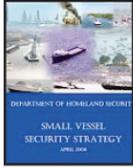




Small Vessel Security Strategy - and You

by VINCENT T. PICA, II
DISTRICT COMMODORE, FIRST DISTRICT, SOUTHERN REGION (D1SR)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



As if the actions in Boston on Monday, 4/15/13, including the murder of three civilians, an 8-year old and two young women, needed to remind us of the terroristic threats that are out there, we've all seen the slogan, "If you see something, say something!" You've even read about that and the over-arching theme of maritime domain awareness here (see SSP, "If You See Something, Say Something", 11/5/08; "Back to the Future - With Maritime Domain Awareness", 3/21/07; "Training for The Unspeakable", 9/20/06). And as we've moved through time since 9/11/01, we've adapted to what threats have presented themselves to us ("take off your shoes and put them in the bin with your 'baggie' of toiletries") and that extends to the maritime domain. This column is about that.

Department of Homeland Security and the Small Vessel Strategy

It should be no surprise that with the United States Coast Guard as the primary protector of our waters, that DHS, our 'parent' agency, continues to evolve and refine a strategy for dealing with small vessels. As described in DHS documents, the Small Vessel Security Strategy (SVSS) addresses the risk that "small vessels might be used to smuggle terrorists or weapon of mass destruction (WMD) into the United States or might be used as either a stand-off weapon platform or as a means of a direct attack

with a waterborne improvised explosive device (WBIED)."

For the purposes of the SVSS, a "small vessel" is anything under 300 gross tons - which is a pretty wide net to throw out there. Such small vessels include commercial fishing vessels, recreational boats and yachts, towing vessels, uninspected passenger vessels, or any other small commercial vessels involved in foreign or U.S. voyages. This definition distinguishes small vessels from large commercial vessels and yachts (generally 300 gross tons and over) that are applicable to security measures already put in place under the authority of the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 and the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.

The risks are, as you read above, non-trivial so the net should be wide. More specifically:

Security Risks for Small Vessels

Security risks for small vessels can be broken down into four general categories:

- Use of small vessels as a conveyance to smuggle weapons (including, but not limited to, Weapons of Mass Destruction/Effect);
- Use of small vessels as Water Borne Improvised Explosive Device - small, explosive-laden vessels used as "boat bombs" against another vessel, maritime critical infrastructure, or key resources; (Remember the US Cole)
- Use of small vessels as a con-

veyance to smuggle terrorists into the U.S.; and

- Use of small vessels as a platform for standoff weapon (e.g. Man Portable Air Defense Systems, SCUD platform for launch offshore) attacks on the maritime industry or critical infrastructure.

With that as the set of risks, the over-arching goals of the SVSS are to:

1. enhance maritime security and safety based on a coherent framework with a layered, innovative approach;
2. leverage technology to enhance the ability to detect, infer intent, and when necessary, interdict small vessels that pose a maritime security threat; and
3. enhance cooperation among international, federal, state, local, and tribal partners and the private sector (e.g., marinas, shipyards, small vessel and facility operators), and, in coordination with the Department of State and other relevant federal departments and agencies, international partners;
4. develop and leverage a strong partnership with the small vessel community and public and private sectors in order to enhance maritime domain awareness.

Where do we, the citizens of this great country, fit in? Well, if you said "#4, of course", give yourself a gold star.

What IS Suspicious Behavior?

Well, frankly, whatever you think is suspicious - for your marina, your community, your waters... The Maritime Domain Awareness professionals within US Coast Guard Forces always stress

that we can't develop an all-encompassing list of what is suspicious. It is a little like defining pornography. In 1964, Justice Potter Stewart tried to explain pornography by saying, "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be [pornography]... but I know it when I see it."

It may be the way someone asks you a question, or the pictures that they seem intent on taking of a bridge, or a fuel depot, or a particularly intense focus on a secure perimeter that just sets the hair on the back of your neck up. Don't ignore that vibe. Don't worry about looking like a "sky-is-falling-worry-wort." Call it in...

Call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH. If there is "Immediate Danger" to Life or Property, Call 9-1-1 or Call the US Coast Guard on Marine Channel 16

If you want more information, e-mail smallvesselsecurity@uscg.mil or me below.

If you want your own copy of the SVSS, email me below or go to <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/small-vessel-security-strategy.pdf> and download it.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux@aol.com or go direct to the D1SR Human Resources department, who are in charge of new members matters, at DSO-HR and we will help you "get in this thing..."



County Clerk Update

by SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK
JUDY PASCALE

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE PROVIDES 24-HOUR SERVICE

County Clerk Judith Pascale and the Suffolk County Clerk's Office have expanded its on-line land record retrieval system and Land Record & Court Hotline to provide access 24-hours a day.

The information online is available in index form only, and does not contain images of the actual records. However, access to this information is an incredibly useful tool for the residents, and businesses that service the residents, of Suffolk County. After locating a record, copies can be purchased from the County Clerk's Office.

Currently, indexes to deed, mortgage, judgment, lien, UCC, business certificate and corporation records are available via the website.

Additionally, the automated telephone service is available 24/7 and allows attorneys, title professionals, banks, as well as the general public, to enter their tax map property identification number and/or Supreme Court Index number into an automated system that will provide recent activity, i.e. deed transfers, mortgage satisfactions and/or court filings.

"As County Clerk it has always been my goal to provide the best services to the residents of Suffolk County. By increasing the range of available land record data back to 1987, we have provided a safe and efficient means for the residents of Suffolk County to check their property information online and avoiding the need to visit our office in Riverhead. Furthermore, by limiting the information available to data only, we have ensured that the privacy concerns of residents remain paramount," commented Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale.

Property information is only retrievable by utilizing your distinct property tax map number which appears on your tax bill or with the case index number for Supreme Court lawsuits.

"Suffolk County Clerk's Office is pleased to provide the latest in safe efficient retrieval of land record information, while protecting the records from anyone who may use them for illegitimate reasons," concluded Suffolk County Clerk Judith A. Pascale.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Suffolk County Clerk's website at SuffolkCountyNY.gov/Clerk for more information. The automated telephone service is available by dialing 631-852-2000 ext. 650.



by TONY SALERNO

FISHING WITH TONY

ASMFC APPROVES FLUKE RELIEF

New York Size Limit Drops to 19 Inches in 2013

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Black Sea Bass, Scup and Summer Flounder Management Board met via conference call on Wednesday, April 17 and approved Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan.

The Addendum allows New York and New Jersey to utilize potential liberalizations that were not enacted by other member states. As a result of the action, New York will have the opportunity to reduce their summer flounder size limit to 19 inches with a season of May 1 - September 29 and a four-fish bag limit. If approved by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, New Jersey may extend the currently proposed season of May 18 to September 16, five fish at 17.5 inches by up to 11 days.

Last year, there was a significant coast wide underage in harvest of summer flounder, however, New York and New Jersey were still required to take reductions in 2013 as a result of the current process. Every state except New Jersey will be more liberal in 2013.

Other states who were under the allowable catch in 2012 have essentially lent that unused quota to New York and New Jersey in 2013. However, if the overall management process is not changed before 2014, the recreational data collection this season could end up hitting us twice as hard in 2014 if New Yorkers are said to fish over our seasonal limits, given that we have our regular quota to deal with and now this unused quota from other states. The 2014 summer flounder quota is presently slated for an approximate 10% reduction, although a stock assessment is now underway. Negative outcomes of the scheduled assessment could result in an even more tightly regulated fishery in 2014.

We're rolling the dice a bit here, but in terms of the fluke resource, lowering of the size limit in any way will help reduce release mortality and theoretically result in lower overall weight of the recreational catch. It will surely help our recreational fishing community in 2013.

The push for quota allowances from other states was heavily lobbied in New York by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council representative Tony Dilernia, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC), in particular Jim Gilmore of the state's Bureau of Marine Resources. "It took a lot of wrangling and open dialog amongst the various ASMFC commissioners, but Mr. Gilmore fought hard to improve the 2013 fluke season in New York, kudos to him."

"We're very pleased to once again see Sen. Schumer holding managers' feet to the fire on this issue of angler access, it's good to have a great friend like him in Congress," said RFA executive director Jim Donofrio.