



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



16 February 2016

To: Butch Willette, VCDR
054-10

Subject: Marine Environmental and Safety Report/Plans for 2016

There was very little involved activity in Marine Safety in our Division in 2015, due to Sector N C not requiring our support.

I have searched for multiple ways to improve and promote Marine Safety through PA Events, Marine Dealer Partners, and the general public. Some activity was accomplished, but much less than expected. With Lou Ashley's help and input on reporting codes, I hope all of this will become clearer in the next few months.

I discussed this important role with Sector NC, Captain Murtagh and was informed that there were no PQS opportunities available outside the Gold Side training group. Anyone wanting to qualify for the MS Ribbon and certificate would have to use the MEES guide and take a proctored test under a qualified MS member. At this time, only Bob Eldridge is eligible to proctor this exam and after several attempts to contact him, I've been unsuccessful in setting this up.

My plans for the Division as well as the Flotilla in 2016 are to explore this in greater detail and try to find available resources to get more qualifications for our members on the Division and Flotilla level.

Also, I plan to become more involved in local PA events along with Glen McVickers to promote the Marine Safety concerns in our AOR.

I hope to have more information available in the coming months. As of now, I've been asked to put together an hour presentation at our Spring Training Session for the Division at Cape Fear Community College.

As always, I will welcome any input or suggestions for Marine Environmental and Safety in both the Division and Flotilla levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Wheeler
IPDCR, SO-MS, FSO-MS