

Auxiliary Marine Safety and Administrative Management Qualification

Section 6: Resources

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of Section 6, the member will be able to:

1. Explain why a great number of the resources for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection are best found online rather than as hardcopy.
2. Search the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary websites to find the necessary information pertaining to MS/MEP.
3. Distinguish between those resources that relate to *prevention* versus those that may pertain to *response*.
4. Explain why there is variation in the resources available at the district, division and flotilla levels.
5. Demonstrate the ability to locate the following:
 - 5.1 The organization chart for Marine Safety in District 7
 - 5.2 The Director of the Prevention Directorate
 - 5.3 The Commander of the Marine Safety Unit for Sector Delaware Bay
 - 5.4 The overview of the America's Waterway Watch program
 - 5.5 The PQS pertaining to the Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED) qualification
6. Identify and describe the Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC) and its resources.
7. Explain why the National Prevention Directorate website is the primary resource for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection program information and what resources are available within each of its Divisions.
8. Identify and discuss organizations that partner with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to provide resources for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection. Discuss what the resources are, where they are found and how they may be accessed.

Section 6: Resources

With the role of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (MS/MEP) representing a major portion of U.S. Coast Guard missions, there exists a wide range of resources available to those interested in MS/MEP. This section endeavors to focus on those that have proven to be the most valuable and likely accessed on a regular basis. Those listed here are generally believed to be current, but the member does need to exercise considerable awareness for the availability of more up-to-date information.

6.1 Timely Information: Online versus hardcopy resources.

With such an extensive array of sources also comes the problem of timeliness, hence to the greatest extent possible the member is directed to official websites rather than hardcopy references; however, even the latter may best be accessed online.

6.2 Search the USCG and USCG Auxiliary websites to obtain needed information.

Both the USCG and the USCG Auxiliary provide numerous sources of information, some of the key ones are provided below.

6.2.1 U. S. Coast Guard websites

The most comprehensive source concerning the various organizational components, the various Marine Safety missions, and the senior Coast Guard officers in charge can be found at:

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Marine-Safety-Center-MS/>

This homepage allows the Auxiliarist to search several levels deep, thereby providing an effective and efficient basis for investigating specific topics and issues, for example:

- Navigation Rules:

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=NavRulesAmalgamated>

While this is similar to that information contained in the hardcopy publication by the same name, the overwhelmingly most valuable feature here is that while that publication was last updated in 2014, the website is clearly current.

- USCG Organization Chart:

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/DCO_3-0_ORGANIZATIONAL_DIAGRAM.pdf

While dated 2015, this organization chart can be instructive for identifying Marine Safety initiatives and responsibilities, albeit at the highest level of the Coast Guard hierarchy. This can, therefore, serve as a guide when attempting to dive into those subjects that can be found on the Marine Safety Center homepage as referenced above.

6.2.2 U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary websites

The USCG Auxiliary website, found at <https://www.cgaux.org/> is similar to its Active Duty counterpart in that it contains myriad links that pertain to *Marine Safety and Environmental Protection*.

6.2.2.1 Prevention Directorate

Perhaps the most used resource will be the homepage found at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=P-DEPT>. The following discussion highlights some of those items most often referenced. Note that some of these will require the member to sign in at the Member Zone dialogue box. To put all of this into a useful context, the member is referred back to Section 3 of this *Study Guide* for information about the various missions, duties and responsibilities of each of the five Divisions that comprise the Prevention Directorate.

- **Alerts and Bulletins:**

Several links will connect to the Active-Duty website and address such issues as Coast Guard Marine Safety Alerts, Marine Safety Information Bulletins, and National Transportation Safety Board

Safety Alerts.

- **Prevention Directorate Staff:**

This resource pertains to those holding National Staff positions and can be found under the pulldown menu for the Prevention Directorate:

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/staff.php?unit=P-DEPT>

In addition to finding a listing of Directorate staff members by title and function one can also find email addresses and telephone numbers.

- **The Prevention Organization Chart:**

This is not found under the Directorate pulldown menu, but rather within the *Auxiliary Directory*. This organization chart is useful for ascertaining the current national staff officers and their reporting relationships within the Prevention Directorate, bearing in mind that the incumbents change every two years, and the functions, as well as reporting relationships, may also change with the needs and missions of the Directorate. The reader is referred back to the Prevention Directorate general organization chart found in Section 3 of this Study Guide.

- **Marine Safety:**

This is a very useful tab that will provide descriptions as well as the requirements of the various Marine Safety qualifications open to Auxiliarists based on the specific needs of the respective districts and sectors.

- **Outreach Programs:**

Substantial detail has already been provided in other sections of this *Study Guide* on the Americas Waterway Watch, Sea Partners, Marine Mammals, and Good Mate© initiatives. Those links can be found here. There are also several links within the Aquatic

Nuisance Species (ANS) Resources link that are valuable to those Auxiliarists who may be preparing presentations for both external and Auxiliary audiences.

- **Publications and Notices:**

An extremely useful tab because this is where the *Marine Safety Manual* can be found. It is contained within six volumes plus a Coast Guard Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual. Each of these volumes is extremely detailed and lengthy, hence it is recommended that the member download the PDF files but refrain from printing out the set of volumes.

- **Safety Lines Newsletter:**

This is a periodical published by the Prevention Directorate and contains useful and timely information that is specific to the Auxiliary. Back issues are archived under this tab.

- **What's New:**

With the case made concerning the dynamic nature of Marine Safety and Environmental Protection, great emphasis needs to be placed on those holding the MSAM qualification to keep themselves appropriately abreast of ongoing developments. There is no better source for finding this information than by accessing the What's New tab, hence it should be visited frequently in order that one maintains currency and can remain informed to appropriately guide other members.

6.2.2.2 Prevention Versus Response

Both Prevention and Response represent two different, albeit related, Directorates within the Auxiliary, but together they comprise marine safety and environmental protection programs and missions. The Prevention Directorate has already been discussed. Conversely, the Response Directorate can be found at: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=r-dept>.

Response is divided into four divisions: Surface Operations, Aviation, Telecommunications and Education. With a layout similar to that found for Prevention, the member is referred to the extensive list of links. For timely information, attention is directed to the What's New menu.

6.3 National, District and Sector, Division and Flotilla Resources

Most of the discussion up to this point has focused on national resources, in particular policy and organization. Both the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary have accepted a level of flexibility in order to be more effective as well as efficient in meeting the requirements of their respective Areas of Responsibility (AORs). For this reason there are some variations in the way that marine safety and environmental protection assets are deployed. Hence, the ability to access both Divisions and Flotillas can be useful, but do note that these organizations will vary considerably in their marine safety and environmental protection initiatives. To access either division or flotilla level information, begin at the main Auxiliary webpage (<https://www.cgaux.org/>) and go to the "units" tab. Each of the links here will be to a District. Select the District of interest and find the link to Divisions and Flotillas. Many of these will have their own websites, but not all do. From here one can find the organization(s).

6.3.1 Exercises:

It may be useful to practice finding marine safety and environmental protection information with the forgoing website links. The following is an opportunity to demonstrate ability to locate the following:

6.3.1.1 The organization chart for Marine Safety in District 7.

6.3.1.2 The Director of the Prevention Directorate.

6.3.1.3 The Commander of the Marine Safety Unit for Sector Delaware Bay.

6.3.1.4 The overview of the America's Waterway Watch program.

6.3.1.5 The PQS pertaining to the Auxiliary Assistant Pollution Responder (AUX-ED) qualification.

6.4 Auxiliary National Supply Center (ANSC). This is a very useful resource for obtaining a wide range of handout brochures and posters potentially useful when constructing a Marine Safety and Environmental Protection information booth. Their catalog, contact information, and ordering details can be found at

<https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/OurOrganization/auxiliary/publications/misc/DCAT.pdf?ver=2017-07-02-093058-510>

6.5 Partner Organizations

The Auxiliary in general and the Prevention Directorate in particular partner with several organizations that provide myriad useful resources. The following provides links to some of the better-known ones, but members should note that this is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

6.5.1 Ocean Conservancy for Good Mate©. The Ocean Conservancy offers a wide range of programs including “Trash-free-seas” (<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/>) plus the Good Mate© Program that has two particularly noteworthy components supported by the Auxiliary, Good Mate for Boaters (<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/boating-community/boating/>) and Good Mate for Marinas (<https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/boating-community/marinas/>). **Note that in addition to providing useful materials these sources also solicit donations and are neither recommended nor endorsed, hence any decision to do so is strictly a personal one.**

6.5.2 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This government website has a wide-range of information regarding the maritime domain including resources for both student and teachers on estuaries, marine sanctuaries, and marine debris. See <https://www.noaa.gov/educational-resources> for a wealth of useful resources many of which are available as printable files.

6.5.3 North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA). An association comprising industry, government, trade associations, and non-profit organizations, NAMEPA offers both programs and educational resources at its website <https://namepa.net/>, many of which are available in English, Spanish, and French. **Note that in addition to providing useful materials this source also solicits donations and are neither recommended nor endorsed, hence any decision to do so is strictly a personal one.**

6.5.4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See their website at https://www.fws.gov/help/about_us.html for a comprehensive list of their responsibilities regarding such topics as threatened or endangered species, enforcement of wildlife laws, and the conservation of habitat including wetlands. The website also has printable and viewable resources that may be useful when preparing presentations and displays.

6.5.5 State Agencies. Each state operates units that maintain information about environmental issues including aquatic nuisance species, boating regulations, and environmental protection. Their names may differ by jurisdiction but look at a state website for such units as Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection, or Fish and Game. These may be a department, commission, agency, service, or administration, however, there will be much commonality among their missions.

6.5.6 Clean Marina programs. Many states have programs specifically named, with their mission being to engage marinas, boatyards, and yacht clubs to improve their operations to be more environmentally responsible. There are also a pair of umbrella organizations: the Association of Marina Industries (<https://marinaassociation.org/cleanmarinas>) and Clean Marine (<https://cleanmarina.org/>), which have the similar missions of promoting responsible practices and encouraging compliance.

6.5.7 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A key organization within FEMA is the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), which is where the Incident Command System (ICS) courses can be found (<https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>). Note that EMI offers dozens of ICS-related courses that go far beyond those few that are required by the Auxiliary.

6.5.8 Colleges and Universities. Although many institutions of higher learning may have programs related to marine safety and environmental protection, those with the longest legacies are among the federal land grant universities. A map of these is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/LGU-Map-03-18-19.pdf>).