Aids to Navigation (AtoN)
Discrepancy Reporting Procedures:

All AtoN (Federal or Private) Discrepancies discovered on Patrol should be reported immediately to the Patrol Vessel's Operational Commander via VHF FM Radio or Cell Phone. (They should not call the ANT's) The Operational Commander could be any of the NJ Stations in the Eastern Area or it could be the Sector or SARDET for most of the Central Areas with the exception of Station Indian River for part of Division 12's Patrol Area. All Coxswains on Patrol know who their OPCOM is. These units have watchstanders for this purpose. Remember it is their job to take these reports and forward them on in accordance with unit policies. The Stations will most likely then contact Sector D-Bay with an AtoN Discrepancy Report. Sector will then do their job; determine if it is a Federal Aid or a Private Aid and notify the correct responsible servicing unit and issue a BNM, if appropriate i.a.w. D5(dpw) policy.

The Western Area Auxiliarists all report any Aids to Navigation discrepancies to the PA Fish and Boat Commission on the 5NR-Aton-1 form. If it is a hazard to boaters, it should be reported immediately via phone, otherwise, send in the 5NR-Aton-1 form to the PA Fish and Boat address on the form immediately after the patrol. Copies should be sent to the ADSO-NS and the DSO-NS. Western Area Coxswains on the PA Lakes or Rivers should use their judgment and experience to determine if an immediate phone call is needed for the discrepancy they are reporting if it is a dangerous situation or hazard to boaters.

Eastern and Central Area Reports should be made immediately while on scene at the discrepancy in case clarification on the nature of the discrepancy or positive identification of the aid in question is necessary. (it is very important that we identify the aid correctly).

For Central and Eastern areas; after the aid is reported to the operational commander, the Auxiliarist should then complete the ANSC-7054 form or the 7055 form for bridges and mail it to their ADSO-NS or send it in with their orders to their SO-OP who will forward it to them. The ADSO-NS will do his/her job and send those forms on to the appropriate AtoN unit.

Auxiliary AtoN POCs:
DSO-NS (C): Matthew J. O’Brien Jr., mobrien12@aol.com, 215-632-3947
ADSO-NS (C): Matthew J. O’Brien Jr.acting, mobrien12@aol.com, 215-632-3947
ADSO-NS (W): Edward A Hilscher Jr, neway@frontiernet.net, (570) 265-5125
ADSO-NS (E); John P. Gallagher, gdwmch@verizon.net, 609-884-7181

CG AtoN POCs: