

STATE PARKS/CUSTOMS and BORDER PROTECTION

John Dawson, RBAW Trustee

State Parks, at this time, has no plans to increase moorage or annual permit fees for marine parks in 2010 and possibly 2011. The 2011 fees will be reviewed sometime next year.

The Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission Boating Program (360/902-8555) has changed the Washington Boat Accident Report (BAR) form. The new report form is form P&R A-440 (Rev. 05/2009). This form may not yet be available in downloadable format. This form appears to conform more to the USCG report format and, best of all, raises the State required reportable damage value from \$500 to \$2000. This was done to more reflect current repair costs. This change is in effect now and is in line with the USCG requirement. Additional information can be obtained by going to <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=352-70>.

A five (\$5) fee is now automatically added to the cost of vehicle license tabs. This fee is to help support State Parks and does not go to the State General Fund but direct to State Parks. This fee is considered a donation and motorist have the option to "opt-out" and not pay the fee. Boaters are encouraged not to "opt-out". More information can be found by going to www.parks.wa.gov/donation.

Customs & Border Protection (CBP) reports some problems with boaters using improper procedures in reporting to or clearing customs. Some boaters who have the proper documents to clear by telephone (i.e., I-68, NEXUS, BR number) have been attempting to clear customs prior to entering US waters. The proper procedure is to insure that you are in US waters, have a good phone signal, slow down or stop and then call for clearance. Assuming that everyone on board has the proper documents, the procedure should take no more than 4-5 minutes. Make sure that you have all required documents physically in hand prior to calling.

There are only five Designated Ports of Entry for arrivals requiring in-person reporting: Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor, Point Roberts, Anacortes and Port Angeles. All other ports require an appointment prior to arrival.

Some boaters have gone to ports other than a Designated Ports of Entry and then requested customs clearance. This is an illegal procedure and could lead to penalties.

If you have questions contact CBP at 360-734-5463