

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard
Auxiliary**



TO: The proud owner of a new vessel

On behalf of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and your marine dealer, we offer our congratulations on your new purchase!

You, your family and friends can enjoy endless hours on the water. It is our hope that you enjoy them safely. The responsibility for a safe and happy experience is in your hands. Read through the material enclosed in this envelope and stay informed.

Do you know;

- that anyone born after January 1st 1989 must complete a Boating Safety Course in order to get the card that allows you to operate a power driven vessel?
- which are State and Federal waters?
- which laws, State or Federal, apply to the waters you normally use?
- what the differences are between both sets of laws?
- what safety equipment you must have on board and how to use it?
- how to get a free Vessel Safety Check and avoid fines?
- who is responsible if you loan your boat to a friend and that person has an accident?
- which is the right life jacket for you or for your passengers?

The answers to these and many other important questions can be found in the material enclosed. Better yet, no matter what your level of experience, take a boating safety course and continue to learn. Visit us on-line at <http://cgaux.org/boatinged/> and follow the instructions to find a boating safety course near you.

For that FREE Vessel Safety Check go on-line to www.cgaux.org/vsc and follow the instructions to be contacted by a qualified Vessel Examiner near you.

Safety is no accident. Remember, the Coast Guard motto "SEMPER PARATUS" (Always Prepared). Make it your motto too.

Very truly yours,

Your U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Marine Dealer Safety Program Visitor

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the volunteer branch of the U.S. Coast Guard supporting its missions, including recreational boating safety. The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multi-mission service within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to protecting the safety and security of the United States of America.