

July 15, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Aaron Barnett
Boating Program Specialist
206.616.8929
aaronb5@uw.edu

MaryAnn Wagner
206.616.6353
maryannb@uw.edu

Summer campaign offers boaters free oil spill reporting and clean-up kits



SEATTLE – This summer, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be giving away oil spill reporting procedures and Washington Sea Grant clean-up kits during free vessel inspections in Western Washington, as part of a focused education and awareness campaign to prevent small oil spills.

Photo courtesy of Washington Sea Grant.

The kits will provide boaters with the knowledge and tools to properly identify and report oil spills and, more importantly, help prevent them from occurring. The kits are provided through a joint partnership between Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound, Washington Sea Grant, Washington Dept. of Ecology, and Washington’s Clean Marina Program.

“Based on oil spill data over the last decade we have learned oil tankers and heavy bulk carriers, on average, spill quantities of pollution measured in mere ounces, however, we have found commercial fishing vessels and recreational vessels to be the largest contributors of oil pollution in our waterways,” said Capt. Joe Raymond, commander Sector Puget Sound and captain of the port for Northern Washington. “Because of the large number of vessels in Puget Sound, we have been working with our state and local partners to develop these oil spill kits to increase awareness about oil spills and

notification requirements among commercial fishing vessel and recreational boating community.”

The partners hope to distribute more than 1,000 free kits throughout Western Washington this summer. Each kit contains two oil-only absorbent pads, one 15” bilge sock, a pair of protective gloves, a trash bag for disposal and literature on reporting and preventing spills. Call John Milczewski at (360) 739-1310 to schedule a free vessel safety inspection and receive a free small oil spill response kit from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Washington Sea Grant is based at the University of Washington and provides statewide marine research, outreach and education services. Visit www.wsg.washington.edu for more information or join the conversation at www.facebook.com/WaSeaGrant

Washington Sea Grant can be contacted through: Aaron Barnett aaronb5@uw.edu, 206-616-8929 or MaryAnn Wagner maryannb@uw.edu, 206-616-6353.