

# BEWARE: DOCUMENTATION SCAM RESURFACES

## A VESSEL DOCUMENTATION SCAM HAS HIT THE OREGON FLEET

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You should be wary of any letter arriving by US mail offering renewal. These letters direct you to websites that may be mistaken for the actual **US Coast Guard Vessel Documentation Center** located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, and appear to show a significant increase in the annual fee to renew US Coast Guard (USCG) documentation.

While third-party companies may legitimately provide services to assist with vessel documentation renewals, the USCG's own renewal process is simple for most vessels and the price, \$26, is often much lower than what third-party services may charge.

When it comes time to renew the documentation, always remember the Coast Guard website offering documentation uses a .mil domain name. Web domains using .us, .com and .org are not authorized. Get the Coast Guard-approved certificate that helps save money just like a Coast Guard-approved life jacket helps save lives.

For more information on Certificates of Documentation call the Coast Guard's NVDC at 800-799-8362 or visit <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/>.