



## Marinas – Boat Sales, Watercraft Maintenance, Rentals and Storage

As described in the accompanying letter, *Business Owners Against Terrorism* is based on the idea that certain legitimate businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease, or somehow appropriate certain material, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following examples of activity relating to your specific business, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Moored boats for which the owner/lessee cannot be contacted over an extended period of time
- Boats that appear unusually weighted down
- Full payment by cash for the purchase of an expensive boat or several small boats, personal watercraft, outboard engines, gasoline tanks
- Purchase of a boat for a purported reason not typically compatible with the manufacturer's boat design (e.g., using a speedboat for supposed fishing expeditions)
- Purchasing inquiries related to small commercial or fishing vessels by individuals who seem to lack industry knowledge, credentials or trade experience
- Dockside activity at unusual times (e.g., possible loading of suspicious materials under the cover of darkness or scuba trips conducted at night)
- Requests for private charter tours by individuals who display an unusual interest in non-tourist attractions (e.g., coastal oil refineries, the undergirding and buttresses of bridges, etc.)
- Individuals who opt to lease dock space under for a short term (per diem) rate and payment by cash, foregoing the considerably less expensive long-term lease selected by most customers, despite leaving a vessel for a protracted period of time
- Interest in the precise timing of ferry routes (e.g., observing someone using a stopwatch while studying a passing ferry)
- Possible surveillance (e.g., use of binoculars) of maritime activity such as barges
- Individual purchases of paint or decals similar to those found on local security or port services vessels by those without authority to do so, or the theft of same
- Discovery of painting patterns fashioned to resemble those of local security or port services vessels
- Theft or purchasing attempts of harbor security or port services uniforms, access badges, or related equipment
- Maintenance requests that involve unusual structural modifications (e.g., removal of seating, important fishing-related equipment, etc.) especially those that seem to reduce the ability of the vessel to perform in its normally expected role
- Demands to create additional voids or storage areas below decks, to dramatically increase fuel capacity or vessel speed, or to place vertical metal plates ( or other possible shrapnel producing materials) below decks or near the bow



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## **Marinas – Boat Sales, Watercraft Maintenance, Rentals and Storage - continued**

Your impressions and assessment, based upon your professional/business experience, are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern or set of circumstances is unusual.

The conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Please remember if you suspect something, do not take direct action, confront the individual, or reveal your suspicions. Record as many details as possible about the suspect/vehicle/locations and report them to the Orange County Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit at 407-504-6764 or email Intel@ocfl.net.