



John Cummins
Official Opposition Critic
Fisheries and Oceans

News Release

May 24, 2002

Coast Guard Admits Chaos With Pleasure Craft Operator Cards

OTTAWA— “The Commissioner of the Coast Guard has confessed that he has no idea of who has a Pleasure Craft Operator Card even though he is charged with administering and enforcing the law that requires every operator of a pleasure craft to carry such a card,” said John Cummins, M.P. (Delta-south Richmond).

Yesterday Commissioner John Adams appeared before the House of Commons Fisheries and Oceans Committee with the Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Robert Thibault, to account for the Coast Guard’s spending plans for the coming year.

This is National Safe Boating Week and according to the Minister the focus of this year’s Safe Boating Week is “to ensure that all boaters know about, and comply with, the September 12, 2002 deadline” requiring that they carry the operator’s card.

In Committee, John Cummins challenged Commissioner Adams on this matter:

“Now, it appears that there is some difficulty getting people to take this test but it seems somewhat easy to get a card. I guess you can write the test at a *Canadian Tire* store or on the Internet or by correspondence. The issue here is that there is a requirement ... that people have these cards and yet DFO will have no record of who legally has a card and who hasn't. There's no actual hands-on control by the department on this issue is there?”

The Commissioner’s response was a clear and unequivocal admission of the chaos at the Coast Guard in its administration of the law:

“Incredibly, Mr. Cummins, you're absolutely right but we are addressing that issue and we now will assemble the data and we will have control of it.”

“Surely this must be a joke. How could the Minister of Fisheries announce that the focus of this year’s National Boating Week is getting everyone to have an operators card when his own officials admit that they have no idea who has a card? Is this the national gun registration fiasco all over again?” concluded Cummins.

Contact: John Cummins, M.P.
(613) 992-2957 or cell (604) 970-0937



John Cummins
Official Opposition Critic
Fisheries and Oceans

News Release
