

February 9, 2010



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

NOTICE NO. 2009-19

## **NOTICE**

### **Area Port of San Juan**

**TO:** Pleasure Boat Owners and other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Area Port Director  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**SUBJECT:** Pleasure Boat Clearance – Telephone Reporting – Inspection Sites

The purpose of this Notice is to provide guidance for pleasure boats owners and operators entering the **territorial waters and ports in Puerto Rico from foreign or the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)**.

All U.S. citizens and aliens seeking entry to the United States **must report** arrival to a Customs and Border Protection Officer after having been at a foreign port to include arriving from the US Virgin Islands or after having contact with any hovering vessel.

**If you obtained a CBP clearance at any port in the US Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix or St. John) after arriving from foreign and then PROCEED to Puerto Rico, you MUST report arrival to a CBP Officer in Puerto Rico.** For example, if you reported your arrival from foreign at St. John, USVI, and then proceed to the Port of Fajardo in Puerto Rico, you must **also** report arrival at Fajardo.

Failure to report your arrival can result in civil penalties as defined in Title 19 United States Code Section 1436 to include a penalty of \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation and the conveyance subject to seizure and forfeiture. In addition of the civil penalty, any master who intentionally commits a violation under subsection (a) of the above stated section, upon conviction, is liable for a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for one year or both.

Puerto Rico and the USVI have high volume of small/private vessels. In order to facilitate the reporting requirements, CBP has established a one number telephone for all arrivals into Puerto Rico to the following number that will be available 24 hours daily:

**1-877-529-6840**

Once you report your arrival, the CBP officer will provide you with additional instruction to include the need to conduct a face-to-face inspection. All occupants of the vessel **must remain on board** until the CBP officer authorizes their departure, either by phone or after conducting a physical inspection of the vessel. If no inspection will be conducted, the clearance number will be provided immediately. Otherwise, the required clearance number will be provided once the inspection is finalized.

CBP reminds all boat owners and operators of the below **designated inspection sites** for all private vessels coming from foreign. You are required to arrive at one of these designated inspections sites for proper clearance procedures:

#### **Port of Fajardo**

- Puerto Real Municipal Pier – in front of the Customhouse
- Vieques Station – Mosquito Pier
- Culebra Station – Dewey Dock Ensenada Honda
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#### **Port of Ponce**

- Ponce Pier in front of the Customhouse
- Ponce Yacht Club

#### **Port of Mayaguez**

- Mayaguez Public Pier

#### **Port of San Juan**

Club Nautico, Miramar

For further information or guidance on any matter related to private boats, please contact Chief Rosa Perez at (787) 729-6600

  
Maria M. Palmer