

# United States Coast Guard

## Media Advisory

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NEW FEDERAL LAWS REQUIRES CHILDREN TO WEAR LIFE JACKETS**

**LOUISVILLE** - Effective March 29, 2002, the U. S. Coast Guard will require children under the age of 13 to wear life jackets while aboard recreational vessels. The new requirement will apply except when children are below decks, in an enclosed structure, or when the vessel is not underway. Current law requires life jackets be readily accessible for everyone aboard; this will still be the case for those 13 and older. However, the Coast Guard continues to recommend that all passengers and operators wear life jackets while underway.

From 1995 to 1998, more than 100 children ages 13 and under died in water related accidents. Many of those deaths could have been prevented had Coast Guard-approved life jackets been worn.

For additional information, refer to the most current edition of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 175, or contact your local Coast Guard unit.

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