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## Coast Guard Auxiliary Joins Forces with the Alliance for Safe Navigation

*The Alliance for Safe Navigation, whose mission is to raise boater awareness about the importance of up-to-date navigational information, is teaming up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to encourage boating safety.*

**St. Paul, Minn. — October 25, 2012**—The Alliance for Safe Navigation, whose mission is to raise boater awareness about the importance of up-to-date navigational information, today announced that it is teaming up with the Coast Guard Auxiliary to encourage boating safety. Sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Alliance is also made up of OceanGrafix, BoatU.S., Jeppesen, the Sea Tow Foundation, and the United States Power Squadrons.

With the motto of *Semper Paratus*, or “always ready,” the Coast Guard Auxiliary has vast responsibilities, including search and rescue; pollution patrol and response; homeland security; and commercial fishing and vessel exams. The primary mission of the Auxiliary, however, is recreational boating safety. It is this emphasis on safety that makes the Auxiliary a perfect addition to the Alliance, as boating safety is clearly connected to the use of accurate navigational data.

“During our vessel safety checks, we always ask if boaters have current charts onboard,” explains Ed Martin, a 38-year retired veteran of NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey. “That’s because paper and electronic charts must be constantly maintained to reflect any changes by man or nature. Boaters need to use the most up-to-date charts available and, when operating in coastal waters, have the largest scale available.”

Over 30,000 men and women Coast Guard Auxiliary annually work two million volunteer hours. “We are pleased to be working with an organization that has an enormous dedication to boating safety,” says Bob Sweet, recent national educational officer for the United States Power Squadrons. “The Auxiliary’s credibility in the marine world and the programs they create are certainly a beneficial addition to our common goal of making boating as enjoyable and safe as possible.”

“All of our members strive to increase the awareness around the need for accurate navigational tools, and the Auxiliary will help us further that message,” adds Dave DeGree, a founder member of the Alliance for Safe Navigation. “We sincerely welcome the Auxiliary and look forward to significant contributions on their part.”

For more information or to find out how many changes have been made to your charts, go to [www.allianceforsafenavigation.org](http://www.allianceforsafenavigation.org). To see the latest USCG Notice to Mariners for your location, visit [Notice to Mariners](#).

### About the Alliance for Safe Navigation

The Alliance for Safe Navigation ([www.allianceforsafenavigation.org](http://www.allianceforsafenavigation.org)) 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, and the United States Power Squadrons.

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