



# Safety Lines

Issue 1

2023

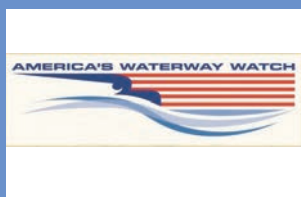
## Auxiliary Members Conduct Commercial Vessel Activities.

*Find out how you too can get involved (see page 4)*

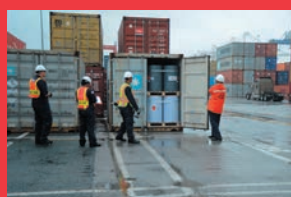


Bob Mattson, Coast Guard Auxiliary Uninspected Vessel Examiner, reviews and fills out paperwork with Rear Adm. Christopher C. Colvin, Coast Guard 17th District Commander, during a 5-Star Safety examination on the sailing vessel Kirsten Anne. Charter operators who participate in the 5-Star Safety Program have met all the regulatory requirements, received the Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) decal, and voluntarily invested in additional safety equipment. Coast Guard Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jon-Paul Rios

Newsletter of the  
Prevention Directorate  
USCG Auxiliary



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Libby Rattrie talks about opportunities for Auxiliary members within the Port and Facility Activities Division- page 8



Edwin Martin explains how the Navigation Systems Division is about more than just ATONs- page 9



## Prevention Directorate Staff

Director of Prevention - (Dir-P)

Kim Marie Cole

Deputy Director Prevention

(DIR-Pd)

Michael Roland Mitchell

Division Chief – Communication  
& Education (DVC-PO)

Deborah S. Johnson

Division Chief - Port & Facility  
Activities (DVC-PS)

Maxine Elizabeth Rattrie

Division Chief - Commercial  
Vessel Activities (DVC-PV)

George Sherman Peek

Division Chief - Prevention  
Outreach (DVC-PW)

Thomas M. Brennan

Division Chief-Navigation  
Systems (VC-PN)

Edwin Lafayette Martin

Complete list of our staff :

[http://wow.uscgaux.info/staff  
\\_php?unit=P-DEPT](http://wow.uscgaux.info/staff.php?unit=P-DEPT)



# Safety Lines

Newsletter of the Prevention Directorate USCG Auxiliary

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# Sea Partners

Kim Cole, Dir-P

The mission of the Sea Partners program was established with the Coast Guard in 1994. In 1997 the Coast Guard expanded this mission to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Since then, the Auxiliary has provided over 36,000 hours in the Sea Partners mission.

Sea Partners is an effort to reach students, boaters, anglers, marina operators, the marine industry, and the general public with information about protecting the marine environment. Part of this mission is speaking with students of all age groups on this critical topic. Children are extremely interested in our environment and the damage created by carelessness or simply not caring. Many of our schools have joined together in becoming "green schools," working to further the education of our young people in this critical mission.

The Auxiliary has worked hard to provide guidance and information to our young people in this area. We have successfully formed relationships with our counterparts in other environmental groups/organizations nationwide by providing presentations on this. Sea Partners is a mission that all Auxiliary members, regardless of age, qualifications, or how long they have been in the Auxiliary, can work to assist in bringing to the forefront and support the Coast Guard in all Sectors. The public outreach provides a positive image to the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. In many areas, when providing a presentation for Sea Partners, Active Duty and Reservists have volunteered to assist in this mission.

In the presentations I have participated in over the years, I have seen thousands of children and provided valuable information on pollution in

our marine environment, along with many fishing groups and organizations in numerous areas. Often, young people who have been at a presentation will come up months later and speak with me about the presentation they were able to attend. I have watched young

people tell their parents what they learned during the presentations.

One of the first messages

I pass on to the young people is that they will be



**Kim Cole presenting to the students of the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield, Mich., during the school's water festival. USCG Auxiliary photograph**

the ones to find ways to make pollution in our environments less and less of an issue. They are the ones who will come up with the answers to many of the questions and problems. We in the Sea Partners program take heart in the thought that we have helped these young people along the road to those answers. Anyone interested in joining the Sea Partners program should contact their Flotilla Staff Officer for Marine Safety and ask how to get started. Many of the materials can be found on the National Prevention webpage. Hope to see many of you join us in this very worthwhile mission. Ω



# Commercial Vessel Activities Division

George Peek, DVC-PV



**Dennis Schoenwether, a Coast Guard commercial fishing vessel safety examiner with Marine Safety Detachment Kodiak, conducts a mandatory dockside exam on a commercial fishing vessel in Kodiak, Alaska, May 23, 2018. Mandatory dockside exams must be completed for all commercial fishing vessels that operate beyond three nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Charly Hengen.**

The Commercial Vessel Activities Division of the Prevention Directorate is primarily responsible for Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) and Commercial Fishing Vessel (CFV) programs. Additionally, the Division covers Barge and Hull Inspections and small passenger vessel examinations (T-Boat and K-Boat). The overriding goal of the Division is to save lives by providing safety education and compliance examinations for commercial vessels.

The Division is headed by a Division Chief, with three Branch Chiefs and one Branch Assistant for each Coast Guard District. This organization provides nationwide coverage to gather information and provide distribution of policies and practices related to commercial vessels. Information gathered from the field is used to strengthen existing programs, make recommendations to the Coast Guard for improvements to the programs,

and evaluate the effectiveness of training and mentoring.

Goals for the Division during this year include issuing the new format for Uninspected Passenger Vessel examinations, reviewing training materials for potential UPV examiners and refreshing the Division website. The Division and the Coast Guard have a continuous improvement philosophy supported by the close working relationship of National, District, Sector, and Auxiliary units to train the best and most capable personnel to support the Division's life-saving mission.

All members interested in any Marine Safety qualification should review the National Prevention Directorate website at <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=p-dept>.

Members should work with their local District Staff Officer, Division Staff Officer, or Flotilla Staff Officer-Marine Safety to determine what programs are available in their areas. Ω

**With more than 90% of global trade traveling by sea, Coast Guard marine inspectors' work is vital to the safety and prosperity of America's maritime transportation system.**



**Thom Brennan**

## **Thom Brennan, Division Chief- Prevention Outreach (DVC- PW)**

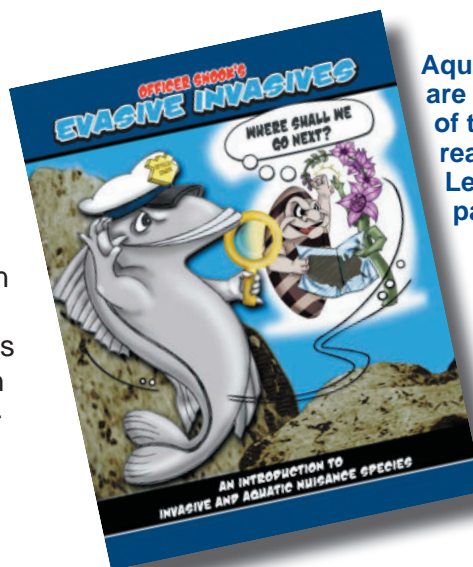
Thom Brennan, the Division Chief for Prevention Outreach (DVC-PW), is a member of Flotilla 44, Lafayette, (Louisiana) District 8 Coastal Region and currently serves several Flotilla Staff Officer positions within

his unit including Information Services, Publications, and Communication Services. He has also served as Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander. In addition, he held the position of District Staff Officer-Publications while with District 9 Central.

Born and raised in Michigan, Thom joined the Auxiliary in 2007 upon retirement from a corporate

training and information technology support career. He joined the Auxiliary to give back to the community and because of his interest in the Auxiliary's educational and environmental programs. After spending several years as a "snowbird," he became a full-time resident of Louisiana in 2014.

He has served as Division Chief-Prevention Outreach since 2022. Ω



**Aquatic Nuisance Species** are one of the focus areas of the Prevention's Outreach Division. Learn more on next page.

## **Marine Safety Training Program**



Like the three-pronged Marine Safety M-Pro Pin shown above, the Marine Safety Training Program, formerly known as the Trident Training Program, is a three-pronged training, consisting of education, qualifications, and service. Courses required include Introduction to Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (a two-point AUXOP course), Good Mate, ICS 100, 200, 210 or 300, 700 and 800. Members must earn four qualifications from a list of 16 found on the Prevention Directorate website and then provide a minimum of 96 hours of service each year for five years as recorded in AUXDATA. This pin indicates a high degree of knowledge, proficiency and dedication, as well as professionalism on the part of the wearer. Ω



The Marine Safety Training Ribbon was created in recognition of the considerable and long-term, sustained effort that Auxiliarists must put forward in order to earn the Auxiliary Marine Safety M-Pro Pin. The ribbon recognizes achievement in the marine safety, security, and environmental

protection mission area as a precursor to achievement of the Auxiliary Marine Safety M-Pro Pin.

To read the requirements for this ribbon, sign in and go to:

[https://join.cgaux.org/marine\\_safety\\_trident\\_training\\_ribbon.php](https://join.cgaux.org/marine_safety_trident_training_ribbon.php)



# Prevention Outreach

Thom Brennan

The Outreach Division of the Prevention Directorate primarily promotes and supports two Coast Guard programs: Sea Partners and America's Waterway Watch. Both programs seek to educate the boating community and the public at large.

Additionally, the Prevention Outreach team supports environmental initiatives from agencies outside of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Sea Partners is the only environmental education outreach program in the Coast Guard. Its core mission is to increase awareness of maritime pollution issues and to improve compliance with marine environmental protection laws and regulations. It seeks to do this by communicating the messages of:

- The effects of oil, hazardous chemicals, waste, and debris on the marine environment.
- How marine environmental protection laws and regulations apply to various marine users.
- Ways groups and individuals can take action to protect the marine environment.

Sea Partners' missions include working with school groups and the boating community.

Information about the Sea Partners program: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=sea-partners>

America's Waterway Watch (AWW) is the Coast Guard's maritime security public outreach program. It asks that participants report suspicious activity to the Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies. Participants in the AWW program do not need to join any organization formally, and there is no formal training.

People who spend time on or near the water know what is 'normal' and what is not, and are well-suited to notice suspicious activities that may indicate threats to our nation's homeland security. Participants in America's Waterway Watch are urged to adopt a heightened sense of awareness toward unusual events or individuals they may encounter in or around ports, docks, marinas, riversides, beaches, or waterfront communities. Any such activities are to be reported to the national hotline: 877-24WATCH (877 249-2824).

More information about Prevention Outreach Programs: <https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=custom-1>

## Outreach Division Staff

Andrew Abbott, Branch Chief-AWW Liaison (BC-PWW). Andy's job is to act as a liaison with the Coast Guard on America's Waterway Watch program,


develop resources for AWW, and promote the program throughout the Auxiliary.

Joseph Edwards is the Branch Assistant for AWW (BA-AWW). Joe's job is to support the Branch Chief.


Gregg Bollinger, Branch Chief-Sea Partners Liaison (BC-PWS). Gregg's job is to liaison with the Coast Guard on the Sea Partners program, develop resources for Sea Partners, and help promote the program throughout the Auxiliary.

Buford Keith Ridgeway, Branch Chief-Special Projects (BC-PWO). New to the Prevention Outreach team for 2023, Keith's job is to act as an administrative support



resource for projects within the Prevention Outreach group and the Prevention Directorate. His primary focus is Outreach training initiatives. Ω



**Help Keep America's Waterways Safe and Secure**  
**AMERICA'S WATERWAY WATCH**



**Report Suspicious Activity on the Waterfront**  
**Call 911, VHF Channel 16, or 877-24WATCH**  
**<http://americaswaterwaywatch.uscg.mil>**

# Communication and Education Division

Debi Johnson, DVC-PO

The Communication and Education Division of the Prevention Directorate, headed by Division Chief (DVC-PO) Deborah Johnson, provides several categories of information and services for the Auxiliary.

The national Prevention Directorate website is the repository for all information about the directorate, including training materials, newsletters, qualifications, and other resources available to all members. The manuals, qualifications, and training materials are kept up to date. Districts are urged to provide links to this material on their unit websites so members can always find the most current information and resources. Internet searches produce resources that may not be up to date and can cost members time if their information is not the most current available. The webmaster (BC-POI), Mark Holtzclaw, is new to the Directorate and is responsible for maintaining the website by adding new information, deleting outdated information, fixing errors or broken links, and providing a user-friendly format. We urge members to report any issues or broken links to the webmaster so they can be corrected or fixed.

*Safety Lines* is the Prevention Directorate newsletter, created by our award-winning editor (BA-POT), Dottie Riley, and includes contributions from Directorate staff and Auxiliary members from all districts. Articles may include items about Navigation Systems, member training, district activities, USCG information that will affect the Auxiliary, changes in policy or regulations for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (MS/MEP) missions, new resources for member use, and other relevant news. Each issue is posted to the Prevention Directorate website once approved. Members are encouraged to submit articles about MS/MEP activities in their areas of responsibility highlighting missions of particular significance or interest. Digital images sent as attachments are always welcome – they should be checked for proper uniforms, appropriate activity, and proper equipment (including any required personal protective equipment) and be taken as close to

the subject as possible to provide clarity and detail relevant to the article. Images should also be credited appropriately, with a relevant caption.

The Division handles special projects requested by the Director (DIR-Pd), which may be part of the Auxiliary Strategic Plan, such as revision of training manuals, resources, and MS/MEP qualifications, updating the format of the website, creating new training materials in various formats and creating or adding MS/MEP resources. We do this with the help of one Branch Chief for Special Projects (BC-POT), Jim Fipps, and a Branch Assistant for Educational Resources (BA-POI), Rick Young, who assist the DVC-PO in the development and creation of new training materials as well as revisions to existing training materials. The DVC-PO is also responsible for assisting with a workshop at N-TRAIN that educates the District Staff Officers-Marine Safety (DSOs-MS)

from all 16 Auxiliary districts about their duties, responsibilities, and the resources available to them to execute the duties of their office. The Division provides support to all DSOs-MS through answers to questions, referral to resources, and resolution of issues that may arise concerning MS/MEP missions and activities.

We invite Auxiliary members to explore the Communication and Education Division resources and the Prevention Directorate website to locate information about MS/MEP missions and materials that will help create a better experience for them and the

members of their units. Ω





# Port and Facility Activities Division

Libby Rattrie, Division Chief

As stated on the Auxiliary Prevention Directorate Web Page: "The Auxiliary's Prevention Directorate is responsible for the planning and administration of Auxiliary programs to support and augment the U.S. Coast Guard's Prevention missions. As such, we assist and augment the Coast Guard's vital role as the nation's guardian agency, ensuring the safety and environmental protection of our nation's precious waterway resources." The Port and Facility Activities Division assists the Coast Guard with the Nation's Ports and Facilities' safety, security, and stewardship. There are three branches in this Division: Facility Security and Safety, Port Security and Safety, and Special Projects.

- Facility Security and Safety Branch: Mike Philipps
  - Promote Prevention strategies, objectives, and activities.
  - Promote and support Auxiliary Facility Inspection activities.
  - Provide guidance and training to all qualified members to assist the Coast Guard in all applicable Facility Inspection activities.
  - Support other Coast Guard Stewardship Missions, as directed.
- Port Security and Safety Branch: Tom Mann
  - Promote Prevention strategies, objectives, and activities.
  - Promote and support Marine Safety Office activities.
  - Provide guidance and training to all qualified members to assist the Coast Guard in all applicable Port Safety and Security activities.
  - Promote and Support Maritime Observation Mission activities.
  - Support other Coast Guard Stewardship Missions, as directed.
- Special Projects Branch: David Bird



Coast Guardsmen with the Port Safety and Security unit with Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region perform inspections of hazardous material shipments at the Port of Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland, Sept. 18, 2018. The Coast Guard inspects cargoes and containers for undeclared hazardous materials and ensures compliance with laws and regulations on shipping hazardous materials. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Lisa Ferdinando

- Promote Prevention strategies, objectives, and activities.
- Participate in special projects as directed.
- Assist with managing and developing programs directly supporting the Port and Facility Division.

In the 2020 – 2026 Strategic Plan for the Auxiliary, one goal is to ensure that the Auxiliary Prevention program meets the ongoing needs of the Coast Guard by updating current qualifications and courses to match current Coast Guard qualifications. One way this will happen is by updating existing Performance Qualification Standards (PQS) to mirror current Coast Guard PQSs. Only by being trained to the same level as the Coast Guard will our members be able to support the missions of the Coast Guard and be a true "force multiplier."

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The Port and Facility Division is in the process of doing precisely this. The standards that “mirror” the Coast Guard are Auxiliary Assistant Waterways Management Representative (AUX-WWM), Auxiliary Assistant Facility Inspector (AUX-EU), and Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED). The Coast Guard has updated these three Marine Safety PQSs in recent years, so the Auxiliary PQSs now mirror the active duty PQSs. As the Coast Guard continues to update all their Marine Safety Performance Qualification Standards, the Auxiliary will continue to update our versions.

To aid our members in achieving these updated qualifications, the Port and Facility Division is also producing study guides for the Auxiliary members to use alongside the Performance Qualification Standard

workbook and Coast Guard personnel training. The study guides will follow the Performance Qualification Standard tasks with the required information being provided. The Coast Guard will be reviewing every study guide to ensure the accuracy of the information provided.

These study guides will help not only the Auxiliarist but also the active-duty personnel in reducing the time dedicated to Auxiliary instruction. Since the Performance Qualification Standards “mirror” those of the Coast Guard, it is hoped that they will also benefit the Coast Guard active duty.



## What is Navigation Systems?

**Edwin L. Martin, Division Chief, (DVC-PN)**

The Division Chief for Navigation Systems (NS) in the Prevention Directorate (DVC-PN) is responsible for the Aids to Navigation (ATON), Chart Updating, and Bridge Administration program areas and for promoting the growth, development, and improvement of the Auxiliary's Navigation Systems programs. This includes the management of the AUX 06 C-School to provide the training and education of members in the proper procedures for participating in the Navigation Systems programs.

The DVC-PN manages the three areas responsible for the support to the Coast Guard's Aids to Navigation program. This includes verifying the location and characteristics of private aids to navigation (PATONs) and Bridge Administration. Auxiliarists may also help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the US Army Corps of Engineers in updating nautical charts and publications.

The Chief of the Aids to Navigation Branch oversees the review and maintenance of the USCGAUX National ATON Training Guide and supporting documentation. The Branch Chief also maintains the Aids Verifier (AV) qualification training program and the Performance Qualification Standard (PQS) in

compliance with Coast Guard policy in support of the Private Aids (PATON) Verification Program.

In addition, this office maintains the course materials used for the National Aids to Navigation portion of AUX 06 C-School to ensure that all required provisions of the National Short-Range Aids to Navigation Verification Program are covered, including Western Rivers requirements.

The Chief of the Bridge Administration Branch (BC-PNI); maintains the Bridge Administration Study Guide and manages the Auxiliary programs necessary to support the Coast Guard bridge inspection and administration programs. This Branch Chief teaches Bridge Administration and is responsible for the



**Edwin L. Martin**

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development and maintenance of course materials for National Aids to Navigation/Chart Updating AUX 06 C-School.

The Chief of the Chart Updating Branch (BC-PNC) is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Nautical Chart Updating Manual and Study Guide.

This office also maintains a liaison and working relationship with the National Ocean Service

(NOAA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state governments to exchange information

on which areas of navigable waters need charting or re-charting and how the Auxiliary can be of assistance.

The BC-PNI is also responsible for the development of course materials and the administration and maintenance of the chart-updating curriculum for the chart-updating portion of AUX 06 C-School.

The NS team is here to provide direct assistance to newly appointed District Staff Officers for Navigation Systems (DSO-NS) to ensure that Coast Guard policy is understood and followed. This is an advisory position subject to the district requirements established by each Director of Auxiliary and the Coast Guard District Waterways Management Division (dpw).

This coordination includes:

- Coordination with the Office of Navigation Systems (CG-NAV), develop and implement the programs necessary to provide Auxiliary support for the inspection and servicing of Federal Aids to Navigation through the Auxiliary Minor Aids to

Navigation Technician (NE) program.

- Review the Coast Guard Auxiliary Aids to Navigation Program COMDTINST 16500.16 (series) so it conforms with the latest Coast Guard policy.
- Development and review of content for the Navigation Systems Division's website. Develop, implement and maintain a competency level for Aid Verifiers (AVs).



**TAMPA BAY, Fla. - A mixed bag of water birds squat on a "Nun" buoy. Auxiliary members from Division 7, District 7, assist Sector St. Petersburg in verifying the accuracy of ATONs after every major tropical storm. U.S. Coast Guard photo by George Papabeis.**

- Provide updated information and items of interest in periodic newsletters, bulletins, notices and/or articles. Write articles on operational topics for department and other publications.

- Design and deliver training and presentations on Navigational and Prevention topics as required. Develop and participate in projects that will benefit and enhance the Navigation

Systems Division programs and the Prevention Department

- Responsible for the annual operation of and the development of course curriculum for the National Aids to Navigation/Chart Updating C-School, overall Aids Verifier (AV) qualification, and requalification training programs.
- Responsible for the coordination of Auxiliary (NE) qualification in the Federal Aids to Navigation Program for certification to service minor aids. Responsible for the development and maintenance of the Navigation Systems Division Training forms and publications promoting training and education.

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The current project is the development of a modernized and more efficient Aids to Navigation 7054 form in Adobe format: the creation of a new 7054.pdf with the same usefulness and information as the current 7054.xls form. This is an update to the form only and does not constitute a change to the basic core of the NS AV program.

The 7054 Excel spreadsheet form, that is in common use, was created to replace the original form that lacked the ability to provide concise information to the CG. There are some elements of the Excel spreadsheet form but in a more robust Adobe format. The new 7054.pdf captures the inputs of both of the older form and eliminated a lot of those multiple check boxes by using pop-up and drop-down menus in their place so that when that data box is opened it gives the user the list of possible required inputs. The instruction page has been completely rewritten and the new 7054.pdf will soon be presented to BSX for their review and approval.

The current 7055.Excel® Bridge Report form will be converted to Adobe format as soon as the Aids to Navigation 7054.pdf is accepted.

Another ongoing project is the clarification and promulgation of claiming AV time on your individual 7030. To clarify, the 03-mission code is used for the boat on an ordered PATON mission and that means everyone gets credit for the patrol. Only the individual mission 30, 31, 32 is used to give credit for the AV's additional efforts.

As an AV goes out on a 03 Coast Guard requested/ordered patrol, the AV, along with other crew/coxswain, gets credit in AUXDATA II for the patrol time. Upon completion of the 03 patrol, the Aids Verifier completes a separate 7030 for the additional time spent fulfilling codes 30, 31, and 32. The same applies to an Aids Verifier on an 01A patrol who did a PATON observation. The AV would get credit for the 01A patrol time and

then submit a separate 7030 to record time for the additional 30, 31, 32.

Navigation Systems is also asking for a new mission code to be added for chart/coast pilot updating work performed. Currently there is no way to track this effort by an AV qualified Auxiliarist.

Our goal is to promote the Auxiliary Navigation Systems Division throughout the Auxiliary and the Coast Guard. Ω



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association continually updates electronic and printed charts. Image by NOAA To learn how to get current nautical charts from NOAA, go to: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/find-charts.html>**



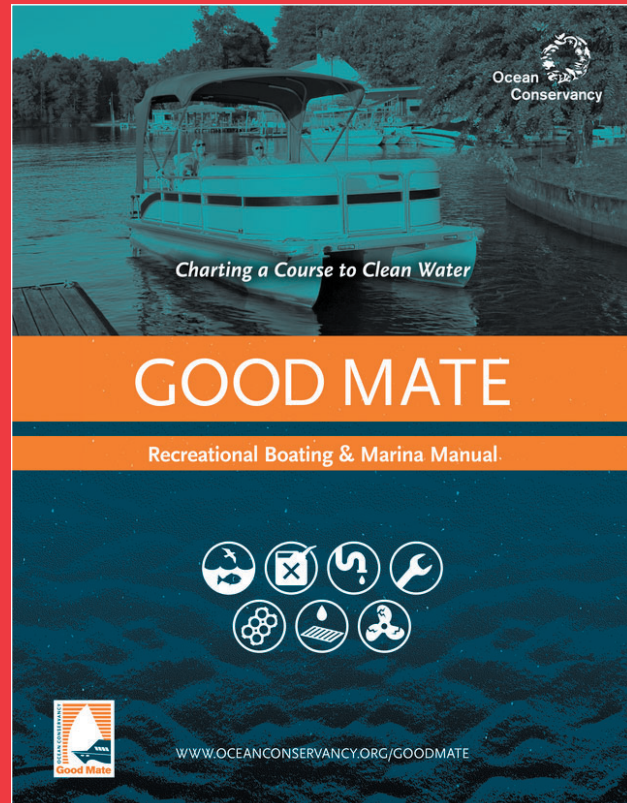
# Take the Good Mate Course

The “Good Mate” course was developed by the Ocean Conservancy and is designed to encourage ocean and waterway conservation by boaters. The course material is available on the Prevention Directorate website by clicking <http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT&category=ms-courses>. Both the “Good Mate” course and the link to the National Testing Center are available on the page.

Several Marine Safety qualifications require completion of the “Good Mate” course. The Good Mate program’s primary goal is to help recreational boaters and marina staff gain a better understanding and awareness of how they can help protect waterways while enjoying their recreational boating activities.

The long-term objectives of the Good Mate program are:

- Helping boaters and marinas develop and incorporate environmentally friendly management strategies in six areas—oil and fuel, sewage pollution, vessel maintenance and repair, marine debris, stormwater runoff, and vessel operation.
- Educating and training recreational boaters and marina staff to be informed and educated stewards of waterways.



- Helping boaters and marinas realize economic benefits while promoting environmentally friendly procedures.
- Fostering cooperation between groups interested in the use, quality, and enjoyment of local waters.
- Keeping boating fun by maintaining a safe, pleasant, and clean environment.

The “Good Mate” course is recommended for any member of the Auxiliary interested in marine safety and environmental protection. Ω