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Boating Leaders Join Forces to Promote Navigation Safety

Leaders Come Together to Inform Boaters about the Importance of Keeping Electronic and Paper Charts Updated

St. Paul, Minn. – April 15, 2010 – In an effort to inform boaters about the importance of up-to-date navigational information, several boating industry leaders today announced that they have joined forces to form the Alliance for Safe Navigation (www.allianceforsafenavigation.org). Sponsored by NOAA, the alliance consists of BoatU.S., Jeppesen, the United States Power Squadrons (USPS), OceanGrafix and the Sea Tow Foundation for Boating Safety and Education.

The purpose of the alliance is to raise boater awareness about the importance of having and using the most current navigation information to avoid potential groundings and other accidents. “We identified a widespread lack of awareness among boaters regarding the accuracy of their charts, whether electronic or paper,” explains OceanGrafix President David DeGree. “The truth is that inaccurate chart information can turn a safe and enjoyable cruise into a dangerous situation.”

Unlike commercial mariners, who are required by law to carry up-to-date charts, recreational boaters are not held to the same regulation. In fact, recreational boaters aren’t required to have any charts onboard.

Ken Cirillo, business development executive at Jeppesen, adds, “Keeping electronic and paper charts up-to-date is inexpensive and easy. So our goal is to educate the boating community about how quickly their charts can become outdated and how easy it is to keep them current. In addition, we want to encourage them to be aware of the significant and frequent changes that are occurring in their boating area.”

For more information or to be surprised as to how many changes have been made to your charts, go to www.allianceforsafenavigation.org.



About the Alliance for Safe Navigation

The Alliance for Safe Navigation consists of industry leaders that all share a commitment to boating safety. The goal of the alliance is to raise the boating community's understanding of and appreciation for up-to-date navigational information. The alliance encourages mariners to recognize the high number of changes made to their charts and to keep their electronic and paper charts accurate, which is inexpensive and easy. Sponsored by NOAA, the alliance is made up of BoatU.S., Jeppesen, OceanGrafix, the Sea Tow Foundation for Boating Safety and Education, and the United States Power Squadrons.

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