DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2011–1106]

Dynamic Positioning Operations Guidance for Vessels Other Than Mobile Offshore Drilling Units Operating on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Recommended Interim Voluntary Guidance.

SUMMARY: On May 4, 2012 the Coast Guard published a notice of recommended interim voluntary guidance titled “Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit Dynamic Positioning Guidance”. The notice recommended owners and operators of Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs) follow Marine Technology Society (MTS) Dynamic Positioning (DP) operations guidance for MODUs. The Coast Guard is now also recommending owners and operators of all vessels other than MODUs conducting Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities on the U.S. OCS follow the appropriate MTS DP operations guidance for these vessels. In particular, the Coast Guard recommends owners and operators of these vessels operate within an Activity Specific Operating Guideline for each activity and operate with its Critical Activity Mode of Operation when that activity is critical.

DATES: The policy outlined in this document is effective October 12, 2012.

ADDRESSES: This notice and the documents referenced within are available in the docket and can be viewed by going to www.regulations.gov, inserting USCG–2011–1106 in the “Keyword” box, and then clicking “Search.” The recommended interim voluntary guidance titled “Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Dynamic Positioning (DP) Guidance” is also available at www.uscg.mil and can be viewed by clicking the link to the Office of Design and Engineering Standards (CG–ENG) under the “Units,” “USCG Headquarters Organization,” and “CG–5P” tabs, and scrolling down to “Policy Documents.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice or the policy, call or email Commander Joshua Reynolds, Office of Design and Engineering Standards, Human Element and Ship Design Division (CG–ENG–1), telephone (202) 372–1355, or email Joshua.D.Reynolds@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing material in the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202–366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Intent To Publish Rule

On July 7, 2010, in response to a request from the Coast Guard, the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee (NOSAC) issued the report “Recommendations for Dynamic Positioning System Design and Engineering, Operational and Training Standards”. The report recommended the Coast Guard establish minimum Dynamic Positioning (DP) reliability standards and contained draft guidance from the Marine Technology Society (MTS) DP Committee for Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs), logistics and construction vessels, which the MTS has since completed. On May 4, 2012, the Coast Guard published a notice of recommended interim voluntary guidance titled “Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit Dynamic Positioning Guidance” 77 FR 26562. The notice highlighted that DP incidents on MODUs can result in severe consequences including loss of life, pollution, and property damage and recommended owners and operators of MODUs follow MTS DP operations guidance for MODUs. In particular, the Coast Guard recommended owners and operators of MODUs follow MTS DP operations guidance for MODUs. The Coast Guard recognizes that DP incidents on logistics and construction vessels also can result in severe consequences including loss of life, pollution, and property damage.
consequences. Because of this potential, and the recommendation from the NOSAC to set minimum DP reliability standards, the Coast Guard intends to publish a rule that addresses minimum DP design and operating standards for all vessels conducting OCS activities using DP on the U.S. OCS.

Interim Voluntary DP Guidance

Until such time as there is a regulatory requirement, the Coast Guard recommends owners and operators of all vessels other than MODUs conducting OCS activities on the U.S. OCS voluntarily follow guidance provided in the “DP Operations Guidance Prepared through the Dynamic Positioning Committee of the Marine Technology Society to aid in the safe and effective management of DP Operations”, Part 2, Appendix 2, DP Project/Construction Vessels (July 2012)” or “Appendix 3, DP Logistics vessels (July 2012)” as appropriate. These documents are available at http://www.dynamic-positioning.com/dp_operations_guidance.cfm. In particular, the Coast Guard recommends owners and operators of these vessels operate within an Activity Specific Operating Guideline (ASOG) for each OCS activity and operate within the vessel’s CAMO when that OCS activity is critical. Each ASOG should clearly state whether the activity it covers is critical. The Coast Guard further recommends that any vessel engaged in DP Simultaneous Operations (SIMOPS) follow applicable WSOGs and/or ASOGs for DP SIMOPS and operate within their respective CAMOs.

The guidance contained in the notice is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a regulation. It is not intended to nor does it impose legally binding requirements on any party. It represents the Coast Guard’s current thinking on this topic and may assist industry, mariners, the general public, and the Coast Guard, as well as other Federal and State regulators, in applying statutory and regulatory requirements. You can use an alternative approach if the approach satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations.

Authority: This notice is issued under the authority of 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 43 U.S.C. 1331, et seq., and 33 CFR 1.05–1.

Dated: October 2, 2012.

J.G. Lantz, Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards, U.S. Coast Guard.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG–2012–0936]

Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of federal advisory committee meeting.

SUMMARY: The Commercial Fishing Safety Advisory Committee (CFSAC) will meet in Washington, DC to discuss various issues relating to safety in the commercial fishing industry. This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The Committee will meet on October 30, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on October 31, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This meeting may close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before October 25, 2012.

ADDRESS: The Committee will meet at the Coast Guard Headquarters Building (Room 6103), 2100 2nd Street SW., Washington, DC 20593. Attendees will be required to provide a picture identification card and pass through magnetometer in order to gain admittance to the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters Building. Visitors should also arrive at least 30 minutes in case of long lines at the entrance.

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section, as soon as possible.

To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the committee as listed in the “Agenda” section below. You may submit written comments no later than October 25, 2012, and they must be identified by docket number USCG–2012–0936 using one of the following methods:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
• 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. We encourage use of electronic submissions because security screening may delay delivery of mail.
• Fax: (202) 493–2251.
• Hand Delivery: Same as mail address above, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the words “Department of Homeland Security” and docket number [USCG–2012–0936]. All submissions received will be posted without alteration at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. 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, 2006 issue of the Federal Register (73 FR 3116).

Docket: Any background information or presentations available prior to the meeting will be published in the docket. For access to the docket to read background documents or submissions received by the CFSAC, go to http://www.regulations.gov., insert “USCG–2012–0936” in the “Keyword” box, and then click “Search”.

Public comments and questions may be taken by the Designated Federal Official (DFO) throughout the meeting as each issue is presented or discussed. Additionally, a public presentation/comment period will be offered at the end of each day of the meeting, October 30, and 31, 2012, if needed. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to 5 minutes. Please note that the public comment periods, scheduled for 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., will end following the last call for comments. Contact the individual listed below to register as a speaker.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (Pub. L. 92–463). The CFSAC is authorized by 46 U.S.C. 4508 and the Committee’s purpose is to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security on matters relating to the safety of commercial fishing industry vessels.