U.S. Department of Transportation
# United States Coast Guard

**Media Advisory**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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# COAST GUARD COLLECTING CHARTERER INFORMATION

U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters

Washington, DC – On September 18, 2002, the U. S. Coast Guard will commence collecting charterer information on vessel's bound for the United States 96 hours prior to their arrival. This change was published in a Final Rule on August 19th, as an addition to the existing requirements for Notification of Arrival found in 33 CFR 160 and can be viewed at the following web site: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-18596-filed.pdf

The goal of the Coast Guard's Port State Control program is the elimination of substandard vessels from U.S. waters. To meet this goal, the Coast Guard developed a risk-based targeting matrix that evaluates all arriving foreign vessels based on the Flag State, owner, operator, classification society, vessel type and compliance history. Information collected through the Advance Notice of Arrival (NOA) report is used in the targeting matrix and assists in the prioritization of vessels for boarding. The Coast Guard realizes that many companies chartering vessels exercise diligence to ensure that the vessels are sound and comply with applicable standards. However, some individuals or corporations select vessels solely on the cost of chartering the vessel, with little consideration for the safety of the vessel, it's condition or casualty history. To improve accountability in this decision process, the Coast Guard will collect information on charterers, and plans to incorporate charterers into the targeting matrix as an additional risk factor. Beginning September 18th, the NOA reports will need to include the name of the charterer, in addition to the information already required to be reported to the National Vessel Movement Center (NVMC). To submit charterer information, a standardized NOA reporting form can be downloaded from the NVMC website at http://www.nvmc.uscg.gov/. If not using this standardized form, vessels can include their charterer information on the

same form that they are currently using for their NOA. NOA information must be reported 96 hours prior to arrival in the United States to the NVMC, U.S. Coast Guard, 408 Coast Guard Drive, Kearneysville, WV, 25430 by: (1) Telephone at (800) 708 -9823 or (304) 264-2502, (2) Fax at (800) 547-8724 or (304) 264-2684 or (3) E-mail at sans@nvmc.uscg.gov.

For additional information on this initiative or the Port State Control program, contact CDR Linda Fagan, (202) 267-2978.

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