



ALERT 11

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DEDICATION

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2

Commander’s Comments 3

Flotilla Calendar 3

September Flotilla Meeting 5

October Flotilla Meeting 6

Member Training 6

Navigation Systems..... 6

Mount Vernon Heavy Weather Surf Boats 7

US Coast Guard Websites 7

 Boating Safety 7

 Navigation & Maritime Information 8

 General News & Public Information 8

 Local Coast Guard Units 8

 Careers & Joining 9

Flotilla Staff Officers..... 9

Auxiliary in WW2..... 9

Parting Shot..... 11

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Cover Photograph: Bellingham, Wash – Flotilla members receiving awards. US Coast Guard photo by Mike Hayner.

Commander's Comments



Ahoy Shipmates,

This is your Flotilla update for the Fall (the last edition was in August). This year's primary RBS and operations activities are concluded and were comparable to previous years. Of particular note – Our Auxiliary facility

escorted the CGC Eagle in their transit to Elliott Bay. One crew (Jeff Shaw) passed his 3rd -year check ride (Congrats!!)

The Flotilla 11 October meeting was preceded by a semi-annual PPE Check for five boat crew. Flotilla 11 dues collection is over, with 31 (of 38) continuing. I am continuing to process-out six members.

Some of our private aids to navigation (PATON) assignments remain to be done. Otherwise, our Flotilla has recently gone into a somewhat reduced-activity mode due to the season and the government shutdown. We continue to hold Flotilla meetings. The next one is important – we will be electing our Flotilla Commander and Vice Flotilla Commander. Be sure to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Planned activities include:

- ✳ A Core Training 'Blitz' on a Saturday in November (watch for an emailed announcement). This will be a Hybrid event (in-person plus Zoom). I will send out a list of members' needed classes beforehand, so that you can sign-up for what you need. Many members are due/overdue for some or all.
- ✳ November F11 Meeting, 11/20, 7PM; elections.
- ✳ Support of CG Station Bellingham's Thanksgiving. Like previous years, we will forward a list of needed dishes so that members can make this event memorable for the Station crew and their families.
- ✳ Uniform Inspections (via Zoom) for seven members

Be sure and look at the online calendar to keep apprised of upcoming activities and needs. Review those activities for what best suits your reason for joining the Auxiliary. Talk to me if you are interested in increasing your participation.

I hope that you will continue to invest in our Flotilla. Your participation is valued; your involvement ensures that our Flotilla programs are viable; and you never know when your efforts might save a life!

Semper Paratus ~ Semper Tutus

Always Ready – Always Safe

Pamela Chelgren-Koterba, Flotilla Commander

Flotilla Calendar

November

18 WAKE presentation on VHF radios
20 FL11 Meeting
27 CG Sta. Thanksgiving

December

4 FL11 Planning

January

17 FL11 CoW (tentative)

Please note that some dates are tentative. Please double check closer to the time of the event to confirm.

ACRONYMS

B'ham	Bellingham
CoC	Change of command event
CoW	Change of watch
DTRAIN	Districtwide training event
FL11	Flotilla 11
?	Placeholder when the exact date is not yet known
PPE	Personal protective equipment
QE	Qualification exam
RSSO	Rescue and survival systems officer
TBD	To be determined
VSC	Vessel safety check

Northwest Maritime Apprenticeship

Launched in October 2022, the Northwest Maritime Apprenticeship is entering its fourth year. This spring, the program will celebrate their first official graduates,

who will earn their Journey-level Marine Service Technician Certification. Pam and Peter taught a class on personal protective equipment (PPE) use to the students.



Bellingham, Wash – Water safety instruction. Northwest Maritime Apprenticeship photo.

September Flotilla Meeting

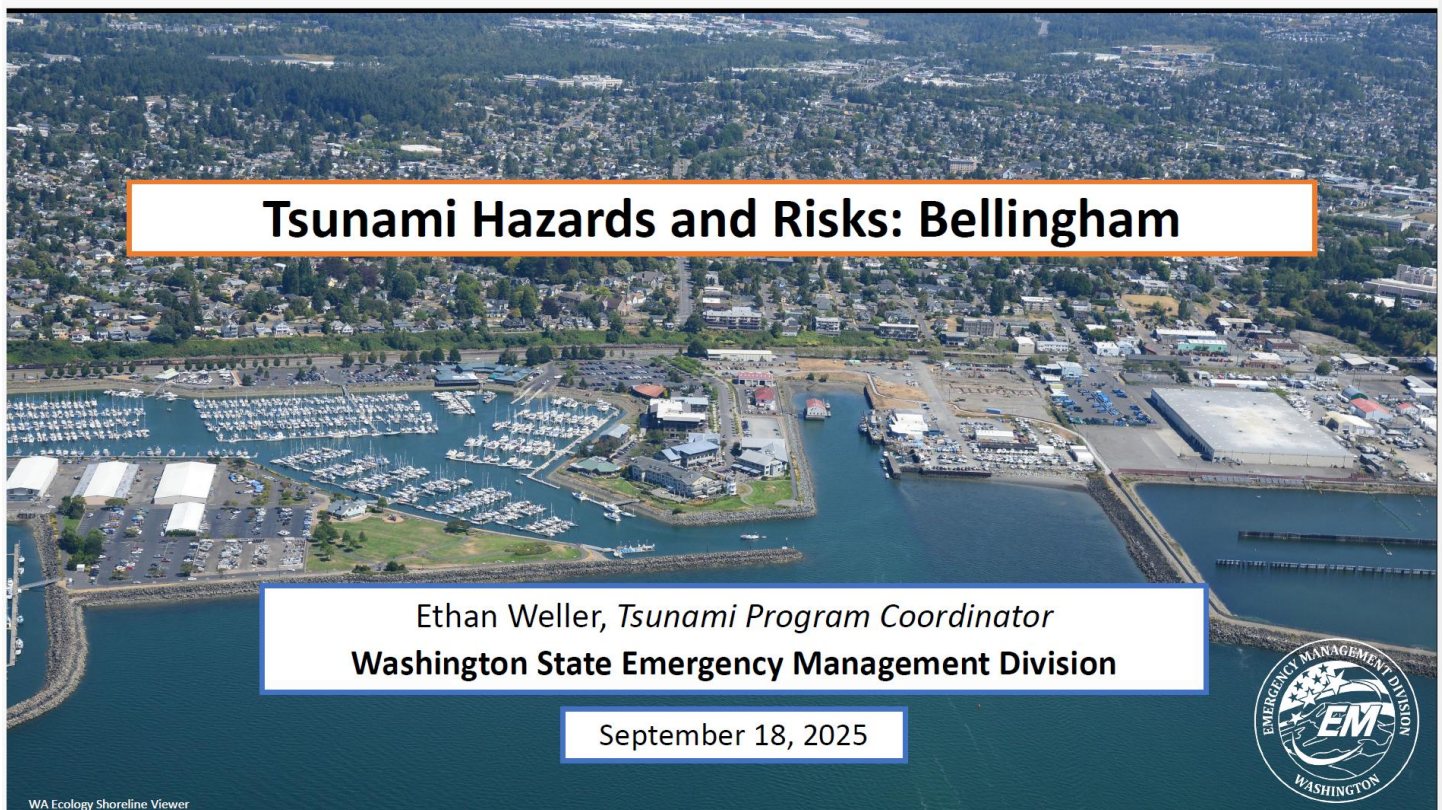
Ethan Weller from the Washington State Emergency Management Division presented “Tsunami Hazards and Risks: Bellingham” to the flotilla. Mr. Weller also shared a couple of links to the simulations mentioned in his talk.

Wave Simulation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViHxi6Lr01w>

Current Speeds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgazSZiNsXI>



Bellingham, Wash – Presentation from Washington State Emergency Management. Ethan Weller Photo.

October Flotilla Meeting

In October, the flotilla had Megan Bugaj, Bellingham's Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator talk about that program. Her talk was well received by the members present. An hour before the meeting officially

started, there was a semi-annual personal protective equipment (PPE) check. This is a routine maintenance check to make sure that the issued PPE doesn't have damage and is still fit for purpose.



Bellingham, Wash – Flotilla members receive awards. US Coast Guard photos by Mike Hayner.

Member Training

Congrats to Manny for his AuxOp certification, to Peter for his 2024 NW District "Century Club" Award, to Nico for his 10-Year Membership certificate, and to Monica for her Challenge Coin (having completed her BQ requirements in 18 days!!

A Core Training Blitz was conducted on Saturday, November 8th.

Navigation Systems

All of our bridges and most (61%) of our PATON assignments have been completed; with one additional PATON discrepancy and 2 bridge discrepancies

reported. 17 (of 44) PATONs remain and are expected to be complete by end of year.

Mount Vernon Heavy Weather Surf Boats

In a September 30, 2025, article published by the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) acquisition newsroom website, the U.S. Coast Guard awarded an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract to Rozema Boat Works Inc. of Mount Vernon, Washington, for up to six second-generation special-purpose craft – heavy weather (SPC-HWX II) boats. The contract has a total potential value of \$70.9 million, with the first boat expected to be completed in fiscal year 2027.

These 64-foot vessels will replace the 52-foot heavy weather boats that entered service in the 1950s and

1960s and were retired in 2021. Like their predecessors, the new boats will be homeported in the Pacific Northwest.

The SPC-HWX II is designed for extreme conditions, featuring a self-righting capability and the ability to operate in 35-foot seas and 60-knot winds. Powered by twin 1,200-horsepower engines, the boats will have a 48-hour endurance, a top speed of 20 knots, and the ability to tow up to 300 tons. They will be used for a wide range of missions, including search and rescue, law enforcement, and maritime security operations.



Mount Vernon, Wash – Artistic Rendering courtesy of Rozema Boat Works Inc.

U.S. Coast Guard. (2025, September 30). *Coast Guard awards contract for new heavy weather surf boats.* <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/Latest-Acquisition-News/Article/4318376/coast-guard-awards-contract-for-new-heavy-weather-surf-boats/>

US Coast Guard Websites

The Coast Guard has numerous websites. The following is a list of sites that the general public may find useful.

Boating Safety

U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division

URL: <https://www.uscgboating.org/>

This is the primary resource for recreational boaters. It provides safety regulations, recall notices for boats and equipment, boating courses, and official accident statistics.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

URL: <https://www.cgaux.org/>

The public-facing site for the Coast Guard's volunteer branch. It's an excellent resource for finding free vessel safety checks, boating education classes in your area, and other local safety programs.

Navigation & Maritime Information

Navigation Center (NAVCEN)

URL: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>

This is a critical site for both commercial mariners and recreational boaters. It provides Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), GPS status, the complete Navigation Rules (Rules of the Road), and real-time port status.

Maritime Commons.

URL: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/maritime-commons/>

The blog serves as a platform for the Coast Guard to communicate directly with the maritime industry or anyone interested in marine safety, security, and stewardship. It provides updates on new regulations, safety alerts, policy changes, and other information critical to vessel owners, operators, and professional mariners.

General News & Public Information

United States Coast Guard

URL: <https://www.uscg.mil/>

Information: The main, official portal for the entire service. It's the best starting point to find links to all other official sites, leadership information, and major organizational news.

U.S. Coast Guard Newsroom

URL: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/>

This site provides official press releases, photos, and videos of Coast Guard operations, including search and rescue missions, drug interdictions, and environmental responses.

Acquisition Directorate (CG-9) Newsroom

URL: <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Acquisitions-CG-9/Newsroom/>

This website is the official news hub for the Coast Guard's Acquisition Directorate (CG-9). Its purpose is to provide public updates, press releases, and articles on the Coast Guard's procurement and business operations.

Local Coast Guard Units

USCGC Terrapin

URL: <https://www.facebook.com/USCoastGuardCutterTerrapin/>

While the Terrapin doesn't have much of an official site on uscg.mil, it does have an active Facebook site with regular postings and photos from their operations.

Station Bellingham

URL: <https://www.facebook.com/USCoastGuardStationBellingham/>

Similar to the USCGC Terrapin, the uscg.mil listing for Sta Bellingham is very sparse, but they have an active and frequently updated Facebook site.

USCGC Sea Lion

Unfortunately, the USCGC Sea Lion doesn't appear to have an actively updated website.

Careers & Joining

Go Coast Guard (Recruiting)

URL: <https://www.gocoastguard.com/>

The official recruitment website. It details all career paths, including active duty, reserve, officer programs, and civilian employment, as well as benefits and how to contact a recruiter.

Flotilla Staff Officers

The following members are your Flotilla Staff Officers.

Please contact them if you have any questions or ideas, or wish to get involved in a particular type of activity.

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Auxiliary in WW2

In his article "The Long Blue Line: Coast Guard's "Corsair Fleet" of World War II," published on the U.S. Coast Guard's MyCG website, retired Captain Bob Desh details the critical role of the civilian Auxiliary. In the earliest days of World War II, as the German U-boat threat escalated, the Coast Guard leaned heavily on its new Auxiliary. Its rapidly growing flotillas, boats, and personnel became a critical resource for a military stretched thin.

The article explains that the "Corsair Fleet," officially the Coast Guard Reserve Coastal Picket Force (CPF), was a direct extension of this Auxiliary concept. When the U.S. military, under intense pressure to stop the U-boat onslaught, finally authorized the use of civilian vessels, the Coast Guard was the logical service to manage them precisely because of its existing experience with the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary's structure provided the model for rapidly inducting civilian boaters and their vessels. An

amendment to the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act allowed the service to quickly enroll these civilian volunteers—often skilled yachtsmen, fishermen, and the boats' owners themselves—as temporary members of the Reserve. These Auxiliarists and new reservists were the backbone of the Corsair Fleet, manning their own sailing yachts and motorboats, which had been painted "haze gray" and pressed into service to hunt for submarines on the front lines of the Battle of the Atlantic, right off the U.S. coast.

Please note that now, weapons, except those worn by certified law enforcement officers in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and required by their agency policy, may not be worn, carried, or held by any Auxiliarist or guest of the Auxiliary while attending an approved Auxiliary function or participating in an authorized Auxiliary activity, including regularly scheduled detachment, flotilla, or division meetings.

Citation

Desh, B. (2023, August 25). The Long Blue Line: Coast Guard's "Corsair Fleet" of World War II. MyCG. <https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3504969/the-long-blue-line-coast-guards-corsair-fleet-of-world-war-ii/>

Parting Shot



East Coast USA – Corsair Fleet members on the lookout for U-boats in cold weather. U.S. Coast Guard photo.