

Colorado



Boating Law Administrator

Brian Sandy

Chief, Law Enforcement

13787 S Hwy 85

Littleton, CO 80125

Phone: 303-791-1954

Colorado Specific Information

Registered Boats 95,822 Ranking #33

Documented vessel—exempt from state numbering requirements

Minimum Operator Age

No person under sixteen years of age shall operate a motor boat in this state except as provided in this section.

A person fourteen years of age or older who has not reached his or her sixteenth birthday may operate a motorboat only if he or she:

- (a) Completes a boating safety course approved by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation; and
- (b) Has a boating safety certificate issued by the boating safety course provider in his or her possession.

Life Jackets Wear

Each child under the age of thirteen, unless such child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.

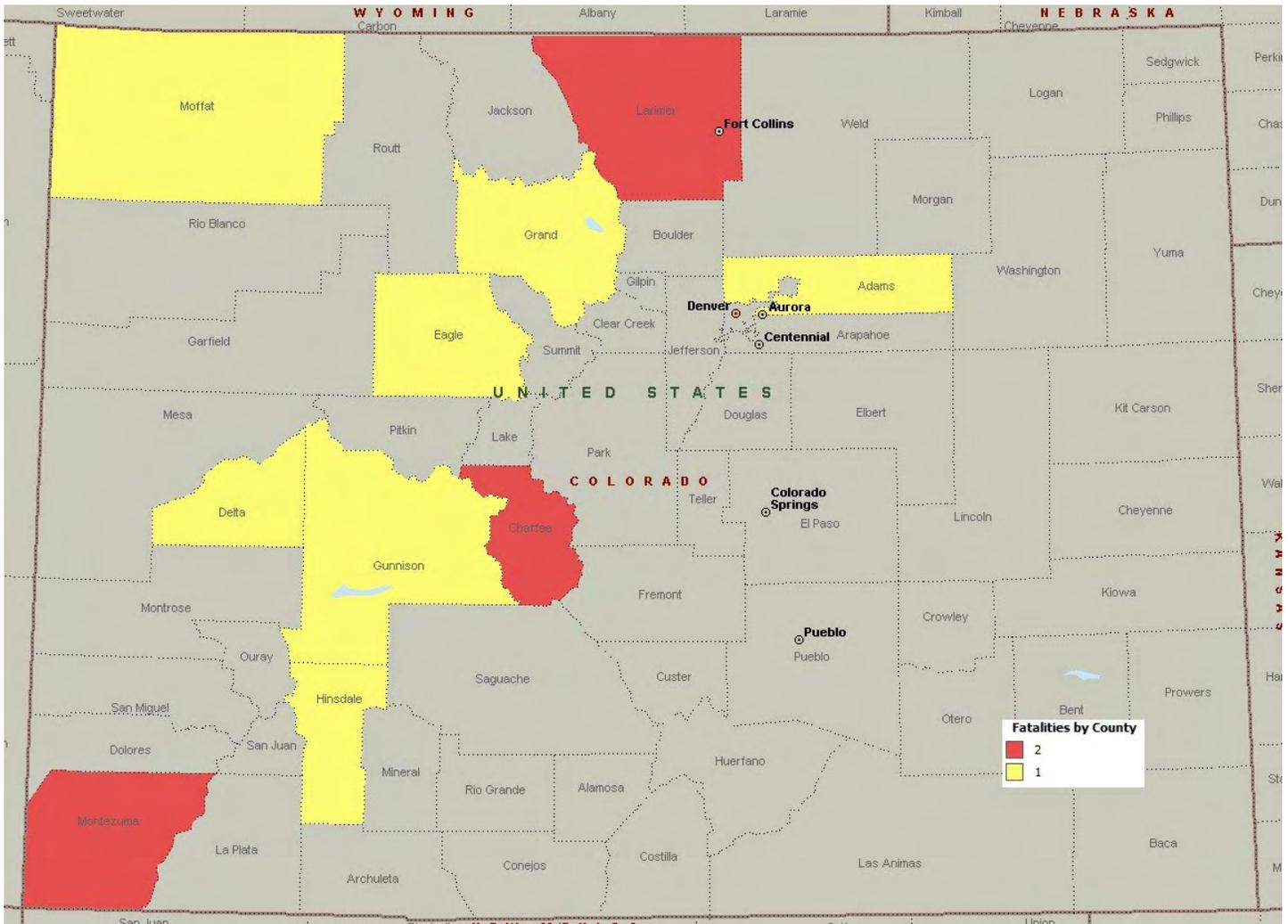
Each person on board a PWC

Boating Under the Influence

.10 BAC

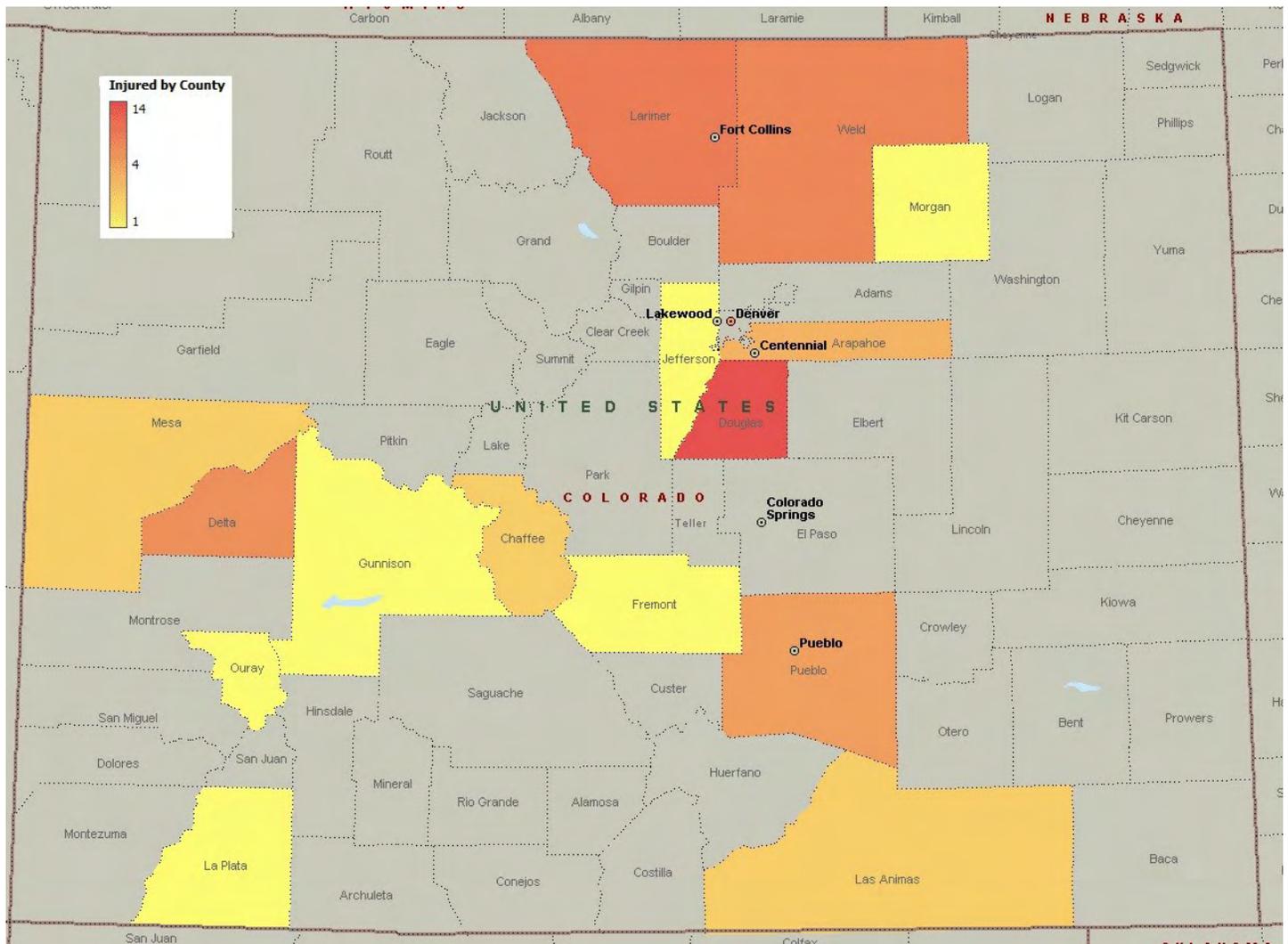
County	Accidents
DOUGLAS	10
PUEBLO	10
LARIMER	8
ARAPAHOE	7
CHAFFEE	3
DELTA	3
LAS ANIMAS	2
MESA	2
MONTEZUMA	2
OURAY	2
ADAMS	1
EAGLE	1
FREMONT	1
GRAND	1
GUNNISON	1
HINSDALE	1
JEFFERSON	1
LA PLATA	1
MOFFAT	1
MORGAN	1
WELD	1

Body of Water	Accidents
CHATFIELD RESERVOIR	10
CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR	7
LAKE PUEBLO	5
PUEBLO RESERVOIR	5
ARKANSAS RIVER	4
CARTER LAKE	3
CRAWFORD RESERVOIR	2
DELORES RIVER	2
HIGHLINE LAKE	2
HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR	2
RIDGWAY RESERVOIR	2
TRINIDAD LAKE	2
BEAR CREEK LAKE	1
BLACK GORE CREEK	1
BOYD LAKE	1
CACHE LA POUFRE	1
COLORADO RIVER	1
GREEN RIVER	1
GUNNISON RIVER - LAKE	1
HORSE CREEK RESERVOIR	1
JACKSON LAKE	1
LAKE LOVELAND	1
SANDHILL RESERVOIR	1
SWEITZER RESERVOIR	1
TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR	1
VELLECITO CREEK	1



County	Fatalities
CHAFFEE	2
LARIMER	2
MONTEZUMA	2
ADAMS	1
DELTA	1
EAGLE	1
GRAND	1
GUNNISON	1
HINSDALE	1
MOFFAT	1

Body of Water	Fatalities
ARKANSAS RIVER	2
DELORES RIVER	2
BLACK GORE CREEK	1
CACHE LA POUFRE	1
CARTER LAKE	1
COLORADO RIVER	1
CRAWFORD RESERVOIR	1
GREEN RIVER	1
GUNNISON RIVER - LAKE FORK	1
HORSE CREEK RESERVOIR	1
TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR	1



County	Injured
DOUGLAS	13
LARIMER	7
WELD	6
DELTA	5
PUEBLO	4
ARAPAHOE	3
CHAFFEE	2
LAS ANIMAS	2
MESA	2
FREMONT	1
GUNNISON	1
JEFFERSON	1
LA PLATA	1
MORGAN	1
OURAY	1

Body of Water	Injured
CHATFIELD RESERVOIR	13
SANDHILL RESERVOIR	6
ARKANSAS RIVER	3
CHERRY CREEK RESERVOIR	3
SWEITZER RESERVOIR	3
BOYD LAKE	2
CARTER LAKE	2
CRAWFORD RESERVOIR	2
HIGHLINE LAKE	2
LAKE LOVELAND	2
LAKE PUEBLO	2
PUEBLO RESERVOIR	2
TRINIDAD LAKE	2
BEAR CREEK LAKE	1
HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR	1
JACKSON LAKE	1
RIDGWAY RESERVOIR	1
TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR	1
VELLECITO CREEK	1

Accident Cause	Accidents
Operator Inexperience	12
Other	11
Alcohol	8
Hazardous Waters	8
Weather	6
Sharp Turn	3
Force of wave/wake	2
Improper lookout	2
Operator Inattention	2
Unknown	2
Congested Waters	1
Equipment Failure	1
Excessive Speed	1
Failure to Vent	1

Accident Event	Accidents
Capsizing	15
Collision with recreational Vessel	12
Skier mishap	9
Ejected from vessel	5
Fall Overboard	5
Flooding	5
Other	3
Departure from vessel	2
Collision with Fixed Object	1
Fall in Vessel	1
Fire/Explosion (fuel)	1
Person Struck by Propeller	1

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE STATE OF COLORADO

AND

THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

I. PURPOSE:

To define the relationship between the State of Colorado and The United States in the conduct of the Boating Safety Programs and in the mutual enforcement of laws relating to boating safety on waters within the concurrent jurisdiction of the State and the United States.

II. BASIC GUIDELINES:

A. The State and the United States exercise concurrent jurisdiction over those waters within the jurisdiction of the State that are also waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, except as to matters preempted by Federal law.

B. The State has exclusive jurisdiction over those waters within the State that are not waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or waters of the United States.

C. This understanding does not abrogate or limit the jurisdiction of the State or the United States.

D. All vessels equipped with propulsion machinery, except vessels exempt under the provisions of 33 CFR Part 173.11 or vessels documented or required to be documented by the Coast Guard, that are principally operated on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Colorado, are subject to the numbering laws of that State.

E. The State shall, to the fullest extent practicable, endeavor to conform its laws, rules, and regulations with Federal law, subject to the Federal preemption provisions contained in 46 U.S.C. 4306. The Coast Guard and the State shall promptly furnish to each other the text of any proposed or enacted law, rule, or regulation having to do with numbering, titling, equipping or operating vessels that are the subject of this agreement and any administrative interpretations thereof.

F. The Coast Guard and the State will provide to each other a copy of statistical and other data pertinent to the matters agreed to herein.

G. When the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation or other state agencies request Coast Guard Auxiliary assistance, specifically, Vessel Safety Checks (VSC), Boating Safety Courses, Search and Rescue (SAR), and Safety patrols on State waters, the assistance provided, as requested in this Statement of Understanding, is to be performed on a voluntary basis by local Coast Guard Auxiliaries.

III. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING:

A. Law Enforcement.

1. The State has primary law enforcement responsibility concerning recreational vessels on the waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States which are also within the jurisdiction of the State. In these waters the United States has exclusive responsibility for the enforcement of vessel inspection and related Federal statutes applicable to non-recreational type vessels. Recreational boating violations observed by U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers may be referred to the State at the discretion of the District Commander.
2. In order to provide the most effective law enforcement possible with the vessels and personnel available and to avoid duplication of efforts in a given area at a given time, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the appropriate Coast Guard command in the area concerned shall coordinate or arrange for coordination of law enforcement patrols on waters subject to concurrent jurisdiction.
3. Violations of Federal safety standards/laws for both recreational and non-recreational vessels and associated equipment detected by State marine law enforcement officers will be reported to the Coast Guard for disposition.
4. When a complaint is made to the Coast Guard alleging an offense which is a violation of the State recreational boating laws or regulations, the Coast Guard will normally refer the complaint to the proper State and local authority. Similarly, when a complaint is made to the State of a violation of any vessel laws or regulations within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, the State will refer the complaint to the Coast Guard.
5. A State marine law enforcement officer or Coast Guard boarding officer will not normally board a vessel for inspection if the operator produces evidence of a recent satisfactory State or Coast Guard examination. However, notwithstanding a recent satisfactory examination, boarding will be undertaken when there are indications of a violation of U.S. or State statutes or regulations, or as part of a special local enforcement operation.
6. A Coast Guard boarding officer who has observed a violation of a State boating law or regulation, or a State marine law enforcement officer who has observed a violation of vessel inspection law or regulation of the United States will generally be made available to testify for the State or Federal prosecution, for the observed offense or to testify in any other proceeding relating to the violation.
7. Coast Guard Auxiliarists may assist State agencies by standing shore based radio watches. At no time will Auxiliarists become directly involved in law enforcement actions.

B. Boating Under the Influence

1. The common goal of the Coast Guard and the State is to rid the waterways of boaters operating under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug in violation of a law of the United States. the intoxicated boat operator. To this end, the State and the Coast Guard agree to coordinate their Boating Under the Influence (BUI) efforts so that the most effective enforcement option is executed in each case, and each will encourage the establishment of mutual assistance and cooperative agreements between Coast Guard and State law enforcement officials operating in the same area.

2. In the course of normal operations, the Coast Guard may detect a boat operator suspected of BUI within State waters where concurrent jurisdiction exists. When this occurs, the Coast Guard may administer field sobriety tests to the operator, including a chemical analysis of the operator's breath if this is within State guidelines for prosecution.

3. If the operator is alone and believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the Coast Guard will:

- (a) Attempt to notify State enforcement officials, terminate the voyage, and bring the vessel to the nearest safe mooring where a telephone is available. Ensure an operator under the influence does not operate a vessel.
- (b) Document the case completely for whichever jurisdictional prosecution is followed (State arrest, Federal arrest, or civil penalty).
- (c) Discuss enforcement options available for the particular case with State enforcement officials.
- (d) Make the determination of which option(s) to select and proceed with prosecution.
- (e) Provide case documentation and normally provide witnesses to pursue case prosecution should the State enforcement official decide to proceed with case prosecution.

4. The Coast Guard will, as operations permit, respond to calls for assistance from state enforcement agencies with respect to BUI enforcement.

5. Toward the common goal of removing the intoxicated boater from the waterways, State enforcement agencies will, as operations permit:

- (a) Respond to calls for assistance from the Coast Guard with respect to BUI enforcement.
- (b) Determine the extent of assistance the State can offer and advise the Coast Guard.
- (c) Provide appropriate assistance within the agency's operational, logistical, and legal constraints.
- (d) Provide local Coast Guard commands with a point of contact to facilitate and enhance mutual enforcement efforts and concerns.

C. Public Education and Training

1. The parties will cooperate in public educational and safety information programs. The Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will distribute the pamphlet "Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats", and other Federal boating publications when the pamphlets are provided or made available by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will distribute any State of Colorado applications and forms for motorboat numbering, State Vessel Casualty Report Forms, and such State boating pamphlets which are made available for that purpose by the State of Colorado.

2. The Coast Guard will furnish to the State information concerning time and place of public education courses within the State which are sponsored by the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The parties will, whenever possible, cooperate in developing a public education program of boating safety to be used within the State. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will provide the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation with public education assistance by conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC), Personal Watercraft Safety Checks and Boating Safety Courses, especially in metropolitan areas. Assistance provided by Coast Guard Auxiliarists is to be performed on a voluntary basis.

3. The Coast Guard will provide boating safety instructor training for State law enforcement personnel through the Marine Patrol Officers Course (MPOC) at the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy located at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), Charleston, South Carolina on an "as available" basis. Similarly, the State will provide to the Coast Guard, on an "as available" basis, instructors and facilities for the training of Coast Guard personnel. In addition, safe boating and/or boat handling programs may be arranged with Coast Guard Auxiliary resources.

D. Boating Casualty Reports and Investigation Reports

1. The State agrees to investigate all recreational boating fatalities. The Coast Guard may investigate fatalities on vessels used on waters of joint or Federal jurisdiction, including the high seas, if the case warrants further investigation.

2. The State shall review for accuracy and completeness all accident reports and shall determine the cause and circumstances surrounding each reportable accident, including whether or not alcohol or drugs were a factor.

3. For purposes of this agreement:

(a) A boating casualty is defined as an accident involving a fatality, a disappearance, or a personal injury that requires medical treatment beyond first aid.

(b) An accident is defined as an incident involving damage to a vessel and other property totaling more than \$2000, or the total loss of a vessel.

Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-3396. This authority is exercised through the District Command Center, New Orleans, LA, 70130, telephone number (504) 589-6225. The competent authority for exercising coordination for the State is Boating Law Administrator, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, 13787 South Highway 85, Littleton, CO 80125, telephone number (303) 791-1954.

3. The State and the Coast Guard agree to actively support and participate in local SAR workshops, water safety councils, and other such organizations to foster closer cooperation and coordination among State and local agencies, Federal agencies and others who have an interest or responsibility in search and rescue matters.

F. Coast Guard Auxiliary

1. Under Section 13109 (b) of Title 46 United States Code, the services of the members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary may be used to assist the State in the promotion of boating safety on state waters. The State of Colorado fully supports the Coast Guard Auxiliary's programs, in particular, those to do with Vessel Safety Checks (VSC), safety patrols and public education. The State of Colorado welcomes the presence of the Auxiliary on all waters for these purposes, given that State and local officials will be informed, consulted, and given adequate notice of Auxiliary planned VSC stations and/or safety patrols.

2. On those occasions when the assistance by the Coast Guard Auxiliary is expressly desired by the State of Colorado for a specific purpose, such requests for assistance will be initiated by competent authority in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation directed to Director of Auxiliary, 122 Spruce St., St. Louis, MO 63103-2832.

G. Regattas and Marine Parades

1. The authorization and regulation of regattas and marine parades upon navigable waters of the United States that are subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the State shall be within the providence of the State when, in the opinion of the district commander, the State is able to regulate, under State law, in such a manner as to ensure safety of life. However, the regulations issued by the State may not impede the operation of other vessels, commercial or recreational, operating on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

2. For the purposes of this agreement, the terms "regatta" and "marine event" both mean an organized water event of limited duration that is conducted according to a prearranged schedule.

3. Regatta and marine parades shall be administered in accordance with 33 CFR Part 100. The Coast Guard will provide to the State a copy of any notice of event or permit application that it receives for all events occurring on waters of concurrent jurisdiction. In turn, the State will provide to the Coast Guard a copy of any notice of event or permit application that it receives for all events occurring on waters of concurrent jurisdiction.

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4. The district commander of the applicable Coast Guard district reserves the right to assume primary responsibility for any regatta or marine parade on navigable waters of the United States when he deems such action to be in the public interest. Events of this type may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Regatta or marine parades of such size as to require patrols that the district commander knows to be in excess of the resources available to the State, or
- (b) Those events on waterways where commercial or other traffic will be significantly disrupted.

IV. LIAISON

Liaison shall be as follows:

FOR THE STATE OF COLORADO

RICK STORM
Boating Law Administrator
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
13787 South Highway 85
Littleton, CO 80125
Phone: (303) 791-1954
FAX: (303) 470-0782

FOR THE UNITED STATES

KEVIN M. KELLY
Recreational Boating Safety Specialist
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building
500 Poydras St.
New Orleans, LA 70130-3396
Phone: (504) 671-2157
FAX: (504) 671-2269

V. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

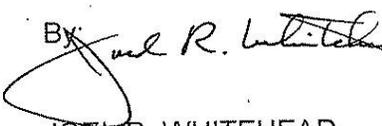
This agreement remains in effect until canceled by either party. The canceling party will provide the other party with at least thirty (30) days notice. A representative of each party will review the agreement biennially for the purpose of ascertaining if any revisions are necessary. A copy of the review will be appended to each party's copy of the agreement, and a copy will be provided to Commandant (CG-54222).

STATE OF COLORADO

By:  Date: 8-5-08

LARRY KRAMER
Deputy Director
Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U. S. COAST GUARD**

By:  Date: 10-6-08

JOEL R. WHITEHEAD
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District