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New Security Zones Off-Limits to Boaters

Mike Simonson

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The Coast Guard and local agencies have declared 22 security zones on the Great Lakes...areas which are now off-limits to boaters under penalty of up to a \$10,000 fine. The Great Lakes Radio Consortium's Mike Simonson reports:

Coast Guard Petty Officer Paul Roszkowski says this is a reaction to the 9-11 terrorist attacks. He says not all of the zones are marked yet, but eventually will be with yellow buoys. He says first time violators will be warned.

"Right now there are several security zones throughout the Great Lakes around nuclear power plants, around water filtration areas that boaters are going to have to keep an eye out for this boating season."

Roszkowski says the Coast Guard is also organizing what they call "Eyes on the Water" programs in local ports. These get boaters to call in anything out of the ordinary.

"Especially people hunting and fishing in locations that are not typically used for those activities...Unattended vessels, any aggressive activities, any unusual filming, vessels operating in areas vessels don't normally operate."

Roszkowski says this is part of our changed world since 9-11.

For the Great Lakes Radio Consortium, I'm Mike Simonson.