

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 100**

[Docket No. USCG–2012–0046]

RIN 1625–AA08

Special Local Regulation for Marine Events; Temporary Change of Dates for Recurring Marine Events in the Fifth Coast Guard District, Ocean City Maryland Offshore Grand Prix, Ocean City, MD**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to temporarily change the enforcement period of special local regulations for one recurring marine event in the Fifth Coast Guard District, specifically, the “Ocean City Maryland Offshore Grand Prix,” hydroplane races on the North Atlantic Ocean near Ocean City, Maryland. The event consists of approximately 50 V-hull and twin-hull inboard hydroplanes racing in heats counter-clockwise around an oval race course, this regulation is necessary to provide for the safety of life on navigable waters during the event. This action is intended to restrict vessel traffic in portions of the North Atlantic Ocean near Ocean City, Maryland during the event.

DATES: Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before April 5, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2012–0046 using any one of the following methods:

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

(2) *Fax:* 202–493–2251.

(3) *Mail:* Docket Management Facility (M–30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(4) *Hand delivery:* Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this proposed

rule, call or email. If you have questions on this temporary rule, call or email LCDR Christopher O’Neal, Waterways Management Division Chief, Sector Hampton Roads, Coast Guard; telephone 757–668–5581, email

Christopher.A.ONeal@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Public Participation and Request for Comments**

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related materials. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided.

Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking (USCG–2012–0046), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online (via <http://www.regulations.gov>) or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. If you submit a comment online via www.regulations.gov, it will be considered received by the Coast Guard when you successfully transmit the comment. If you fax, hand deliver, or mail your comment, it will be considered as having been received by the Coast Guard when it is received at the Docket Management Facility. We recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type the docket number (USCG–2012–0046) in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on “Submit a Comment” on the line associated with this rulemaking.

If you submit your comments 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 comments 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 and may change the rule based on your comments.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type the docket number (USCG–2012–0046) in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this rulemaking. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the Department of Transportation West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review a Privacy Act notice regarding our public dockets in the January 17, 2008, issue of the **Federal Register** (73 FR 3316).

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting, but you may submit a request for one using one of the four methods specified under **ADDRESSES**. Please explain why you believe a public meeting would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the public meeting, contact LCDR Christopher O’Neal at the telephone number or email address indicated under the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

Basis and Purpose

Marine events are frequently held on the navigable waters within the boundary of Fifth Coast Guard District. The water activities that typically comprise marine events include sailing regattas, power boat races, swim races and holiday parades. For a description of the geographical area of each Coast Guard Sector—Captain of the Port Zone, please see 33 CFR 3.25.

This regulation proposes to temporarily change the enforcement period of special local regulations for one recurring marine event within Fifth

Coast Guard District. This proposed regulation applies to one marine event in 33 CFR 100.501, Table to § 100.501.

The Offshore Performance Association (OPA) Racing LLC annually sponsors the “Ocean City Maryland Offshore Grand Prix”, on the waters of the North Atlantic Ocean near Ocean City, Maryland. This year, the event will be held on May 13, 2012. The regulation at 33 CFR 100.501 is effective annually for Ocean City Offshore Challenge marine event. The event consists of approximately 50 V-hull and twin-hull inboard hydroplanes racing in heats counter-clockwise around an oval race course. A fleet of spectator vessels is expected to gather near the event site to view the competition. Therefore, to ensure the safety of participants, spectators, support and transiting vessels, the Coast Guard will temporarily restrict vessel traffic in the event area during the hydroplane races. The regulation at 33 CFR 100.501 would be enforced for the duration of the event. Under the provisions of 33 CFR 100.501, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 13, 2012, vessels may not enter the regulated area unless they receive permission from the Coast Guard Patrol Commander.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary special local regulation on specified waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, in Ocean City, Maryland. The regulated area will be established in the interest of public safety during the “Ocean City Offshore Grand Prix”, and will be enforced from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 13, 2012. The Coast Guard, at its discretion, when practical will allow the passage of vessels when races are not taking place. Except for participants and vessels authorized by the Captain of the Port or his Representative, no person or vessel may enter or remain in the regulated area.

Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed rule after considering numerous statutes and executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on 13 of these statutes or executive orders.

Regulatory Planning and Review

This rulemaking is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, as supplemented by Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of Executive Order 12866

or under section 1 of Executive Order 13563. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under those Orders.

We expect the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation is unnecessary. Although this rule prevents traffic from transiting a portion of certain waterways during specified times, the effect of this regulation will not be significant due to the limited duration that the regulated area will be in effect and the extensive advance notifications that will be made to the maritime community via marine information broadcasts, local radio stations and area newspapers so mariners can adjust their plans accordingly. Additionally, this rulemaking does not change the permanent regulated areas that have been published in 33 CFR 100.501, Table to § 100.501. In some cases vessel traffic may be able to transit the regulated area when the Coast Guard Patrol Commander deems it is safe to do so.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we have considered whether this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

This proposed rule would affect the following entities, some of which might be small entities: the owners or operators of vessels intending to transit this section of the North Atlantic during the event.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it. This regulation will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities because: (i) It will be enforced only for a short period of time on two consecutive days; (ii) vessels may be granted the opportunity to transit the safety zone during the

period of enforcement if the Patrol Commander deems it safe to do so; (iii) vessels may transit around the safety zone; and (iv) before the enforcement period, the Coast Guard will issue maritime advisories so mariners can adjust their plans accordingly.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact LCDR Christopher O’Neal. The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this proposed rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.).

Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this proposed rule would not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would not cause a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with

Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

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

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and would not create an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that might 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, because it would not have 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.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a “significant energy action” under that order because it is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect

on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. The Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has not designated it as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Technical Standards

The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA) (15 U.S.C. 272 note) directs agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in their regulatory activities unless the agency provides Congress, through the Office of Management and Budget, with an explanation of why using these standards would be inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical. Voluntary consensus standards are technical standards (e.g., specifications of materials, performance, design, or operation; test methods; sampling procedures; and related management systems practices) that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies.

This proposed rule does not use technical standards. Therefore, we did not consider the use of voluntary consensus standards.

Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023–01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have made a preliminary determination that this action is one of a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule is

categorically excluded, under figure 2–1, paragraph (34)(h), of the Instruction. This rule involves implementation of regulations within 33 CFR Part 100 that apply to organized marine events on the navigable waters of the United States that may have potential for negative impact on the safety or other interest of waterway users and shore side activities in the event area. The category of water activities includes but is not limited to sail boat regattas, boat parades, power boat racing, swimming events, crew racing, and sail board racing. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

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

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

PART 100—SAFETY OF LIFE ON NAVIGABLE WATERS

1. The authority citation for part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1233.

2. In § 100.501, suspend line No. 38 in the Table to § 100.501.

3. In § 100.501, add line No.(c.)24 in Table to § 100.501; to read as follows:

§ 100.501–35T05–0046 Special Local Regulations; Marine Events in the Fifth Coast Guard District.

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Table To § 100.501.—All coordinates listed in the Table to § 100.501 reference Datum NAD 1983.

(C.) COAST GUARD SECTOR HAMPTON ROADS—COTP ZONE

Number	Date	Event	Sponsor	Location
24	May 13, 2012	Ocean City Maryland Off-shore Grand Prix.	Offshore Performance Assn. Racing, LLC.	The waters of the Atlantic Ocean commencing at a point on the shoreline at latitude 38°25'42" N, longitude 075°03'06" W; thence east southeast to latitude 38°25'30" N, longitude 075°02'12" W, thence south southwest parallel to the Ocean City shoreline to latitude 38°19'12" N, longitude 075°03'48" W; thence west northwest to the shoreline at latitude 38°19'30" N, longitude 075°05'00" W. The waters of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by a line drawn from a position along the shoreline near Ocean City, MD at latitude 38°22'25.2" N, longitude 075°03'49.4" W, thence easterly to latitude 38°22'00.4" N, longitude 075°02'34.8" W, thence southwesterly to latitude 38°19'35.9" N, longitude 075°03'35.4" W, thence westerly to a position near the shoreline at latitude 38°20'05" N, longitude 075°04'48.4" W, thence northerly along the shoreline to the point of origin.

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Dated: February 17, 2012.

Mark S. Ogle,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Hampton Roads.

[FR Doc. 2012-6380 Filed 3-15-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 60

RIN 2900-AN79

Fisher House and Other Temporary Lodging

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to amend its regulations concerning Fisher House and other temporary lodging furnished by VA while a veteran is experiencing an episode of care at a VA medical facility. We intend that the proposed rule would update current regulations to better describe the application process for this assistance and clarify the distinctions between Fisher House and other temporary lodging provided by VA. The proposed rule generally reflects current VA policy and practice, and conforms to industry standards and expectations.

DATES: Comments must be received by VA on or before May 15, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted through <http://www.regulations.gov>; by mail or hand delivery to the Director, Regulation Policy and Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to

(202) 273-9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AN79, Fisher House and Other Temporary Lodging". Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Amdur, Chief Consultant, Care Management and Social Work Service (11SW), Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-6780. (This is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 1708, VA "may furnish [certain] persons * * * with temporary lodging in a Fisher [H]ouse or other appropriate facility in connection with the examination, treatment, or care of a veteran under [chapter 17]." This authority to provide temporary lodging assists VA in providing appropriate treatment and care to veterans. Individuals receiving such treatment or care often respond better when they are accompanied by relatives, close friends, or caregivers. Thus, the provision of temporary lodging can be an important element of the veteran's treatment. VA implemented its authority under section 1708 in current 38 CFR part 60. However, we have determined that the current rules can be improved to better distinguish between Fisher House and other types of temporary lodging, and to describe the application process in

greater detail. This proposed rule would provide such clarification, adding details where necessary.

Section 60.1 Purpose and scope.

Proposed § 60.1 would state that part 60 applies to the use of Fisher House and other temporary lodging furnished by VA while a veteran is experiencing an episode of care at a VA health care facility.

Section 60.2 Definitions.

Proposed § 60.2 would set forth definitions applicable to part 60. For the purpose of receiving temporary lodging from VA, current regulations use the terms "eligible persons," "a member of the family," people who "provide the equivalent of family support," and "caregivers," to refer to individuals permitted to accompany veterans during their episode of care. However, VA Form 10-0408A, the application form for Fisher House or other temporary lodging, uses the term "accompanying individual" to refer to such persons. For consistency of terms and to eliminate any ambiguity as to whether applicants must be related to the veteran, we propose to uniformly use the term "accompanying individual." We propose to define the term to mean "an individual seeking Fisher House or other temporary lodging, who provides familial support or the equivalent of familial support, to a veteran while the veteran is experiencing an episode of care." The regulation would specifically explain that the term is "defined broadly to include relatives, close friends, and caregivers." This proposed definition would therefore provide for a broader class of individuals permitted to accompany veterans during an episode of care.

Current § 60.2 defines the term "C&P examination." C&P is the acronym