TOWN OF CHATHAM

HARBORMASTER DIVISION
OLD MILL BOATYARD
613 STAGE HARBOR ROAD

STUART F. X. SMITH
HARBORMASTER

TO: Chatham Commercial, Recreational Boat Owners and Mariners

FROM: Stuart F.X. Smith, Harbormaster SFXS

DATE: September 1, 2016

SUBJECT: HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATIONS

With the peak of the Atlantic Hurricane Season quickly approaching, we would like to remind all mariners to ensure that you have a definitive storm refuge plan in place for your boat. Boats that can be trailered should be hauled well ahead of an arriving storm to avoid the last minute rush at local boat ramps. For boats that cannot be trailered, boat owners should consider relocating to a protected harbor, as Chatham is exposed on all sides to heavy storm conditions. For those who intend to keep your boat on your current mooring in Chatham, it is imperative that you verify that the mooring hawser, chain and chaffing gear are all in good working condition. Keep in mind that the mooring tackle specifications required by the Harbormaster are not rated for hurricane conditions. Boat owners should also verify that their boat batteries are charged and bilge pumps are working properly, and should also ensure that your insurance policies are up to date.

In previous years, there have been boat owners who, at the last minute have requested the Harbormaster Department to provide them a safe mooring location. It is important to reiterate that your storm refuge plans should not rely upon the availability of Chatham town moorings, and should not be based upon the Harbormaster providing a mooring or anchoring location for your boat.

Now that we are in hurricane season, it is important to continually track approaching storms, and take early action to safeguard your boats. Please contact the Harbormaster Department well ahead of time if you have any questions pertaining to your storm refuge plan. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cf: (1) U. S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England
(2) U. S. Coast Guard Station Chatham

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