



Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) & Search & Rescue (SAR)

Harvest Moon Regatta Safety Day
Lakewood Yacht Club

28 SEP 2024

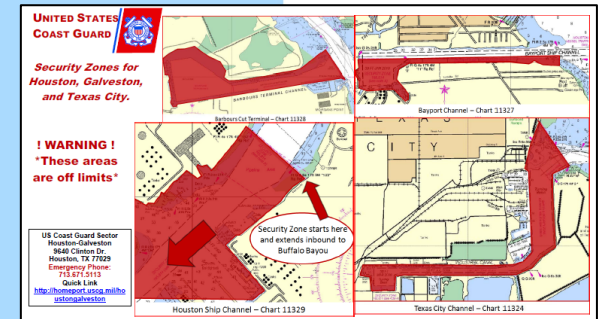
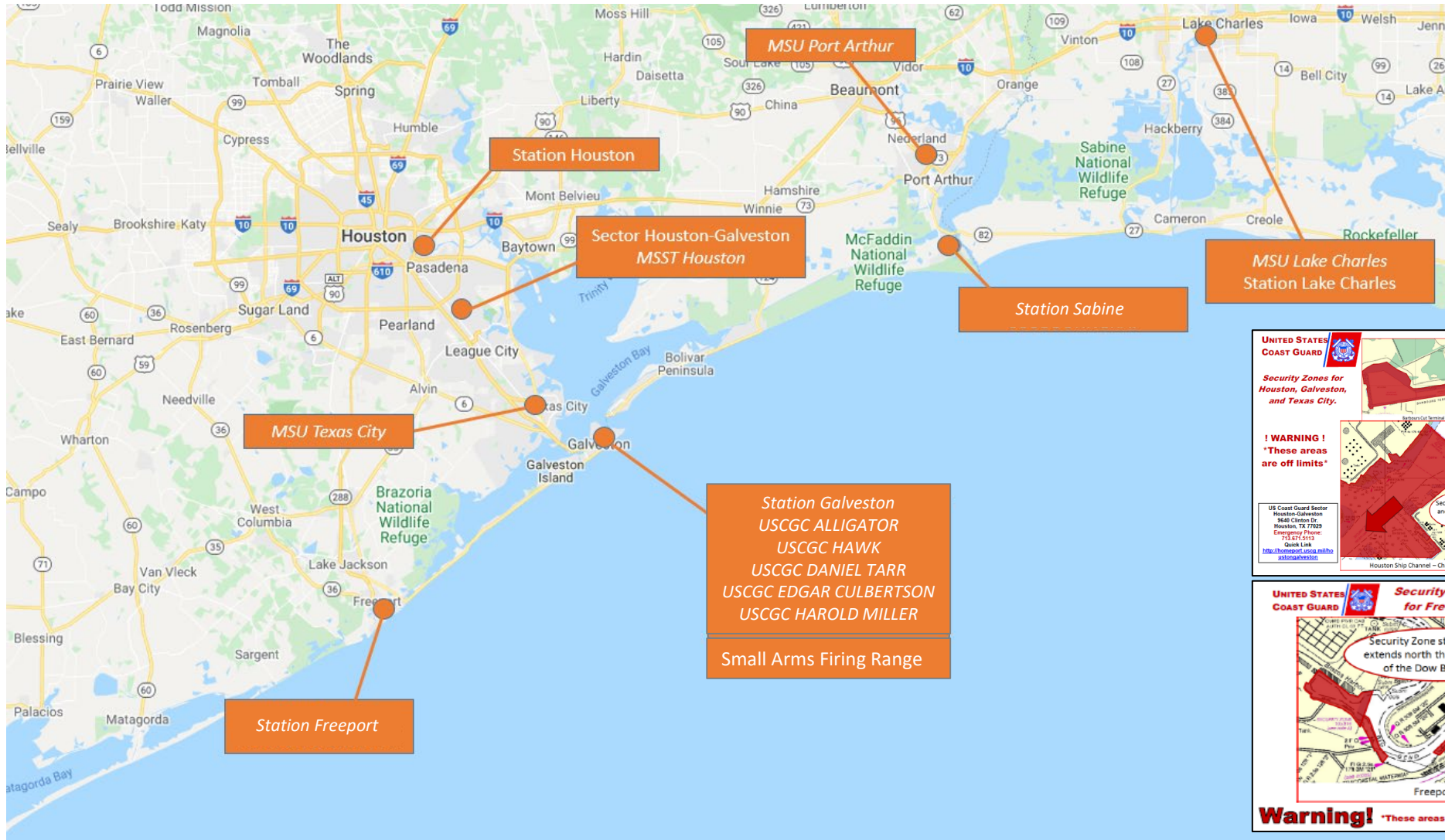
Glenn Colaco, Division Commander
Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 6 (Sector Houston-Galveston)

gcolaco@cgaux-div6.org



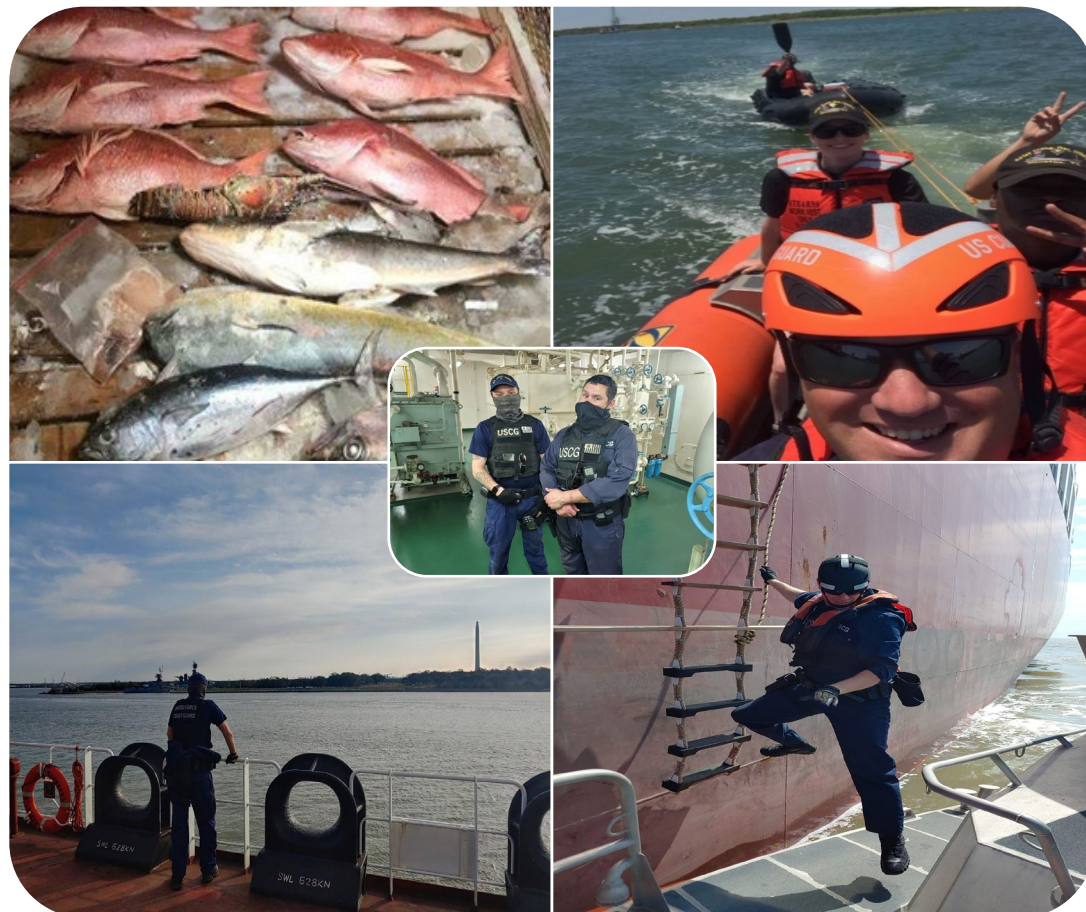
Enforcement 101

Area of Responsibility





Mission Areas & Responsibilities



Primary Enforcement Missions

- Marine Safety:
 - Prevent accidents and property losses by establishing maritime standards, conducting inspections and investigations, partnering with boating safety organizations and licensing U.S. mariners.
- Living Marine Resources
 - Enforce U.S. and international laws and treaties to conserve living marine resources and their habitat, including endangered and protected species in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security:
 - Protect people and property in the Port of Houston by preventing, disrupting and responding to terrorist attacks, sabotage, espionage or subversive acts
- Search and Rescue:
 - Prevent loss of life or injury and minimize property loss at sea by rendering aid to those in distress. Search and Rescue is one of the Coast Guard's oldest missions.



Small Boat Stations



Sector Houston-Galveston features five stations:

- Station Freeport
- Station Galveston
- Station Houston
- Station Lake Charles
- Station Sabine

Primary Missions Include:

- Marine Safety (RBS)
- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Living Marine Resources (LMR)
- Ports, Waterways & Coastal Security (PWCS)





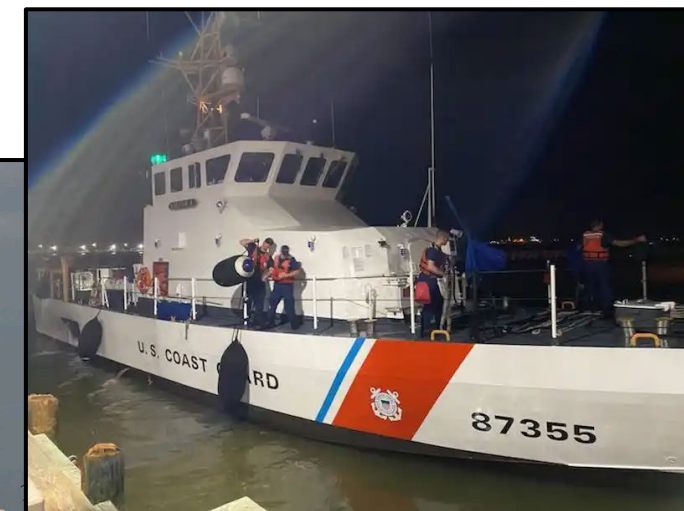
87-foot Coastal Patrol Boats

Sector Houston-Galveston features two 87-foot patrol boats:

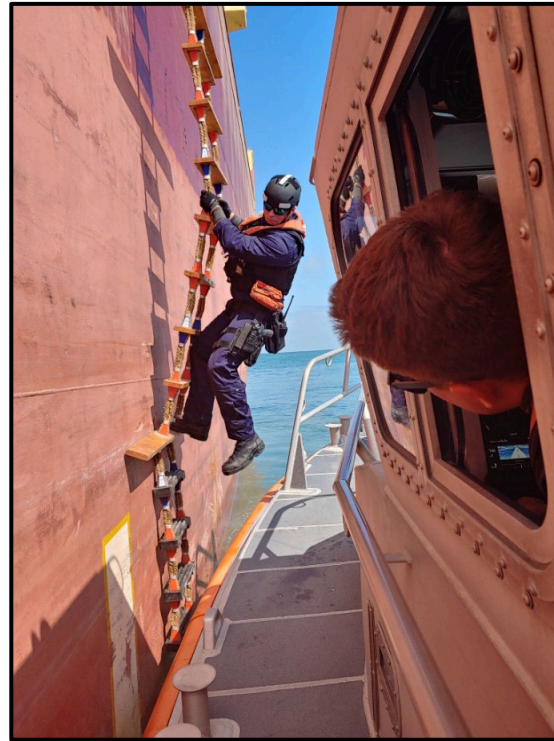
- USCGC ALLIGATOR
- USCGC HAWK

Primary Missions Include:

- Living Marine Resources
- Search and Rescue



Sector Boarding Team (SBT)

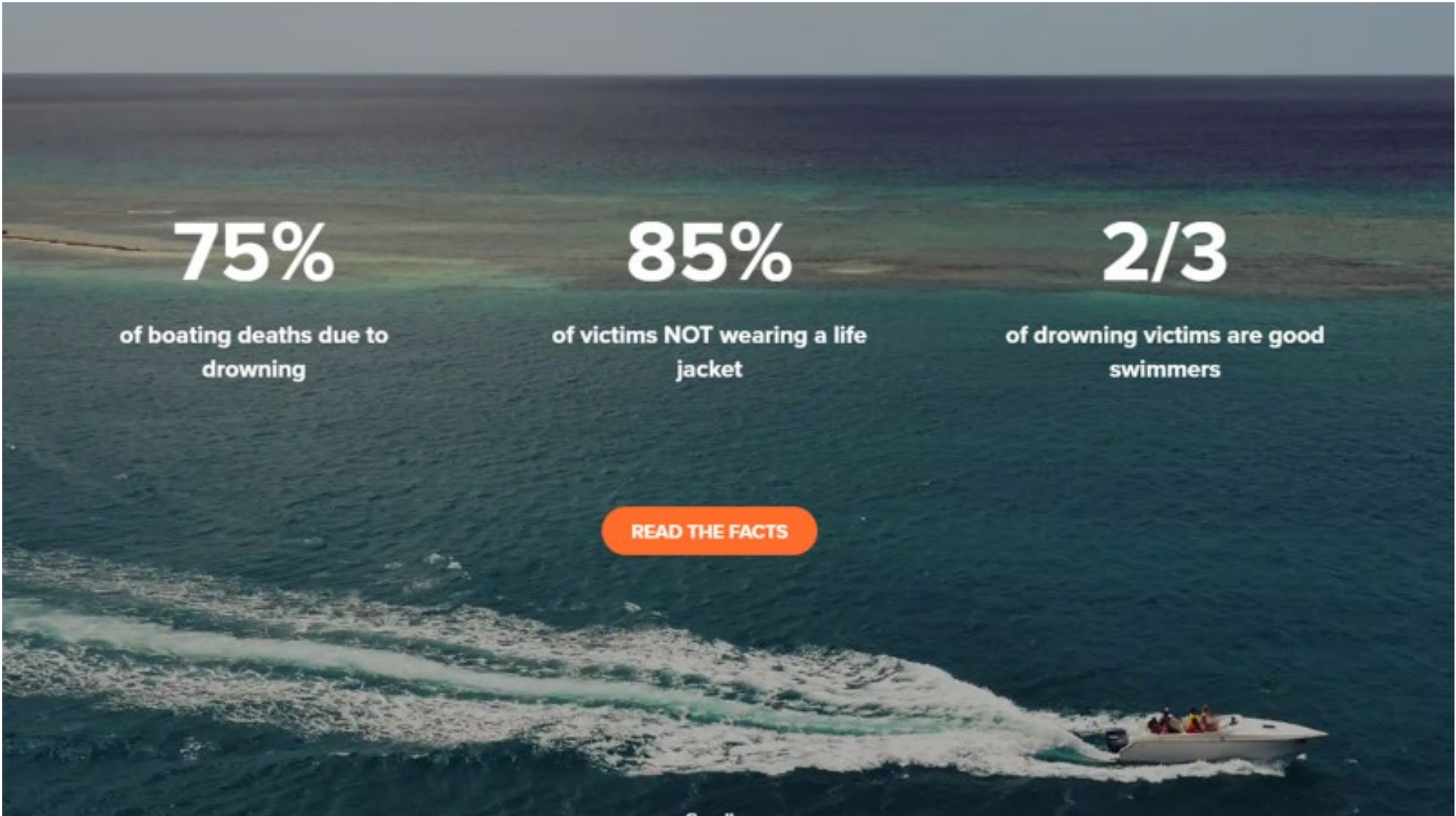




Recreational Boating Safety (RBS)

The Sector Houston-Galveston AOR has the 6th largest recreational fleet in the nation!

2022 RBS Statistics



[READ THE FACTS](#)

2022 RBS Statistics



4,040

reported accidents in 2022

636

reported deaths in 2022

2,222

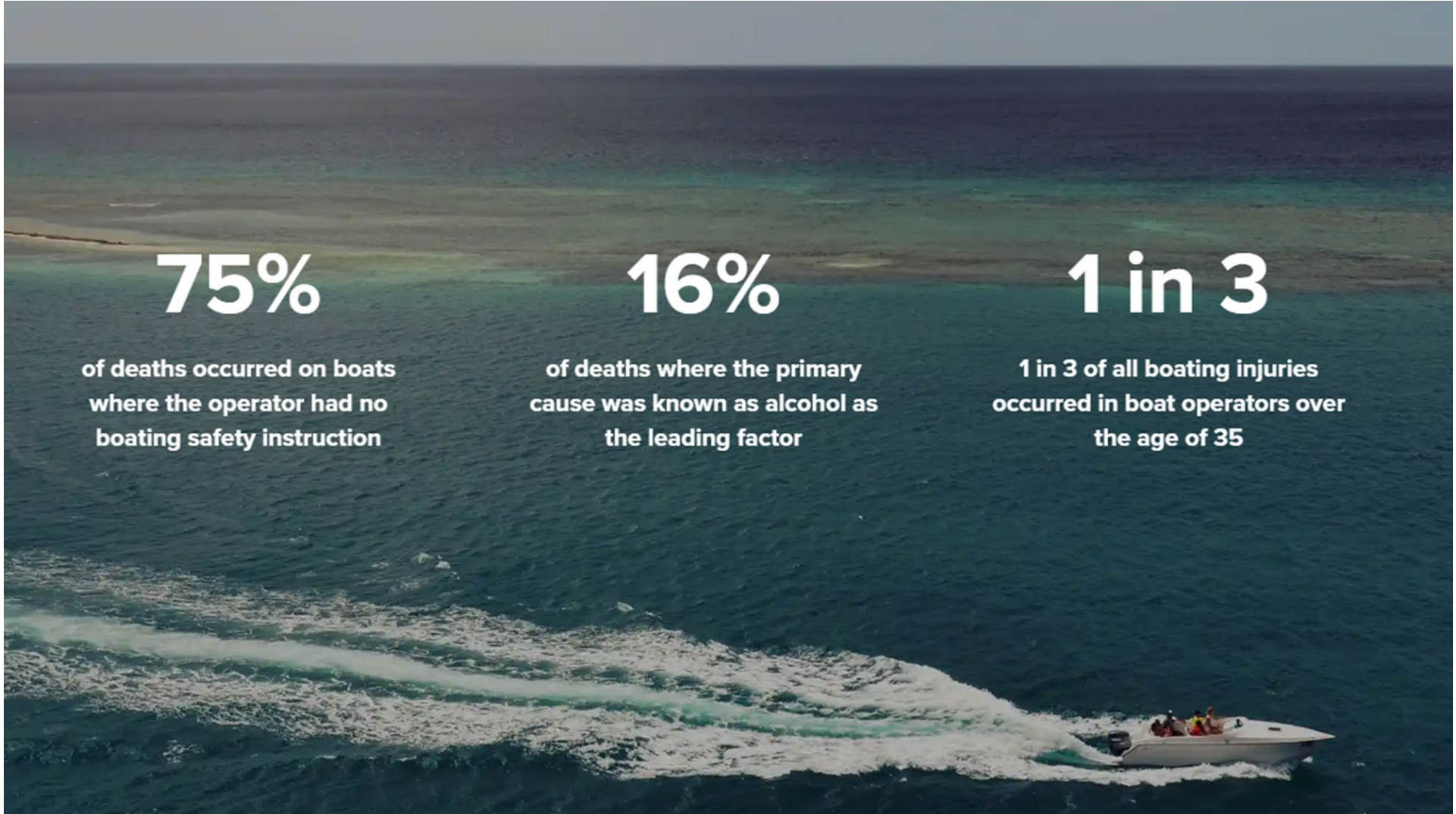
reported injuries in 2022

\$63M

approximate damage to property



2022 RBS Statistics



75%

of deaths occurred on boats where the operator had no boating safety instruction

16%

of deaths where the primary cause was known as alcohol as the leading factor

1 in 3

1 in 3 of all boating injuries occurred in boat operators over the age of 35

2022 RBS Statistics

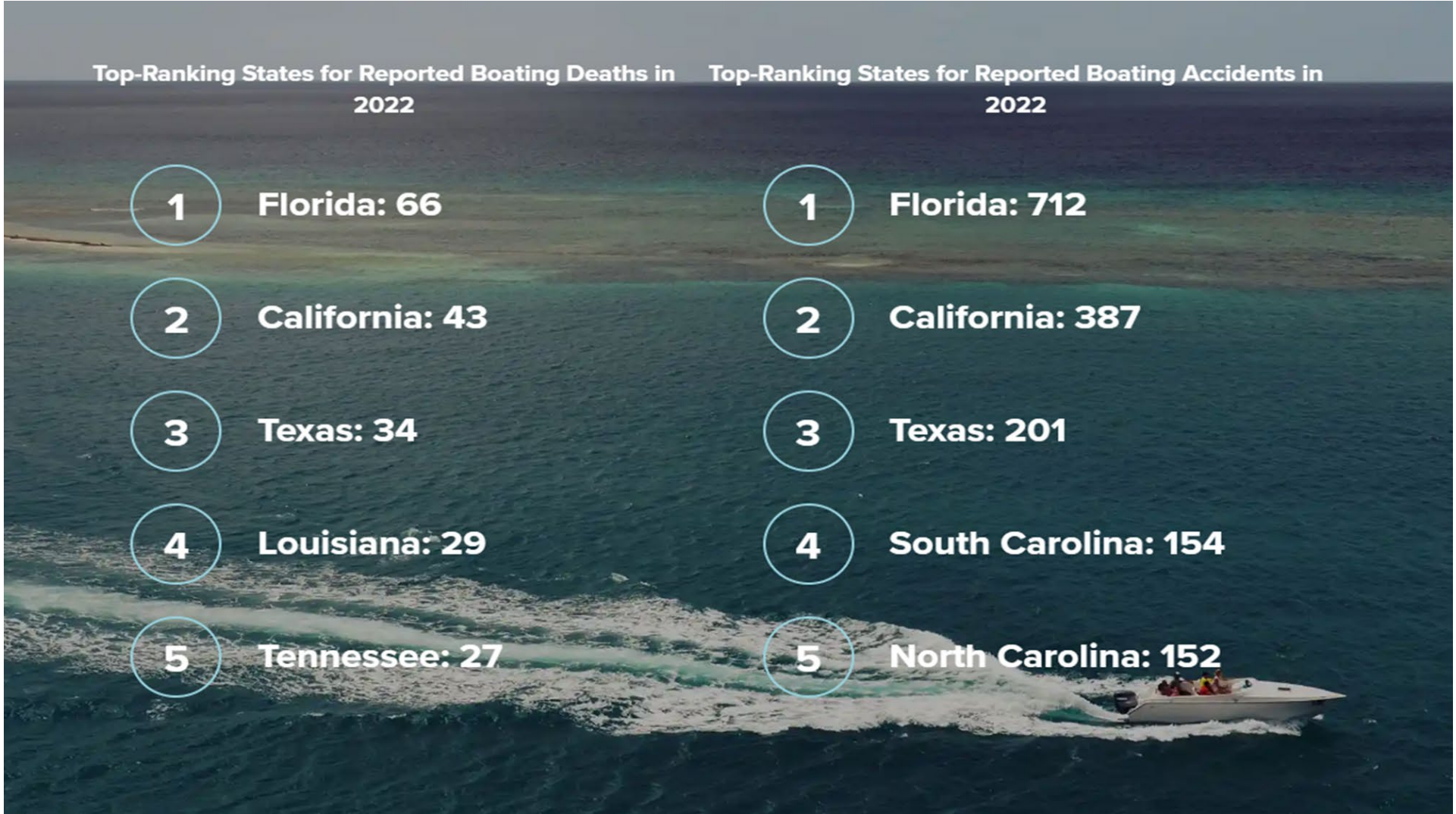


Top-Ranking States for Reported Boating Deaths in 2022

- 1 Florida: 66
- 2 California: 43
- 3 Texas: 34
- 4 Louisiana: 29
- 5 Tennessee: 27

Top-Ranking States for Reported Boating Accidents in 2022

- 1 Florida: 712
- 2 California: 387
- 3 Texas: 201
- 4 South Carolina: 154
- 5 North Carolina: 152



| Required Items | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Items | < 16ft | 16ft to <26ft | 26ft to <40ft | 40ft-65ft | >65ft |
| State Numbering | Req'd for State Numbered VsIs | | | | |
| Certificate of Number | Req'd for State Numbered VsIs | | | | |
| Certificate of Documentation | Req'd for Federally Documented VsIs | | | | |
| Official Number & Hull Display | Req'd for Federally Documented VsIs | | | | |
| Wearable PFDs | 1 for everyone person onboard. Only kids under 13 req'd to be actively wearing them | | | | |
| Throwable PFD | | Req'd on vsIs > 16ft | | | |
| Sound Signaling Appliance | Req'd on all vsIs | | | | |
| Fire Extinguishers | 1x 5-B | 1x 5-B | 1x 20-B or 2x 5-B | 1x 20-B & 1x 5-B or 3x 5-B | Per gross tonnage |
| Backfire Flame Control | Closed Construction Fuel / Inboard Gas Engines Only | | | | |
| Ventilation | Closed Construction Fuel / Inboard Gas Engines Only | | | | |
| Lights | If operating before sunrise/after sunset | | | | |
| Marine Sanitation Devices (MSDs) | Req'd on vsIs with toilet onboard | | | | |
| Visual Distress Signals | Not req'd inland | | | | |
| Hull Identification Number (HIN) | Req'd on all vsIs | | | | |
| Oil Pollution Prevention Plan | Req'd on all vsIs | | | | |
| Oil Pollution Placard | | | Req'd on vsIs >26ft | | |
| Garbage Placard | | | Req'd on vsIs >26ft | | |
| Garbage Management Plan | | | Req'd on vsIs >26ft | | |
| Navigation Rules | | | | Req'd on vsIs > 40ft | |
| Radio Telephone | | | | | Req'd on vsIs over 20m |





Terminable Offenses

If you are missing any of these items, the Coast Guard **WILL** terminate your voyage and order you back to home port!

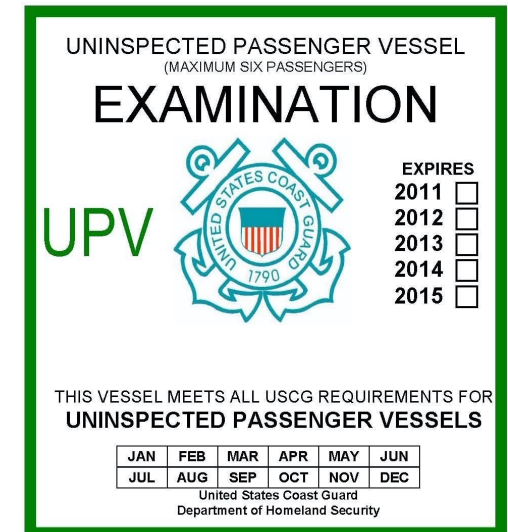
- Insufficient or Inadequate Lifesaving Equipment (aka not enough PFDs on board and/or no PFDs on children)
- Inadequate firefighting equipment (no/expired extinguishers)
- No navigation lights before sunrise/after sunset
- Fuel leak from engine or fuel system
- Excessive fuel accumulation in the bilge
- Inadequate ventilation for fuel & engine compartments
- Inadequate backfire flame control
- BUI
- Operating in a Regulated Boating Area

The authority to terminate your voyage lies with the Boarding Officer!
Failure to terminate can result in a civil penalty of up to \$5,000!

CG Auxiliary – Vessel Safety Checks



- Courtesy, no penalty safety checks
 - Recreational boats up to 65'
 - Decal awarded when inspection passes
 - Indicates vessel meets Federal & State safety standards
 - Inspection discrepancies are correctable
- Request VSC exam:
VSC@cgaux-div6.org
- Different than Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) exams
 - Operators of UPVs (OUPV), ie 6 or 12-pax license holders / charter captains
 - Regulated by Coast Guard
 - Very similar to recreational VSC, but covers additional requirements
- Request UPV exam:
UPV.Exam-Request@cgaux-div6.org



CG Auxiliary – HMR VSCs



- Harvest Moon Regatta Vessel Safety Check Day (**OPTIONAL**)
 - **Friday, 11 October 2024** (Skipper's Meeting in evening)
1000 – 1500
Lakewood Yacht Club & Houston Yacht Club
 - Schedule a HMR VSC exam:
VSC-HMR@cgaux-div6.org





Search & Rescue (SAR)



Sector Command Center

- Staffed 24/7/365
- “Eye in the Sky” for all operations and activities
- Runs all SAR Cases
- Coordinates & communicates with sub-units, OGAs, external organizations & the public





Response Boat Small (RBS-II) – 29’

- STA Galveston & STA Houston
- 3 crew; 10 ppl max
- Max Distance: 10nm Offshore
- Max Endurance
 - 200nm for boat
 - 8 hrs for crew
- Environmental Limits
 - 6ft seas
 - 25kt winds





Response Boat Medium (RBM) – 45'

- STA Galveston ONLY
- 3 crew; 24 ppl max
- Max Distance: 50nm offshore
- Max Endurance:
 - 250nm for boat
 - 8hrs for crew
- Environmental Limits;
 - 10ft seas
 - 30kt winds





MH-65 Dolphin

- AIRSTA Houston has 03 helicopters
- 01 helo & crew is always response ready 24/7/365
- 350 nm range/
3 hr endurance





The Ten Factor

“Triage”

Being stuck is not necessarily an emergency!

Determine DEGREE of DANGER

The “Ten Factor”

1. Nature of Situation
2. Reported Conditions on vessel (medical, food, etc.)
3. Position accuracy (or lack thereof)
4. Visibility (including Daylight)
5. Tide and current conditions
6. Present and forecasted weather
7. Special considerations (age, health, etc.)
8. Reliable communications
9. Degree of Apprehension of POB
10. Potential for situation to WORSEN

Commercial Salvage Operations



This shall not be construed as any sort of official/business/legal endorsement of these companies!



How do I not become a SAR case?

- **Contact the Coast Guard over VHF radio!!!**
- Cell phone should be your backup method of communication
- Notify someone ashore of your intentions/file a float plan
- **Wear your PFD!**
- Don't drink & boat (BUI is a crime!)
- Ensure all required safety equipment is on board and know how to use it!
- Take advantage of local boating courses (CGAux, NASBLA, Local PD/FD, Power Squadron, Boat-Ed.com, etc)
- Keep phone chargers, food & water with you on your boat in case you do break down/become disabled
- Check the weather before you go out
- Keep your boat & engines well-maintained



Comms Safety Equipment

- VHF Radio
 - Fixed mount vs handheld
 - **Channel 16 (156.8 MHz)** – International hailing and distress frequency
 - **Register your MMSI #!** (Maritime Mobile Service Identity)
 - Needed for the DSC (Emergency Button on Radio)
- EPIRB / PLB
 - Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon / Personal Locator Beacon
 - 406 MHz Satellite Emergency Transponder
 - **Register your beacon UUID with NOAA:**
<https://beaconregistration.noaa.gov/>
- **SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON COMMAND CENTER**
1-866-539-8114

Recruiting



UNITED STATES
**COAST
GUARD**

PROTECT / DEFEND / SAVE