

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: April 20, 1973

Adopted by the NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
 at its office in Washington, D. C.
 on the 4th day of April 1973

 FORWARDED TO:

Admiral Chester R. Bender)
 Commandant)
 U. S. Coast Guard)
 Washington, D. C. 20590)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION M-73-6

The National Transportation Safety Board notes that approximately 80 percent of the fatalities resulting from marine accidents occur in recreational boating. With the continued growth in recreational boating, commensurate expansion of safety education, particularly that directed toward the special problems and needs of the novice boatman, appears to be necessary.

The importance of providing safety instruction to the boatman is recognized by the Safety Board and the Coast Guard. Unfortunately, motivating the boatman to participate voluntarily in safety courses is difficult. To encourage such participation and to disseminate the rudiments of seamanship as widely as possible, we believe that every purchaser of a new boat should be provided with an owner's manual which gives basic boating safety information. This information should include, but not be limited to, such subjects as minimum safety equipment, operating responsibilities, aids to navigation, hints on safety afloat, Federal regulations, accident prevention and reporting, and boating safety courses. Additionally, an owner's manual furnished by the manufacturer should provide to the boatman data which might be peculiar to a particular boat, i.e., recommendations for use in certain seas, weather, load distribution, turning characteristics, etc. Most of this information is presently contained in the "Coast Guard Official Recreational Boating Guide," CG-340. Updating the information in this booklet and permitting the information to be used by boat manufacturers would give the new boat owner information which he does not have to "seek out." Hopefully, such information would make the boatman safety conscious and would stimulate his interest in

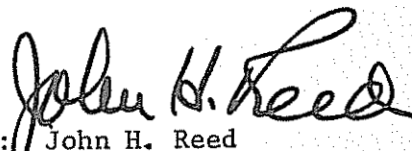
voluntary boating safety courses. As proposed, this owner's manual would be at no cost to the government and would be of minimal expense to the boat manufacturer, offering valuable information as a recreational boating educational guide.

For the above reasons, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that:

The U. S. Coast Guard undertake measures, including regulatory action if necessary, to assure that owner's manuals giving basic boating safety information are furnished to all purchasers of new recreational boats.

This recommendation will be released to the public on the issue date shown above. No public dissemination of the contents of this document should be made prior to that date.

Reed, Chairman, McAdams, Burgess, and Haley, Members, concurred in the above recommendation. Thayer, Member, did not participate.


By: John H. Reed
Chairman

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