Office Marine Patrol – Sgt. Corbitt Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) – Lt. Bartlett U.S. Coast Guard – CDR Dan Kilcullen, Senior Chief Palmer, & Lt. Steve National Park Service – Richard Devenney Watersport Operators Coalition – John Stephens Coast Guard Auxiliary – Doug Ritchie & Larry Messinger Open Forum – Q&A</p>	
3:00 PM	Break & Open House	
3:15 PM	Open House	Central Hallway Sand Castle & Dolphin
	<p>Informational Tables Okaloosa Sheriff’s Office Marine Patrol Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) U.S. Coast Guard Coast Guard Auxiliary Okaloosa County Watersport Operators Coalition National Park Service Okaloosa County Code Enforcement Okaloosa County Beach Safety & EMS City of Destin City of Fort Walton Beach</p>	
4:00 PM	Event Ends	

General Session Overview of Topics

Okaloosa Sheriff Marine Patrol – Sgt. Kyle Corbitt (15 minutes)

The Marine Patrol will cover BUI enforcement, County Ordinances, Boating Safety Regulations, and Idle Speed/No Wake Zone Violations.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) – Lt. Bartlett (15 minutes)

Representatives will discuss basic livery regulations and address common violations observed each year.

U.S. Coast Guard – CDR Dan Kilcullen, Senior Chief Palmer & Lt. Steve Browning (15 minutes)

Items to be addressed are boater safety, the Coast Guard station in response to search and rescue, Coast Guard inspections, environmental response and investigations, and illegal charters and bareboat charters.

National Park Service – Richard Devenney (10 minutes)

NPS will provide an update on the planning process and commercial operations at Crab Island.

Okaloosa County Watersport Operators Coalition – John Stephens (10 minutes)

The Okaloosa County Watersport Operators Coalition will highlight their boater education video series, and share about safety initiatives including Safety Stickers, Wrist Band System and GPS/No Wake Zone Alarms.

Coast Guard Auxiliary – Doug Ritchie & Larry Messinger (10 minutes)

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will discuss prevention efforts including the wearing of PFD's and free vessel safety checks/exams; livery vessels and commercial "6 pack charter" UPVs; and the Paddle Craft Safety Initiative (AUXPAD).

Q&A – (15 minutes)

There will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions at the conclusion of the general session or share good safety protocol and techniques for the benefit of other attendees. Attendees are also encouraged to stay for the Open House session to ask questions in a more casual one-on-one setting.