DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117
[Docket No. USCG–2018–0840]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJICW), Atlantic City, NJ

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the US40–322 (Albany Avenue) Bridge across the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJICW) (Inside Thorofare), mile 70.0, at Atlantic City, NJ. The deviation is necessary to accommodate the free movement of pedestrians and vehicles during the 3rd Annual Iron Man. This deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position.

DATES: The deviation is effective from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 23, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation [USCG–2018–0840], is available at http://www.regulations.gov. Type the docket number in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH”. Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or email Mr. Martin Bridges, Bridge Administration Branch, Fifth District, Coast Guard, telephone 757–398–6422, email Martin.A.Bridges@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The event director, DelMoSports, LLC, with approval from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, who owns and operates the US40–322 (Albany Avenue) Bridge across the NJICW (Inside Thorofare), mile 70.0, at Atlantic City, NJ, has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulations. This temporary deviation is necessary to accommodate the free movement of pedestrians and vehicles during the 3rd Annual Iron Man. The bridge is a double bascule bridge and has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 10 feet above mean high water.

The current operating schedule is set out in 33 CFR 117.733(f). Under this temporary deviation, the bridge will be maintained in the closed-to-navigation position from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 23, 2018. The NJICW (Inside Thorofare) is used by recreational vessels. The Coast Guard has carefully coordinated the restrictions with waterway users in publishing this temporary deviation.

Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed position may do so at anytime. The bridge will be able to open for emergencies and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels unable to pass through the bridge in the closed position. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterway through our Local Notice and Broadcast Notice to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impacts caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of this temporary deviation.

This deviation allows the bridge to remain closed-to-navigation position for 48 hours. Navigation on the waterway consists mainly of tugs with tows, with some commercial fishing vessels and recreational craft. The bridge will be able to open for emergencies, however, an alternate route is available for mariners through the Berwick Locks. The alternate waterway route takes approximately 45 minutes to transit. The Coast Guard has carefully considered the restrictions with waterway users in publishing this temporary deviation. Due to prior experience, as well as coordination with waterway users, the alternate route through Berwick Locks, this closure will not have a significant effect on these vessels. The Coast Guard will also inform the waterway users of the change in operating schedule for the bridge through our Local Notice and Broadcast Notices to Mariners so that vessel operators can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by this temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of each of this temporary deviation.