The Marine Services Unit of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff would like to issue a crime prevention advisory to owners of boats in the Delta.

In the last few months there has been a spike in boat thefts, with more than a dozen in Contra Costa County. Combined with other neighboring counties, there have been some two dozen boat thefts. There have been a variety of suspects, some of whom are already in custody. The suspects are targeting outboard engines and tower speakers for boats. The boats are often stolen, stripped, and then abandoned, grounded or dumped. In some cases, they are set on fire.

The Marine Services Unit would like to offer some crime prevention tips:

- Always secure your boat, if possible to a dock with a chain.
- Use motion detection lights and cameras.
- Remove all portable electronics and anything of value from your boat.
- If you are at a marina, ensure you are not piggy-backed onto a private dock.

Please be aware of any suspicious persons or activity. In some of the cases, the suspects appear to be targeting specific boats. Report anything suspicious to local law enforcement by calling 9-1-1. The Marine Services Unit can be reached at (925) 427-8507.

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For information, please call:

Jimmy Lee, Public Information Officer: (925) 313-2643

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office offers a full range of law enforcement services to over 1,000,000 residents in the 715 square mile county. Besides patrolling the unincorporated areas, Deputy Sheriffs provide comprehensive police services to a number of contract cities and special districts. Additionally, the Sheriff’s Office operates county detention facilities, provides security for the courts and runs the Office of Emergency Services. Log on www.cocosheriff.org for more information.