

News for the Mariner

# New Sea School Website



Continuing as the leader in the marine training industry, we have recently launched a great new website listing courses, prices, and locations for all our offerings. Included in the course descriptions are the US Coast Guard requirements along with helpful links.

With a few clicks, you can find the locations and dates for any class we offer. In addition, you can now register for class on line 24 hours a day!

Visit:  
[SeaSchool.com](http://SeaSchool.com)



## Security Training Mandatory Are you Certified?

Mariners serving on seagoing ships are required to comply with the International Ship and Port Facility Code (ISPS) and also receive security training. The level of security training required is dependent on shipboard duties and is determined by your employer.

Sea School has two new STCW approved classes in Security Awareness. **Maritime Security Awareness** is designed for shipboard personnel without specific security duties. **Vessel Security Awareness with Security Duty** is a more extensive class designed for personnel with specific security responsibilities aboard the ship



and whose primary duty is not a Vessel Security Officer.

Both new Sea School classes fulfill the Coast Guard's requirements. For more information or to register for class, click this link:

[SECURITY](#)



## When can I take my boat to Cuba?

Story and Photos by Jack Feeney

The better question to ask is "How can I legally take my boat to Cuba?" While the Obama administration has signaled a thawing of relations between our two countries, there has been little change in the laws that define just how US citizens may travel to the island nation. Still in place is the requirement that US citizens must fall into one of 12 categories to make the trip. These include family visits, religious activities, humanitarian projects, and educational activities to name



just a few. Specifics of the new White House policy can be found [HERE](#). The US Treasury Department is the agency that licenses travel to Cuba under one of the 12 stated categories. Licensing information can be found [HERE](#).

However, under the new Obama policy, travel companies such as airlines are no longer required to check for a traveler's license to enter the Cuba, which creates a loophole of sorts. Here's how the Washington Post reported it January 15th, 2015:

**"As part of the updated regulations, those hoping to travel to Havana will only need a general license, which they can declare as individuals. In practice, this will effectively mean that people can claim they are traveling under one of the dozen approved categories, and then book a flight."**

You can read the full story [HERE](#).



Once you decide to take your boat to Cuba, with or without a license, you then have to navigate through the entry procedures. Remember, due to tensions between our two countries, Cuban waters are still patrolled by Cuban military vessels. While not making any endorsements, the following sites have information about entering Cuba by water.

[Travel to Cuba for Americans](#)

[Havana Journal](#)

## Team Sea School

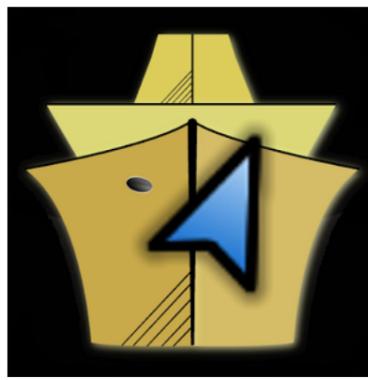


*Fishing report from Capt. Richard Vargas.*

In cold months we like to go after the Grouper, Snapper, and of course the famous Hogfish. People think Hogfish are only spear fished and often ask "Captain Rich, do you really catch Hogfish on rod and reel?" My answer "Yes!", and we are dialed-in to successfully target them and come home with what some say is the tastiest fish in the sea.

Hogfish range from about 3-5 lbs., but we often land 6-8 pounders. That's when we have to turn the drag up on the reels for a good fight. The shape of the Hogfish and its big tail make for a distinctive fight we call "the machine gun". This rapid action is caused by its tail sweeping which never stops from the bottom of the Gulf till it breaks the top of the water.

Stay tuned for future reports as Tarpon fishing heats up with the warmer weather.

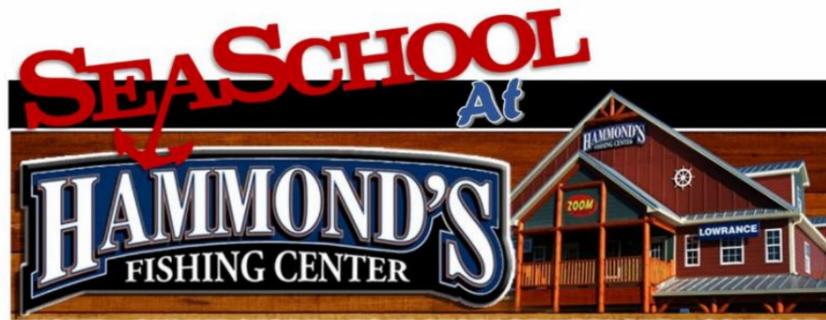


## Be a Target

Are you sailing out of the range of MarineTraffic AIS receivers? Your vessel does not have an AIS transponder? Use your smart phone on board to report the positions of the vessel to MarineTraffic. mAIS is a mobile application that makes it possible to use your mobile device to report the position of a vessel to MarineTraffic. GPS-enabled devices (iPhone/iPad and Android) can be used to report the position, the details and the status of a vessel in case an AIS transponder is not available or the vessel is out of range of MarineTraffic's AIS receivers.

More information at:

[mAIS](#)



Cumming, Georgia, on the shores of Lake Lanier is where you will find Hammond's Fishing Center since 1986. The bait and tackle shop is locally owned and operated by long-time resident Candy Hammond. Hammond's offers marina accessories, tackle, live bait and also hosts many of the area's outdoors clubs at its meeting facilities.

Beginning in last year, Sea School has been offering classes at Hammond's to assist local boaters with getting their US Coast Guard license. Candy Hammond says "This is a great program that helps our local guides advance their careers to waters beyond the Lake."

For more information about upcoming classes at Hammond's contact Sea School at 1-888-883-2278 or visit: [Seaschool.com](http://Seaschool.com)



Thinking about getting a Towing Endorsement?



**Don't Waste Your Breath!**



**Q:**  
How do I document my Sea Time for my first license?



Click on the logos for info and job postings

## Phony Captain



Reprinted with permission  
By John O'Brien | jobrien@syracuse.com

SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- Gus Ognenovski bought into Mark Anselm's story two years ago. Anselm claimed he had big contracts to dredge the Genesee River near Rochester and the Hudson River beneath the Tappan Zee Bridge in downstate New York.

Ognenovski, a Rochester-area businessman, saw the merchant marine pilot's license Anselm presented and assumed the Clayton man was a legitimate, capable boat captain.

Based on those assumptions, Ognenovski invested more than \$500,000 in a tug boat and excavating equipment that Anselm told him he was going to lease for those big marine construction jobs.

But the U.S. Coast Guard called Ognenovski in the middle of the night June 19, 2012, and Anselm's story unraveled.

[Read More](#)



## Sea School explores simulators in all locations

Sea School is currently in negotiation with world renowned navigation simulator manufacture to outfit all offices Sea School locations with

The Sterns Company is now offering the Stearns® Thermashield™ Immersion Suit. This suit was tested at over four times the USCG standard to help ward off critical hypothermia levels for up to 24 hours. The new suit features a patented air-circulation warming system.

By breathing into the system's mouthpiece, the heat lost through exhaling is captured and distributed throughout the suit. You can read more about this product at:

[www.stearnsflotation.com](http://www.stearnsflotation.com)



## New way to learn the rules for preventing collisions at sea.



The aim of the application **Lights and Shapes** is to allow sailors to recognize ships, to determine their route, and prevent collisions at sea.

It is particularly useful for nautical schools, teachers and students working toward a nautical license. visit:

[Lights and Shapes](#)

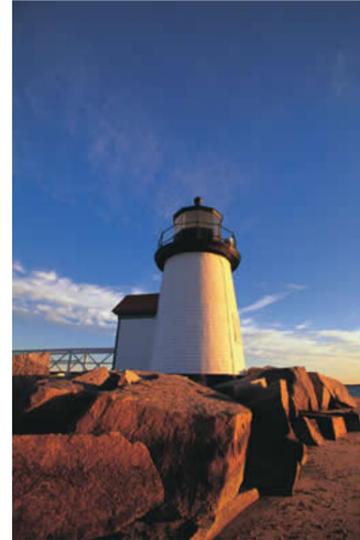


## Sea School Tapped for NOSAC

Being a leader in marine training for 38 years, it was natural for Sea School's very own Ken Wahl, Consultant and Senior Instructor, be

**A:**

For entry level licenses, you will need to fill out a Small Vessel Sea Service Form for each boat you show time on. If it is/was your boat, you simply sign the form for the time. However, you must include proof of ownership. For someone else's boat, you need their signature on the form.



## Coming to an ATON near you.

The Coast Guard is continuing its program to change out incandescent bulbs in Aids to Navigation to the more efficient LED lights. In addition to increased dependability, this will provide a significant cost saving for the Coast Guard when it comes to maintenance, requiring fewer trips to change burned out bulbs. LED lights do have some limits when it comes to long range applications. In at least one case a 19 NM incandescent bulb was converted to a 14NM LED light. However, such changes are made with consideration to the safety needs of mariners.



## Welcome Back Pat!

Sea School Instructor Pat Grause returns to the Sea School after time away surfing and building a Stand Up Paddle-board business. Captain Grause's maritime experience spans decades

ground-breaking state of the art simulators.

appointed to the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security, via the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, on matters relating to safety of the offshore mineral and energy industries. The combined experience of Sea School and Captain Wahl will be a tremendous contribution to the committee.

and includes multiple assignments as Commanding Officer of various US Navy ships.

## ECDIS Course News

ECDIS stands for Electronic Chart Display and Information System and is a computer-based navigation system that complies with all IMO regulations and can be used as the primary alternative to paper navigation charts.

As of December 31st, 2016, all Mates/Masters on ECDIS equipped vessels will be required to have ECDIS training. Sea School is gearing up to protect our alumni well in advance of the deadline with plans to offer ECDIS training beginning in the summer of 2015. The course will satisfy all USCG requirements for approved ECDIS training at operational and management levels for all vessels having ECDIS.

Stay tuned for future updates or contact Sea School at 1-800 237-8663 for more information.

## QMED Course News

QMED stands for QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT and is the "Below Deck" equivalent of Able Seaman. A QMED is a senior unlicensed crew member in the engine room of a ship who performs a variety of tasks connected with the maintenance and repair of equipment.

Sea School's new QMED-Oiler course is now approved by the USCG and a certificate of completion, and the appropriate USCG requirements, will result in a QMED-Oiler rating as part of a sailor's Merchant Mariner's Documents without testing at a USCG Regional Exam Center.

For more information visit:

[QMED](#)

## Do you make money taking civilians on tours or charters?



If you do, did you know you must have a Company Drug Policy and Assistance Program in place?

If you take civilians out, or plan to, but don't have the Drug Policy and Assistance Program in place, you're in danger of hefty fines from the USCG!

The Coast Guard requires all commercial mariners to provide a Drug Policy and Assistance Program even if they are sole proprietors. Don't get stuck with a \$5000 per day violation fine.

Visit [www.apcadrugtesting.com](http://www.apcadrugtesting.com) or call (800) 468-7447 to learn how APCA can protect your hard earned money.

## What does a Captain need?



**Get it at:**



## Sea School's New Bridge Simulator

Sea School now helps mariners complete assessments previously only available or in real world settings when conditions were right. The new simulator now puts mariners in challenging life-like situations using high-tech equipment and monitors. Upon successful completion of simulated courses, mariners are able to obtain enhancements to their USCG licenses. Click below for upcoming course information...

### Upcoming Class Dates



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