GENERAL INFORMATION FOR OWNERS OF DOCUMENTED VESSELS

Enclosed is the Certificate of Documentation for your vessel. This Certificate IS NOT valid for operation of the vessel until the vessel is marked in accordance with its name, hailing port, and official number. If your document bears only a Recreation endorsement, your vessel may not carry passengers for hire.

OFFICIAL NUMBER: The official number shown on the Certificate, preceded by the abbreviation "NO." must be marked in block-type Arabic numerals at least 3" high on some clearly visible interior structural part of the hull. The number must be permanently affixed so that alteration, removal, or replacement would be obvious and cause some scarring or damage to the surrounding hull area.

NAME AND HAILING PORT*: For RECREATION vessels, the name and hailing port* both must be marked together on some clearly visible exterior part of the hull. For COMMERCIAL vessels, the vessel name must be marked on each bow and the vessel name and hailing port must also be marked on the stern. The markings may be made by the use of any means and materials that result in durable markings. All must be at least 4" in height, made in clearly legible letters of the Latin alphabet or Arabic or Roman numerals. *HAILING PORT marking must include BOTH a place (city) AND the state. Only the state may be abbreviated.

The Certificate of Documentation becomes invalid immediately if there is a change in ownership, vessel name, or hailing port marking and must be returned to this office. The penalty for operation of a vessel with an invalid document is $10,000 per violation. Each day of continuing violation is a separate violation. Unless the Certificate is required to be exchanged, replaced, or canceled, it is valid for one year.

Annual renewal of the endorsement is required. During the month preceding expiration, a Notice of Renewal is mailed to the managing owner at the address of record. Contact our office, not later than two weeks prior to the expiration date, if you have not received the Notice of Expiration. IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES AT ANY TIME, YOU MUST NOTIFY US BY MAIL OR FAX. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RENEWAL IS UP TO YOU, THE VESSEL OWNER, WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.

State and local officials have the right to board documented vessels for law enforcement purposes. Many states require registration of documented vessels for tax and other purposes. You may be required to place a decal on your vessel showing that you have complied with state requirements. Contact state authorities for further information.