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**MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN**  
**06-09**

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**Seal Island**

Seal Island, located to the east of Matinicus Island off of the coast of Maine, was once used as an aerial bombing and target range by the United States Government. The Navy conducted aircraft bombing practice at Seal Island until the late 1960s. The Navy transferred Seal Island to the U.S. Department of Interior in 1972.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) received reports earlier this year and in previous years from fishermen diving near Seal Island of apparent munitions and explosives of concern (MEC). Most recently, thousands of shells and shell fragments, some as big as 500 lbs, were reported on the seabed within 300 ft of Seal Island. MEC were also reported along the southeast (ocean) side of the island. Some MEC are located on Seal Island as well as in the waters immediately surrounding it. A danger zone currently exists around the island; however, it is only enforced during times of active aerial bombing exercises which no longer occur. The regulation for the danger zone can be found in 33 CFR 334.10.

Mariners are advised to use extreme caution while operating in and around Seal Island. Should you encounter any munitions, please obtain a description, note the latitude and longitude, and do NOT remove. MEC should be considered and treated as extremely dangerous and unstable. Mariners with concerns regarding MEC should contact the USACE or ME DEP at the following phone numbers:

| Agency | Point of Contact | Phone Number   |
|--------|------------------|----------------|
| USACE  | Ms. Ellen Iorio  | (978) 318-8433 |
| ME DEP | Mr. Ted Wolfe    | (207) 287-8552 |

J. B. McPHERSON  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port  
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