

The "Alaska Uninspected Passenger Vessel Voluntary 5 Star Safety Program" is a safety initiative administered by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. This program builds on minimal safety requirements mandated by regulations and is designed to better safeguard passengers on charter boats should an accident occur. The decals depicted in this brochure are issued to vessels that participate in various safety inspection programs, either voluntarily or by regulation, and are issued by the Coast Guard.

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The 5 Star Safety program provides you, the general public, information to allow a more informed decision as to the level of safety you want on the boat you charter. We, the members of the United States Coast Guard, want you to have a wonderful and safe experience while exploring Alaska's wilds aboard a fishing, sightseeing, or eco-tour charter boat. Vessels participating in the 5 Star Safety program share this goal and have made additional investments to ensure your safe return.

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For more information concerning the Alaska Uninspected Passenger Vessel Voluntary 5 Star Safety Program, and other Alaska boating safety initiatives, please see our web site at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/d17/m/6pac>

## 5 Star Safety Checklist

### One Star

- Vessel meets all existing requirements for uninspected passenger vessels per 46 CFR Subchapter C.
- Vessel has a safety training program on emergency procedures and safety equipment use.

### Two Star

- In addition to the requirements for one star, vessel has a properly installed bilge pump and bilge alarm (or equivalent).

### Three Star

- In addition to the requirements for two stars, vessel has on board a hand held VHF FM radio (or equivalent).

### Four Star

- In addition to the requirements for three stars, vessel has on board a properly installed and registered Category 1 or 2, 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

### Five Star

- In addition to the requirements for four stars, vessel has a properly installed and serviced Coast Guard approved liferaft or Inflatable Buoyant Apparatus (IBA) for 100% of the passengers carried (or equivalent).

# Choosing A Safe Boat Charter!



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Seventeenth District  
United States Coast Guard  
Auxiliary



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U. S. Coast Guard  
Seventeenth District  
Alaska Uninspected  
Passenger Vessel Voluntary  
5 Star Safety Program

*"A voluntary safety program designed to increase safety aboard uninspected charter boats operating throughout the State of Alaska."*

## All charter boats are not created equal...

The following description of decals will help you be more informed as to the level of Coast Guard safety oversight in place for the different types of vessels available for charter.



### Alaska Uninspected Passenger Vessel Voluntary 5 Star Safety Program Decal

- Issued to commercial boats carrying 6 or less passengers (6 Packs) after first obtaining a VSC decal
- May display from one to five stars
  - 1 Star - In addition to the minimum safety standards required by law the vessel has a safety training program
  - 2 Stars - In addition to 1 Star, vessel has a high water bilge alarm and high capacity bilge pump installed
  - 3 Stars - In addition to 2 Star, vessel has a handheld VHF FM radio aboard
  - 4 Stars - In addition to 3 Star, vessel has a registered 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) aboard
  - 5 Stars - In addition to 4 Star, vessel has a Liferaft or IBA (Inflatable Buoyant Apparatus) with a capacity to carry each passenger onboard
- Strictly voluntary... 6 Pack charter boats are not regularly inspected by the Coast Guard and are not required to participate in an inspection program



### New Vessel Safety Check (VSC) Decal

- Issued by the Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Issued to recreational boats and commercial 6 Packs
- Voluntary safety exam conducted to ensure compliance with minimal safety standards



### Inspected Small Passenger Vessel Decal

- Issued to vessels less than 100 GT carrying more than 6 passengers along with a Certificate of Inspection
- Mandatory comprehensive safety inspection program on an annual basis by a qualified Coast Guard marine inspector
- When displayed with a strip of 5 Stars, indicates the vessel has requested and meets the Alaska Voluntary 5 Star Safety criteria



### Old Courtesy Marine Exam (CME) Decal

- Issued by the Coast Guard Auxiliary
- Issued to recreational boats and commercial 6 Packs
- Voluntary safety exam conducted to ensure compliance with minimal safety standards
- Being replaced by the VSC decal, still valid if date is current