Good day all!

The U.S.C.G. is issuing an “update”, or a reference paper if you will, supposedly to Masters of vessels used to transport recreational divers to and from dive sites. Please note that though this paper relates to the “Master” of the vessel, it can also be used as criteria for the recreational diver themselves.

If you are on a dive excursion, you should be aware of all possible items that could adversely affect your dive, as a measure of personal responsibility. You would check all your personal gear; make sure your tank is full, etc., so why would you not observe the safe operation of the vessel transporting you?

Be aware of the number of crew. Ask what the crew assignments are relative to yourself and the other divers. For instance: 1) Who will be watching the water for surfaced divers? 2) Who will be counting the divers returned to the boat to verify that all are back on board? 3) Should there arise any issues, is the “Master” of the vessel able to contact authorities (i.e. USCG, local marine law enforcement, and other vessels that may be of assistance) in case of need? These are just examples; you should form your own and apply to your personal application.

Remember that your day relies first on your personal observance of safety items, and only you control those items. While the “Master” of the vessel has responsibilities to get you to and from the dive location safely, only you control your safety while in the water.

Be attentive as the Dive Master gives instructions for the proposed dive location. Be aware of any safety directions included in those instructions, and apply them. Don’t brush them off as “heard before”. Each dive is different. Each location is different. Each requires a professional Dive Master to be aware of all possibilities and convey them to you prior to the dive. But it is up to you to apply the knowledge and be safe.

A successful day (or night) dive begins with full observance of all safety items for that dive. So enjoy the dive by being safe!

Remember: Only you control YOUR safety!

Thanks, all!

Ed Payne