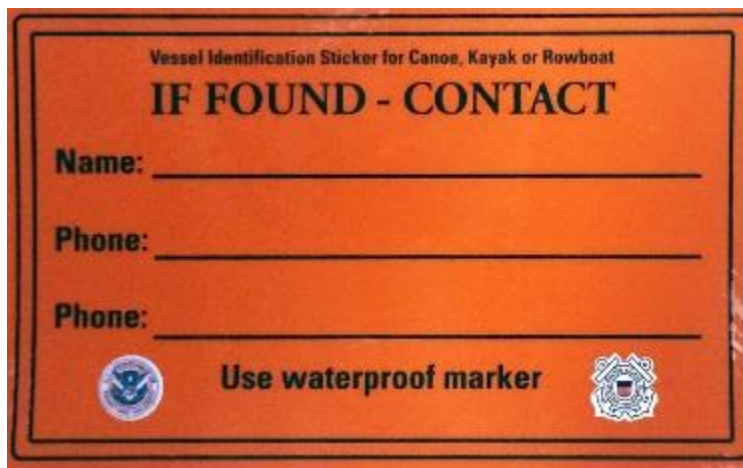


## OPERATION PADDLE SMART

Operation Paddle Smart is a voluntary program jointly sponsored by the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and numerous local law enforcement agencies. The goal is to educate paddle-sport enthusiasts how to stay safe and help emergency responders in search and rescue (SAR) type situations.

Every year, numerous kayaks, canoes and paddle boards are found adrift especially after a storm. When these small craft are found typically there is no way of determining whether or not individuals may be in distress or who the craft belongs to. In such situations, having timely access to some basic information can make all the difference between wasting valuable SAR resources and saving lives.



Vessel Identification Sticker for Canoe, Kayak or Rowboat

**IF FOUND - CONTACT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Use waterproof marker

The sticker is orange with a black border. It features the US Coast Guard Auxiliary logo on the left and the US Coast Guard logo on the right. The text "Use waterproof marker" is centered at the bottom.

The Paddle Smart sticker is a weather-proof adhesive backed ID label which when properly filled out using a permanent waterproof marker & appropriately applied to small craft by vessel owners, can help: save lives, recover missing property, reduce resources expended on non-emergency SAR activities related to unnecessarily deploying limited resources to search for someone who is not in danger saving tax payer dollars, sparing rescue crews from being unnecessarily put at risk or family / friends pointless anxiety. Each sticker provides a place for small craft owner's to display their name, phone & cell phone numbers. It is important to put two valid phone numbers on sticker, since a cell phone could become non-functional if it ends up in the water. Under such circumstances, an alternate number provides a way to check if an emergency exists or to arrange for return of property to its owner. Timely access to this information is critical during the initial SAR investigation phase if the craft is found a drift.

Request an Operation Paddle Smart sticker for your kayak, canoe or paddle board from your local USCG Auxiliary Flotilla today.