

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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5730
October 17, 2016

Senator Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter dated September 28, 2016, regarding the fatal boating accident on the jetty at Government Cut Channel in Miami Beach. We share your concern for ensuring safe navigation.

The Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers work together to ensure our Nation's waterways and associated infrastructure are well designed and maintained to facilitate the safe passage of commercial and recreational boating traffic. The Coast Guard conducts Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) studies on both a periodic basis or when dictated by major changes to a waterway to ensure the Aids to Navigation (ATON) system is adequate. These analyses solicit input from all waterway users, including the Army Corps of Engineers.

The last Miami Harbor WAMS was completed in November 2015 after the Army Corps of Engineers deepened the main channel. This study found that the ATON in Government Cut met the needs of the mariner. The Coast Guard is now commissioning a new WAMS analysis, focusing specifically on the North and South jetties at the entrance to the Government Cut Channel, which will include verification of appropriate illumination for these structures.

My Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 would be pleased to respond to any further questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul F. Thomas".

Paul F. Thomas
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy