

Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

The Coast Guard analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This proposed rule is not an economically significant rule and does not pose an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Indian Tribal Governments

This proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. A rule with tribal implications has a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under figure 2–1, (34)(g), of Commandant Instruction M16475.ID, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. A “Categorical Exclusion Determination” is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191, 33 CFR 1.05–1(g), 6.04–1, 6.04–6, 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. Add § 165.114 to read as follows:

§ 165.114 Safety and Security Zones: High Interest Vessel-Boston Harbor, Weymouth Fore River, and Salem Harbor, Massachusetts.

(a) **Location.** The following waters within the Boston Captain of the Port Zone 1000 yards ahead and astern, and 200 yards on each side of any High Interest vessel are established as safety and security zones: (1) All waters of Boston Inner Harbor, including the waters of the Mystic River, Chelsea River, and Reserved Channel west of a line running from Deer Island Light at position 42°20'25"N, 070°57'15"W to Long Island at position 42°19'48"N, 070°57'15"W, and west of the Long Island Bridge, running from Long Island to Moon Head; (2) in Salem Inner Harbor, all waters southwest of a line running from Juniper Point at position 42°32'02"N, 070°51'52"W and Fluen Point at position 42°31'16"N, 070°51'12"W; and (3) all waters of the Weymouth Fore River Channel, Hingham Bay and Hull Bay south of a line running from Windmill Point at position 42°18'14"N, 070°55'19"W to Peddocks Island at position 42°18'10"N, 070°55'38"W and east of a line running across West Gut from West Head at position 42°17'13"N, 070°56'55"W and Nut Island at position 42°16'48"N, 070°57'15"W.

(b) **High interest vessels.** For the purposes of this rule, high interest vessels operating in Boston Harbor, Salem Harbor or the Weymouth Fore River, include the following: barges or ships carrying gasoline, chlorine, anhydrous ammonia, or any other bulk hazardous chemicals or other cargo deemed to be high interest by the Captain of the Port; passenger vessels; or any other vessels deemed to be of high interest by the Captain of the Port, Boston under the circumstances. For purposes of this rule, neither small passenger vessels regulated by 33 CFR, chapter 1, subchapter T, nor liquefied natural gas carrier vessels will be considered HIVs.

(c) *Regulations.*

(1) In accordance with the general regulations in §§ 165.23 and 165.33, entry into or movement within this zone will be prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Boston.

(2) All vessel operators shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or the designated on-scene U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel. On-scene Coast Guard patrol personnel include commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the Coast Guard on board Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, local, state, and federal law enforcement vessels.

Dated: January 9, 2002.

B.M. Salerno,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Boston, Massachusetts.

[FR Doc. 02–1358 Filed 1–15–02; 3:13 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910–15–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 167

[USCG–2001–11201]

Port Access Routes Study; Along the Sea Coast and in the Approaches to the Cape Fear River and Beaufort Inlet, NC

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of study; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is conducting a Port Access Routes Study (PARS) to evaluate the need for vessel routing or other vessel traffic management measures along the sea coast of North Carolina and in the approaches to the Cape Fear River and Beaufort Inlet. The goal of the study is to help reduce the risk of marine casualties and increase vessel traffic management efficiency in the study area. The recommendations of the study may lead to future rulemaking action or appropriate international agreements.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before March 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: To make sure that your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility (USCG–2001–11201), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202–493–2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this document. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, will

become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice of study, call Tom Flynn, Project Officer, Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch, Fifth Coast Guard District, telephone 757-398-6229, e-mail TWflynn@lantd5.uscg.mil; or George Detweiler, Office of Vessel Traffic Management, Coast Guard, telephone 202-267-0574, e-mail Gdetweiler@comdt.uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-5149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this study by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this notice of study (USCG-2001-11201), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, hand delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**, but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know that they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for one to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this study, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Definitions

The following definitions should help you review this notice:

Area to be avoided (ATBA) means a routing measure comprising an area within defined limits in which either navigation is particularly hazardous or it is exceptionally important to avoid casualties and which should be avoided by all ships, or certain classes of ships.

Deep-water route is a route within defined limits, which has been accurately surveyed for clearance of sea bottom, and submerged obstacles as indicated on nautical charts.

Inshore traffic zone is a routing measure comprising a designated area between the landward boundary of a traffic separation scheme and the adjacent coast, to be used in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10(d), as amended, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGS).

Precautionary area means a routing measure comprising an area within defined limits where ships must navigate with particular caution and within which the direction of traffic flow may be recommended.

Recommended route means a route of undefined width, for the convenience of ships in transit, which is often marked by centerline buoys.

Recommended track is a route which has been specifically examined to ensure so far as possible that it is free of dangers and along which ships are advised to navigate.

Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) is a water area within a defined boundary for which regulations for vessels navigating within the area have been established under 33 CFR part 165.

Roundabout is a routing measure comprising a separation point or circular separation zone and a circular separation zone and a circular traffic lane within defined limits. Traffic within the roundabout is separated by moving in a counterclockwise direction around the separation point or zone.

Separation zone or separation line means a zone or line separating the traffic lanes in which ships are proceeding in opposite or nearly opposite directions; or from the adjacent sea area; or separating traffic lanes designated for particular classes of ships proceeding in the same direction.

Traffic lane means an area within defined width in which one-way traffic is established. Natural obstacles, including those forming separation zones, may constitute a boundary.

Traffic separation scheme (TSS) means a routing measure aimed at the separation of opposing streams of traffic by appropriate means and by the establishment of traffic lanes.

Two-way route is a route within defined limits inside which two-way

traffic is established, aimed at providing safe passage of ships through waters where navigation is difficult or dangerous.

Vessel routing system means any system of one or more routes or routing measures aimed at reducing the risk of casualties; it includes traffic separation schemes, two-way routes, recommended tracks, areas to be avoided, inshore traffic zones, roundabouts, precautionary areas, and deep-water routes.

Background and Purpose

Port Access Route Study

Requirements. Under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (PWSA), the Secretary of Transportation may designate necessary fairways and TSS's to provide safe access routes for vessels proceeding to and from U.S. ports (33 U.S.C. 1223 (c)). The Secretary's authority to make these designations was delegated to the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1.46. The designation of fairways and TSS's recognizes the paramount right of navigation over all other uses in the designated areas.

The PWSA requires the Coast Guard to conduct a study of port-access routes before establishing or adjusting fairways or TSS's. Through the study process, we must coordinate with Federal, State, and foreign state agencies (as appropriate) and consider the views of maritime community representatives, environmental groups, and other interested stakeholders. A primary purpose of this coordination is, to the extent practicable, to reconcile the need for safe access routes with other reasonable waterway uses.

Initial port access route study. The approaches to the Cape Fear River and Beaufort Inlet, NC were last studied in 1981, and the final results were published in the **Federal Register** on July 22, 1982 (47 FR 31766). The study concluded that "there is no need to impose new ship routing measures such as TSS's or shipping safety fairways where fixed structures would be prohibited, in any" area off the North Carolina coast.

Why is a new port access route study necessary? Vessel size, traffic density and channel depth and width have changed since the 1981 study. Major channel depth, width and alignment changes are currently underway in the Cape Fear River and port of Wilmington, NC. A PARS was initiated in 1996 (61 FR 35703; July 8, 1996), but was not completed due to personnel and funding issues.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (ACoE) report, "Waterborne Commerce

of the United States" reports that, from 1981 to 1999, annual trips to and from the Port of Wilmington, NC, increased from 10,060 to 24,190 or 140% and the number of trips to and from Morehead City, NC, decreased from 7,842 to 3,388 or 57%. Since 1981 the Army Corps of Engineers maintained Federal Navigation Project for the Cape Fear River ocean bar channel has increased the channel depth from 38 feet to 40 feet. Dredging is currently underway in the Cape Fear River, which will deepen the channels from the Atlantic Ocean to Wilmington to 42 feet and to 44 feet over the ocean bar. The project depth for Beaufort Inlet/Morehead City has increased from 42 feet to 45 feet.

Timeline, area, and process of this PARS. The Fifth Coast Guard District will conduct this PARS to determine the need to modify existing routing measures and the effects of potential modifications in the study area. The study will begin immediately and we anticipate the study will be completed by January 31, 2002.

The study area will encompass the area bounded by a line connecting the following geographic points (All coordinates are NAD 1983):

Latitude	Longitude
34°40'N	77°00'W
34°40'N	76°15'W
34°10'N	76°15'W
33°15'N	77°30'W
33°00'N	78°20'W
33°50'N	78°20'W
33°50'N	77°55'W

The study area encompasses the approaches to the Cape Fear River and Beaufort Inlet, as well as the area offshore of North Carolina used by commercial and public vessels transiting to and from these ports.

As part of this study, we will consider previous studies, analyses of vessel traffic density, and agency and stakeholder experience in vessel traffic management, navigation, ship handling, and effects of weather. We encourage you to participate in the study process by submitting comments in response to this notice.

We will publish the results of the PARS in the **Federal Register**. It is possible that the study may validate continued applicability of existing vessel routing measures and conclude that no changes are necessary. It is also possible that the study may recommend one or more changes to enhance navigational safety and vessel traffic management efficiency. Study recommendations may lead to future rulemakings or appropriate international agreements.

Potential Study Recommendations

We are attempting to determine the scope of any safety problems associated with vessel transits in the study area. We expect that information gathered during the study will identify any problems and appropriate solutions. The study may recommend that we—

- Maintain the current vessel routing measures;
- Establish a TSS in the Approaches to the Cape Fear River;
- Establish a TSS in the Approaches to Beaufort Inlet;
- Establish a TSS off North Carolina encompassing the routes typically used by merchant and naval vessels transiting the study area;
- Establish a Precautionary Area(s) near either or both Approaches;
- Establish an Inshore Traffic Zone(s) near either or both approaches;
- Establish an Area to be Avoided (ATBA) in shallow areas where the risk of grounding is present;
- Create Anchorage Grounds(s); and
- Establish a Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) with specific vessel operating requirements to ensure safe navigation near shallow water.

Questions

To help us conduct the port access route study, we request comments on the following questions, although comments on other issues addressed in this document are also welcome. In responding to a question, please explain your reasons for each answer, and follow the instructions under "Request for Comments" above.

1. What navigational hazards do vessels operating in the study area face? Please describe.
2. Are there strains on the current vessel routing system (increasing traffic density, for example)? If so, please describe.
3. Are modifications to existing vessel routing measures needed to address hazards and strains and improve traffic management efficiency in the study area? Why or why not? If so, what measures should the study of port-access routes address for potential implementation?
4. What costs and benefits are associated with the measures listed as potential study recommendations? What measures do you think are most cost-effective?
5. What impacts, both positive and negative, would changes to existing routing measures or new routing measures have on the study area?

Dated: December 27, 2001.

Joseph J. Angelo,
Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 02-1371 Filed 1-17-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

43 CFR Parts 3430 and 3470

[WO-320-1430-PB-24 1A]

RIN 1004-AD43

Coal Management: Noncompetitive Leases; Coal Management Provisions and Limitations

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The purposes of this proposed rule are to correct a technical error relating to coal lease modifications made in a final rule published on September 28, 1999 (64 FR 52239)(the 1999 rule), and to amend the regulations to reflect the statutory increase in the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an individual or entity in any one state as well as nationally.

This rule would revise the regulations of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to reflect correction of a technical error regarding the requirement of a public hearing and publication (in the **Federal Register** and a general circulation newspaper) of a notice of availability of environmental analysis documents for coal lease modifications. This error was made in conjunction with the BLM's September 1999 regulatory revisions incorporating public participation procedures into the competitive coal leasing regulations.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received or postmarked by February 19, 2002, to be assured consideration in developing a final rule.

ADDRESSES: Mail: Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, Administrative Record, Room 401 LS, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Personal or messenger delivery: Room 401, 1620 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

For information about the requirements for filing comments and how to file comments electronically, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section under "Public Comment Procedures and Information."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Mary Linda Ponticelli at (202) 452-0350.