

Vessel Examiner Guidance (provided by Chief John Malatak of the USCG Office of Boating Safety on 29 Jan 2005)

“If during the course of a VSC you observe the name and hailing port of a documented recreational vessel is temporarily obscured by a dinghy, or anything hung over the side, have the owner move the dinghy and inspect the markings on the hull. If the markings are in compliance in all other respects, then the VSC criteria for that item are met. You then will instruct the owner that covering of the hull markings may result in a citation by a law enforcement officer if boarded. Explain to the owner in order to prevent a possible violation, they have the option to move the dinghy to another location, or mark the hull in another location. FURTHER EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT PLACING THE NAME AND HAILING PORT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE DINGHY DOES NOT RELIEVE THEM OF THE REQUIREMENTS TO HAVE THE HULL PROPERLY MARKED”.