

Dockside Charters, Inc
P.O. Box 552
Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341
541-765-2545
800-733-8915



Adm Paul Zukunft Commandant (CG-00)
US Coast Guard Headquarters 2100 2nd St. SW STOP 7000
Washington DC 20593-7000

Re: Scheduled Closure of Coast Guard Air Station, Newport Oregon

Dear Admiral Zukunft:

I own and operate a charter fishing and sight seeing service in Depoe Bay, Oregon. Depoe Bay is home to the largest Charter Fleet on the Oregon coast. On any given day during the busy part of the season the charter fleet carries hundreds of people to sea for fishing, whale watching and other activities.

Water temperature in our nearshore water averages 54-55 degrees year round. Should an incident occur that would put people in the water, response times of over an hour by USGC helicopters are essentially a death sentence. I assisted in a rescue August 9th in which five people were in the water twenty eight miles offshore. On that day helicopters from both North Bend, Or. and Astoria were called out as the Newport, Or. helicopter was out of service for maintenance. Response time was well over an hour for the helicopters, they arrived shortly after three charter boats got to the scene. In spite of the fact that the water was quite warm that far offshore (62 degrees) all the individuals were hypothermic to the point that they could not help themselves. The man that my boat pulled from the water was unable to communicate how many other people had been in the boat and was in fact convulsing.

My point is that had it been any longer before they got out of the water and to medical care it would have been a body recovery rather than a rescue.

It is imperative that the cold water and rough seas that we operate in be considered rather than simply applying a "standard" response time.

Loren J. Goddard
Dockside Charters
Owner/Operator C/V Affair