



Date: August 26, 2012
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [Photo Attached]

In One Day, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Inspects 142 Boats in New York City

NEW YORK, NY – On August 25, 2012, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members in New York City conducted 142 Vessel Safety Checks on paddle craft at boathouses located along the Hudson River. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary periodically performs Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) as a public service to their local communities. These inspections take place at marinas and at public boat launch areas, and are an opportunity for the Coast Guard to educate the public on local and federal boating laws and ordinances, in regards to the requirements for life jackets, fire extinguishers, emergency signaling devices, and other safety items which can help mitigate the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and environmental impact, while maximizing the safe use and enjoyment of America's waterways.

Last year, the Coast Guard recorded more than 4,500 recreational boating accidents which resulted in more than 3,000 injuries, 750 fatalities and \$52 million in property losses. As a result, the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the Tri-State region has stepped up its efforts to provide safety inspections to boat owners.

This successful large-scale VSC operation was conducted by members of several Auxiliary flotillas (detachments). The day's activities were initiated by Anthony Carter of Flotilla 05-03 (Battery Park) and supported by fellow flotilla members, Charles Jeff Rooney (Flotilla Commander) and Robert Morningstar. Members of Flotilla 05-11 (Northern Manhattan) that participated were Michael McCallister (Flotilla Commander), John Kiernan, David Kroening, Fred Knox and Shelomo Alfassa. Alfredo Munoz was there representing Flotilla 05-04 (City Island).

The near twelve dozen boats that were inspected were awarded a distinctive 'VSC decal' that alerts the Coast Guard, NYPD Harbor Patrol, and other law-enforcement agencies that their boat was found to be in full compliance with all federal and state boating laws. Frequently, such agencies will not detain or board boats displaying a current-year decal that are otherwise operating safely. The VSC is much more than a compliance-oriented certification examination. First and foremost, the VSC offers a one-on-one educational opportunity for a boater to meet with representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard who can address any questions they may have. Discussions with boaters is designed to motivate maintaining and operating their boats in a safe manner.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the civilian, uniformed volunteer component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security / U.S. Coast Guard. The USCG Auxiliary was founded in 1939 by an Act of Congress. While the Auxiliary is not directly involved in military or law enforcement activities, today, some 32,000 men and women participate in thousands of hours of support that directly supplements the Coast Guard's Maritime Domain Awareness missions which include Harbor Patrols, Vessel Safety and Inspections, Public Education, Radio Communications, Search & Rescue and Marine Environmental Protection. The over-arching mission of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is to augment the Recreational Boating Safety Mission of the United States Coast Guard as well as assisting with the security of our citizens, ports, waterways and coastal regions.



NEW YORK CITY - Some of the members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's flotillas 05-03 and 05-11 that completed 142 Vessel Safety Checks in New York City on August 25, 2012. From L-R: Charles Jeff Rooney (Flotilla Commander 05-03), Michael McCallister (Flotilla Commander 05-11), John Kiernan (Immediate Past Flotilla Commander 05-11), Anthony Carter (Vessel Examiner 05-03), Fred Knox (Vessel Examiner 05-11) and Shelomo Alfassa (Public Affairs Officer 05-11); U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photo.