Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observation System
Regional Association  (GCOOS - RA)

WELCOME

Recreational Boaters Workshop
on
Integrated Ocean Observing

Clear Lake, Texas  28, 29 May 2009
Welcome and thank-you for help us ensure that the Integrated Ocean Observing System in our Gulf of Mexico is designed to meet the needs of the recreational boater! Your regional association believes that the 21st Century Ocean Observing System must be developed to meet the needs of all of user communities whether it be academia, oil & gas, marine transportation - or the recreational boating community, etc. Thank-you for joining us to ensure that it does"
Welcome Packet - Agenda & other useful information  Today’s Events

Logistics:

Heads

Lunch

Reception

Tomorrow
0900  Learn about IOOS and GCOOS - Integrated Ocean Observing Systems and the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System

0945  Review workshop objectives - Explain the breakout group discussion

1015  Keynote Speaker, Mr. Jeff Hoedt, Chief, Boating Safety Division USCG HQ

1115  Breakout Session Introductions

1200  Lunch

1300  Breakout Groups

1430  Guest Speaker - Ms Meridith Byrd, Environmental Quality and Harmful Algal Blooms

1515  Reconvene the Breakout Sessions

1800  Reception at the Aquarium
Sailboat beaches after losing its anchor

By MARK I. JOHNSON
Staff Writer

A couple escaped injury when their 38-foot sailboat broke loose of its anchor and washed ashore at Bethune Beach on Tuesday morning, a Coast Guard officer said. Steven and Michelle Lai-fook, ages unavailable, were on their way to St. Augustine aboard the Jacksonville-based Island Witch when they lost their engine and a sail about 1:30 a.m., said Senior Chief Petty Officer Bon Cantrell.

Station Ponce de Leon Inlet received a distress call from the sailboat’s crew and immediately launched its 47-foot rescue boat.

The Coast Guard crew encountered 10-foot seas as they headed out the inlet and quickly determined it would be unsafe to try to tow the sailboat to shore, the senior chief said. A helicopter was called in from Savannah, Ga., and the Lai-fooks were told to anchor and wait.

The plan was to airlift the crew off the boat and leave it anchored until seas calmed. "Just before the helicopter arrived, the anchor line parted and the sailboat beached," Cantrell said. "It surfed right in. Everyone was OK."

The boat came ashore near Starfish Avenue shortly after 6 a.m.

Cantrell said the Island Witch was sailing from the Bahamas and the Lai-fooks originally planned on stopping in Fort Pierce, but the weather was so nice they decided to continue on to St. Augustine and were caught by the storm.

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May 26, 2009

Waves capsize boat on lake, killing 2 Children

“ A 21 foot boat capsized among storm-driven waves at a popular Central Florida lake over the weekend, killing two children aboard and critically injuring a third, authorities said Monday. The accident happened at about 4:30 p.m. Sunday... after a violent storm churned up waves 3 to 4 feet high....”

May 26, 2009

Body found probably missing boogie boarder

......lost hold of his boogie board while in waters off northeast Florida....
Main Objective:

To identify and prioritize to the extent possible the ocean observations and derived products needed by the recreational boating community so that they may be appropriately addressed as the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System is developed.

Deliverables:

• A prioritized description of existing ocean observations and derived products considered to be required by the various areas of the recreational boating community and the means of communication of those observations and products developed during the breakout sessions and integrated on the second day.

• A prioritized list of ocean observations and derived products that are not presently available but that are considered to be future requirements that have the greatest potential benefit to enhance the activity of the particular sectors of the recreational boating community and recommended primary and secondary methods of their delivery developed during the breakout sessions and integrated on the second day.

• A complete report of the workshop developed as the workshop’s final deliverable.