



**Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary -  
Pacific**

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## Memorandum

**To:** All Members

**CC:** Board of Directors

**From:** Allan Hughes  
Regional SAR Operations Officer

**Date:** January 27, 2005

**Subject:** Navigation Aids

All CCGA-P members should be aware that securing to a navigational aid is prohibited by the Criminal Code of Canada. Section 439(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada states;

*“Every one who makes fast a vessel or boat to a signal, buoy or other sea-mark that is used for purposes of navigation is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.”*

This would include securing your vessel via dock lines, attaching a towline or any other means. A summary conviction is subject to a maximum \$500 fine and / or six month sentence. Subsection 2 deals with willful acts of altering, removal or concealing a navigation mark and is an indictable offence that carries a maximum term of 10 year sentence.

All unit leaders shall ensure that their members understand that navigation aids shall not be used for securing their vessel for any purpose. Some co-crew coast guard stations will on occasion be tasked to reposition or remove a navigation aid, this of course is an authorized activity conducted under the direction of the CCG.

If you have any questions in regards to this please feel free to contact me at [allan.hughes@ccga-p.ca](mailto:allan.hughes@ccga-p.ca) or phone 250-703-6401.

Allan Hughes

Regional SAR Operations Officer