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Saunders Yachtworks Boatyards Provide Safe Harbor from Isaac

Gulf Shores, Ala. – August 31, 2012 – While officials are still determining the extent of the damage done by Hurricane Isaac, both Saunders Yachtworks facilities in coastal Alabama have come through the storm in great shape, despite being right at the edge of the storm. As Isaac entered the Gulf of Mexico, the Saunders crew spent several days hauling boats in Orange Beach and at the company's brand-new facility in Gulf Shores.

“This was the first major storm to hit our area since we expanded to our new facility, and we weren't taking any chances with storm preparation,” Saunders President and CEO John Fitzgerald said. “We hauled 50 boats between our two locations in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. Because Isaac's path shifted, we were fortunate to be spared the pounding that Mississippi and Louisiana received. We have a lot of friends and associates in those areas, and we are hoping for the best for them.”

According to Fitzgerald, the new Gulf Shores yard and yacht basin were designed for the efficient delivery of heavy-duty dockside and boatyard services. The robust machinery and concrete work pads provide exceptional stability for vessel transfer and staging. In addition, the protection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and yard elevations between +10 and +12 feet make it a great location to withstand high winds and storm surge.

“We have created a safe harbor for hurricane storage,” added Fitzgerald. “Storm season is a part of our life on the Gulf Coast. It's crucial for our customers to know that we've done our absolute best at both locations to protect their vessels from damage.”

The Saunders family has been in the marine service business since 1959 and has operated a full-service yard with 60-ton lift capacity at Orange Beach Marina since 1995. Saunders opened a second facility with 150-ton lift capacity in Gulf Shores in 2012. The company offers a full array of mechanical services, vessel systems installation and repair and boatyard crafts.

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