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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Boating Safety for Kids and Adults and Vessel Safety Checks during National Safe Boating Week at Black Point Marina, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am – 12:00pm.**

National Safe Boating Week is May 21<sup>st</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 65, Miami South, will again rally to the cause and reach out to and inform recreational boaters and their kids at Black Point Marina in South Miami-Dade County from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The Flotilla will present a safe boating and environmental education display booth at the marina, while Vessel Safety Examiners will conduct free vessel safety checks, and hand out boater safety information for boating adults and their children.

The display booth will include an array of “Officer Snook” comic books, coloring books and stickers for the kids to take home with them. Also on display will be required and recommended boating safety equipment. Visitors to the booth will have the opportunity to play the *Talkin’ Trash* game and learn about the lifespan of trash in our environment and the importance of recycling. Demonstration and instruction on line heaving techniques and other boating skills will also be available.

At the marina boat ramp, Vessel Safety Examiners will conduct free Vessel Safety Checks and Flotilla members will distribute packages of boating safety literature. A Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of a boat to verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by State and Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, who will also make recommendations and discuss safety issues that will make for a safer boating experience. This is not a law enforcement activity and no citations will be given. Boaters undergoing a Vessel Safety Check will receive a copy of the evaluation so that any deficiencies may be corrected. If a boat successfully passes the Vessel Safety Check, a decal, good for one year, will be affixed to the boat attesting to this result. The statistics for boating fatalities in the State of Florida remain grim. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida has historically held claim to the unfortunate distinction of having the highest annual number of boating accidents, injuries and fatalities when compared to the rest of the nation. Many boaters simply do not have the information they need to be safe on the water. Through the efforts of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 65, our currently active and future recreational boaters will be better informed and safer on the water.

Black Point Marina is located at 24775 SW 87th Avenue, Homestead, FL.