

NEW PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING THE UNITED STATES BY BOAT

Without Nexus Cards

- Every boat trip to the United States must start with a visit to a designated U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) port of entry (e.g. Anacortes, Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor). On that first visit of the year, the master or operator must report to the office with the vessel registration information and passports (or other travel documents) for every individual on board.
- At this initial visit, when first arriving in the U.S., a CBP-1300 (Vessel Entrance or Clearance Statement) will be filled out. There will be a \$19 or \$37 fee (depending on vessel size) for that initial form. At that time, the vessel's master can apply for a cruising license at no extra cost.
- Once the \$19 or \$37 entrance fee is paid and a cruising license issued for a period of up to a year, the vessel is then able to visit other ports in the U.S. within the Puget Sound area. CBP includes the San Juans, Anacortes, Bellingham, Point Roberts, Blaine, Port Angeles, Port Townsend and Seattle/Tacoma in its definition of Puget Sound ports. Licensed vessels are therefore not required to report their movement between these locations, as the CBP considers these to be the same port.
- The entry cost is \$19 for vessels up to 100 net tons and \$37 for larger vessels. If the vessel returns to Canada and subsequently makes another trip to the U.S. during the period that the cruising license is valid, the master does not need to obtain another cruising license, needing only to report the existing license number and show passports (or other travel documents) for everyone on board.
- If you do not obtain a cruising license, then you will have to pay the \$19 or \$37 fee each time you enter and depart from the U.S. You would also have to pay the same fee for a permit to proceed between ports of entry. (So it seems easiest and cheapest to get a cruising license on your first visit annually.)
- So, there is no need to obtain a CBP decal for \$27.50 anymore. You just need to fill out the CBP-1300 form, pay your entrance fee, and get a free cruising license. These new procedures replace the old User Fee Decal requirement. *If you have already purchased your 2016 decal, be sure to mention that fact to the CBP officer and you will not have to pay the new entrance fee in 2016.*
- A new cruising license cannot be issued until at least 15 days have passed since the previous license expired or was cancelled. If desired, you can cancel a cruising license by "clearing out" at a designated CBP port of entry.
- Recent experience by BC boaters indicates that the processing time required in the CBP office (to interview the Master, enter data, and issue the Cruising License) can be up to 20 or 30 minutes. Be prepared for delays and line-ups in the summer months, especially on weekends or holidays!

With Nexus Cards

- If everyone on board has a *Trusted Traveler* card (NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST or Global Entry) or an *I-68* (allows pre-registered operators of pleasure boats to obtain a single boating permit for a 12-month period), you will still need to go to a designated CBP port of entry for the first visit of the year in order to obtain a cruising license. For subsequent visits to the U.S. during the period while the license is valid, entry can be made while underway by calling the 1-800 number in the normal manner, unless there is someone on board who does not have a valid *Trusted Traveler* card or an *I-68*.
- Note: when vessels arrive in the U.S. with Canadian Landed Immigrants on board who do not have valid visas for the U.S., the "Visa Waiver Program" in effect on land does not apply to private boats.