

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD08-98-007]

**Drawbridge Operation Regulation;  
Bayou Chico, FL**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

**SUMMARY:** The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the State Route 292 bascule span bridge across Bayou Chico, mile 0.3, at Pensacola, Florida. This deviation allows the bridge to remain closed to navigation between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 1998. This closure is necessary to facilitate the running of the Blue Angel Marathon, a long distance foot race which is an event of public interest.

**DATES:** The deviation is effective from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on February 28, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Phil Johnson, Bridge Administration Branch, Eighth Coast Guard District at 504-589-2965.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The State Route 292 bridge across Bayou Chico, mile 0.3, at Pensacola, Florida has a vertical clearance of 13 feet above mean high water in the closed-to-navigation position and unlimited clearance in the open-to-navigation position. Navigation on the waterway consists primarily of tugs with tows, commercial fishing vessels, sailboats and other recreational craft. The U.S. Naval Air Station has requested a temporary deviation from the normal operation of the bridge for the running of the Blue Angel Marathon.

This deviation requires that the draw of the State Route 292 bridge across Bayou Chico at mile 0.3 remain closed to navigation between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, 1998. Presently, the following special drawbridge operating regulation is in effect: The draw shall open on signal at any time for the passage of commercial vessels. The draw shall open at any time for the passage of pleasure vessels; except that, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday except Federal holidays, the draw need be opened only on the hour and half hour or when five or more pleasure vessels are waiting to pass or in emergencies or severe storms. When

the draw is open for commercial vessels during these restricted periods, accumulated pleasure vessels shall be passed.

Dated: February 12, 1998.

**T.W. Josiah,***Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,  
Eighth Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 98-4834 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**[CGD05-97-072]  
RIN 2115-AE47**Drawbridge Operation Regulations;  
Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, North  
Carolina**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is changing the regulations that govern the operation of the Onslow Beach Swing Bridge across the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW), mile 240.7, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, at the request of the United States Marine Corps (USMC).

The final rule continues to provide for openings on signal, except that from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the draw will only open on the hour and half hour, year-round. This rule is intended to reduce vehicular traffic delays while still providing for the reasonable needs of navigation.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective on March 27, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents as indicated in this preamble are available for inspection or copying at the office of the Commander (Aowb), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6222.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ann Deaton, Bridge Administrator, Fifth Coast Guard District, (757) 398-6222.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Regulatory History**

On October 16, 1997, the Coast Guard published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, North Carolina" in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 53770). The Coast Guard received one

letter commenting on the proposed rulemaking. No public hearing was requested and none was held.

**Background and Purpose**

The Onslow Beach Swing Bridge and adjoining property are part of the Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune military reservation, located adjacent to Jacksonville, North Carolina. The current regulations require the Onslow Beach Swing Bridge to open on signal at all times. This requirement is included in the general operating regulations at 33 CFR 117.5.

The USMC requested changes in the regulation to require the bridge to open on signal, except from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., when the bridge would open on the hour and half hour.

Prior to publishing the NPRM, the Coast Guard reviewed the USMC's bridge logs from October 1993 through July 1997 which revealed an average of 38 bridge opening requests per day. During peak opening periods in the Fall and Spring, bridge tenders received an average of 45 bridge opening requests per day. Considering the minimal number of openings identified by the bridge logs, the Coast Guard believes that this rule will more fairly balance the competing needs of vehicular and vessel traffic.

Other drawbridges along the AICW in North Carolina are governed by specific regulations listed in 33 CFR 117.821 which require them to open on the hour or on the hour and half hour. The USMC's requested change to the regulations for the Onslow Beach Swing Bridge would make its schedule consistent with those for the other AICW drawbridges in North Carolina.

Therefore, the Coast Guard is amending § 117.821 by revising paragraph (a)(3) to require the Onslow Beach Swing Bridge across the AICW, mile 240.7, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to open on signal except that openings will be limited to on the hour and half hour, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The final rule also amends § 117.821(a) by deleting the text stating that the bridge shall open on signal for public vessels of the United States, state and local government vessels, and any vessel in an emergency involving danger to life or property. This is a general requirement published at 33 CFR 117.31, which is no longer required in each specific bridge regulation. Commercial vessels will continue to pass on signal as provided in new paragraph (a).

To ensure clarity and consistency of the operating regulation, parts of former paragraph (b) have been reworded and