

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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JUL 5 2006

Mr. Jack Fuechsel  
National GMDSS Implementation Task Force  
1600 North Oak Street, #427  
Arlinton, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Fuechsel:

On behalf of Admiral Allen, thank you for your letter dated May 31, 2006, on behalf of the National GMDSS Implementation Task Force, regarding radio requirement laws.

I am appreciative of the GMDSS Task Force recommendations regarding a national requirement that all U. S. vessels operating offshore be required to carry "basic safety radio equipment." Your concern for boating safety, and desire for a more effective and efficient response to emergency situations, is evident. At this time, however, I cannot accept or decline the Task Force recommendations. To my knowledge, no data has been compiled to date to determine what, if any, percentage of amateur boaters venture beyond a mile off shore without training or credentials, which as you state, "accounts for a high number of Coast Guard SAR cases."

A Coast Guard recommendation that all U. S. vessels nationwide be required to carry basic safety radio equipment would require supportive documentation and analysis. All related factors and circumstances would need to be identified, correlated, and presented. These factors must include items such as the numbers of vessels affected, the type and size of vessels that are currently equipped with transmitting equipment, and whether or not vessels without equipment warrant mandatory carriage of radios, EPIRBs, or other transmitting equipment.

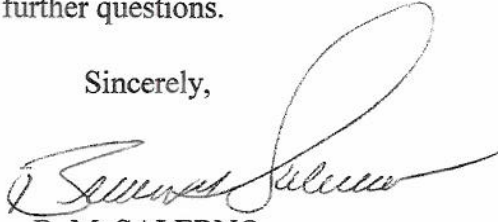
I recognize the concerns raised in your letter, and will continue to work daily in the pursuit of all boating safety issues including the reduction of loss of life at sea, accident prevention, and the reduction of Search and Rescue (SAR) responses. I do not believe, however, that a final recommendation seeking legislative or regulatory action can be made at this time. If in the future it is determined that the Task Force suggestions be researched for possible implementation, I assure you that all factors, including your recommendations, will be considered. In the interim, please know that the Coast Guard recognizes the ability of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Model Act to enhance uniformity among state laws, according to 46 USC 13101, and is supportive of this.

SUBJ: RESPONSE TO MR. FUESCHSEL'S INQUIRY OF  
MAY 31, 2005 REGARDING THE GMDSS TASK FORCE

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I commend you for your work with the GMDSS Task Force. Please contact Mr. Jeff Hoedt, of my staff, at (202) 267-0950 with any further questions.

Sincerely,



B. M. SALERNO

Read Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Director of Inspection and Compliance

**MAILED**  
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