

366-4723 or by writing to the contact person below. Please include your name, address, and phone number in your letter/postcard. Also, remember that space is limited and registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gwyneth Radloff, Office of General Counsel (C-50), Department of Transportation, Room 10424, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Phone: (202) 366-4723 (voice), (202) 755-7687 (TDD); Email: gwyneth.radloff@ost.dot.gov.

Issued in Washington, D. C., this 31st day of August, 1999.

Neil Eisner,

Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-1998-4501]

**Navigation Safety Advisory Council;
North Puget Sound Long-Term Risk
Management Panel**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The North Puget Sound Long-term Risk Management Panel will meet for the first time to discuss various issues relating to the maritime safety in the North Puget Sound area. The Coast Guard is creating the Panel under the charter for the Navigation Safety Advisory Council (NAVSAC). The meeting and all subsequent meetings will be open to the public.

DATES: The North Puget Sound Long-Term Risk Management Panel will meet on Thursday and Friday, September 23 and 24, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Panel will meet at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Western Regional Center in Building 9, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Seattle, WA 98115. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Captain Scott Davis, Coast Guard Thirteenth District, 206-220-7210, or Mr. Joe Stohr, State of Washington Department of Ecology, 360-407-7450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

North Puget Sound Long-Term Risk Management Panel

The Coast Guard is creating the North Puget Sound Long-Term Risk

Management Panel under the charter of the Navigation Safety Advisory Council (NAVSAC) (a Federal advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. 2). The Panel will develop an integrated plan for managing the marine safety risks in the North Puget Sound area and adjacent waters. The geographic area includes the entrance and approaches to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Admiralty Inlet, Haro Strait and Boundary Pass, Rosario Strait, and the Strait of Georgia. The Panel will consider all relevant information and evaluate all potential measures to improve marine safety in the North Puget Sound area. By June 15, 2000, the Panel will submit a report of its recommendations via NAVSAC to the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Governor of the State of Washington. Recommendations may involve international, Federal, State, and voluntary activities and measures. The Panel will be chaired by RADM Paul Blayney, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Thirteenth District, and Mr. Thomas Fitzsimmons, Director, State of Washington Department of Ecology.

In accordance with NAVSAC's charter, the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard will invite the members of the Panel. Each member will represent one of the following groups:

1. Native Americans (1 seat).
2. Puget Sound Steamship Operators Association (1 seat).
3. Western States Petroleum Association (2 seats).
4. County governments (2 seats).
5. North Pacific Fishing Vessel Operators Association (1 seat).
6. Washington Environmental Council (2 seats).
7. Washington Public Ports Association (1 seat).
8. Shellfish Growers Association (1 seat).
9. American Waterways Operators (1 seat).
10. Puget Sound Pilots Association (1 seat).
11. City Government (1 seat).
12. State legislators (4 seats).
13. U.S. Congressional staff (1 seat).
14. Canadian Coast Guard (1 seat).
15. Transport Canada (1 seat).

Agendas of Meetings

The meetings will include evaluations of the components of the existing safety system as well as detailed discussions of various potential improvements to maritime safety in the region. The Panel will use an approach based on recognized risk assessment and risk management practices to develop an integrated plan to manage identified risks. The plan development process

will include evaluation of a broad range of information about the safety and marine transportation systems along with relevant risk information on hazards, incident history, oil movements, environmental sensitivity, response capability and other information.

Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Procedural

The meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may close early if all business is finished. At the Co-Chairs' discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. The Co-Chairs and the Panel members will determine the time and place of subsequent meetings of the Panel. For information about subsequent meetings, contact a person listed in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact Captain Scott Davis at 206-220-7210.

Dated: August 30, 1999.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-1998-4765]

**Coast Guard "Optimize Training Infrastructure" Initiative:
Programmatic Environmental
Assessment and Proposed Finding of
No Significant Impact**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability, notice of meetings, and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the "Optimize Training Infrastructure" (OTI) Initiative. The OTI Initiative examined the ability of the Coast Guard's training infrastructure (training methods, personnel, and facilities) to support changing technological and operational conditions in an efficient, cost-effective manner. This notice also announces