

## FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTHERN ALASKA

The Coast Guard is increasing our presence in western and northern Alaska. Our goal is to work with remote coastal communities to increase safety for all ocean users. We respect Alaska Native cultures and their commitment to safety and security at sea. We hope to foster our partnership to help keep boaters safe and secure.



## WHY USCG REGULATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO SUBSISTENCE HUNTERS

Boating safety regulations were created to provide those at sea with tools to make each voyage safe and secure. These tools help the USCG respond and rescue YOU and your family in emergency situations. Compliance with USCG regulations is the law.

17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
USCG Boating Safety Information:  
907-463-2297/2298  
For Maritime Emergencies 24 Hr/Day:  
907-463-2000  
Boat Registration (State of Alaska):  
855-269-5551

# USCG and Subsistence Hunters Partnering for Safety

## REQUIRED ITEMS

These Items Help the USCG Help You



**Lifejackets or Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):** There must be one USCG-approved lifejacket for every person on board. These include float-coats and can be any color. Children under 13 must wear their lifejacket.



**Throwable Devices (Type IV):** Skiffs 16 to less than 26 ft must carry one USCG-approved Type IV (seat cushion or throw ring). For skiffs under 16 ft these are recommended, but not mandatory.



**Sound Producing Devices:** Boats less than 40 feet must have a device that makes a sound for use in periods of reduced visibility.



**Registration.** Boats with engines must be registered with Alaska DMV. This helps keep track of lost or missing boats and gives information on who to contact in case of emergencies. Boat registration must be carried onboard.



**Visual Distress Signals-** Approved signals such as flares (day/night or limited visibility), orange flags (daytime only) must be carried.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

DURING USCG BOARDINGS  
& VESSEL INSPECTIONS

- Coast Guard law enforcement teams stop and inspect vessels on the water to ensure required safety equipment is onboard.
- If we stop your boat, we simply want to ensure that you are safe and in compliance with regulations.
- Compliance with boating regulations will help expedite the boarding.
- USCG law enforcement officers are required to carry firearms at all times during operations.
- The Coast Guard law enforcement officer will ask if you have firearms onboard. This is an officer safety question.
- Tell the officer where your firearms are located; please do not reach for firearms to show them.



Subsistence Hunters and Coast Guard

## Get Home Safely!