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# “Boat Sharing” Websites and Illegal Charter Operators

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# It is Hard to Tell Who is Legal









# Concerns with Boat Sharing Websites

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- Venue for recreational boat owners to rent out vessels for a fee
  - Similar to other online platforms such as Uber and AirBnB
- Language promotes the sale of charters for hire but does not meet the regulatory requirements
- Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993 provided clarifying legislative direction as to what constitutes inspected passenger and small passenger vessels, uninspected passenger vessels, and bareboat charters



# Concerns with Boat Sharing Websites

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- Need to reach out to these organizations and clarify the legal requirements associated with chartering a recreational vessel.
- The public should be made aware of the hazards associated with taking trips on vessels not subject to the same level of safety regulations and oversight as inspected passenger vessels



# Example Boat Sharing Websites

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- Boatsetter.com - allow you to select a location, if you want a captain, number of passengers and date.
- Boatdayapp: <https://youtu.be/LZW8YKzh-MY>
- [www.getmyboat.com](http://www.getmyboat.com) - looks like a rental site, but if you select a boat it gives the option of captain or no captain.



# Concerns with Illegal Charters

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- Presence of illegal charters operate in ports with little or no enforcement.
- These illegally operated vessels skirt Coast Guard regulatory and safety oversight and compete directly with PVA member operators.
  - Licensing
  - Inspection
  - Drug Testing



# Concerns with Illegal Charters

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- Operators need to understand the legal requirements associated with chartering a vessel.
- Licensed Masters that take jobs offered by vessel owners and promoters need to be aware of what charters are legal and illegal. Masters can be held responsible for operating an illegal charter.



# Concerns with Illegal Charters

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- Casualties on board illegal charters impact legal operators
  - Jaguar 2017 w/2 fatalities
  - Miami Vice 2018 w/one fatality
- Some Coast Guard investigators are hesitant to engage without witnessing illegal operation.

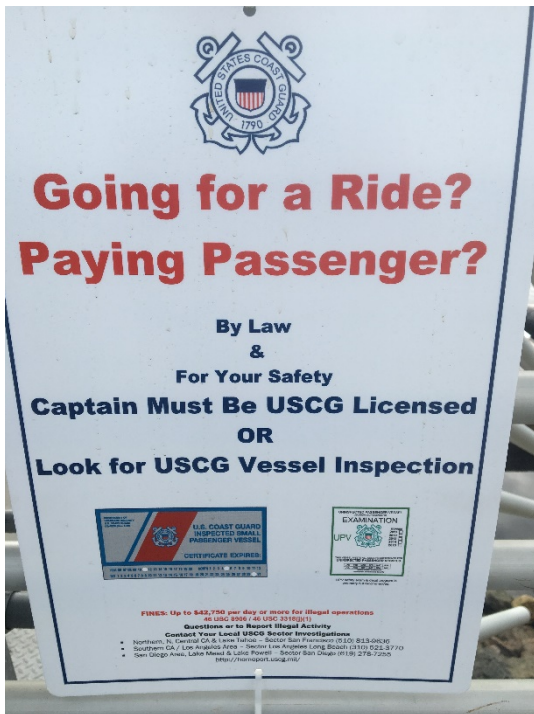
# Next Steps – PVA & Coast Guard

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- PVA and the Coast Guard are working together to investigate and increase enforcement actions against these organizations.
- In June 2016, Coast Guard issued a marine safety alert highlighting illegal charter operations titled Marine Safety Alert 05-16, '[Enjoying the Waterways in a Safe \(and Legal\) Manner.](#)' This safety alert seeks to raise awareness regarding federal safety requirements for vessels carrying any paying passengers onboard a vessel on navigable U.S. waters.



# Coast Guard Actions



- Recent Enforcement Success:
  - Chicago
  - Seattle
  - Miami
- Press Releases are good.

# Thank You!

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