Guard Boat Stations

Consolidation of Redundant Coast

DHS Department of Homeland Security

II. Background and Purpose

In October of 2017, the GAO issued report GAO–18–9, titled “Actions Needed to Close Stations Identified as Overlapping and Unnecessarily Duplicative.” This GAO report, a copy of which is in the docket for this notice, recommends the consolidation of 18 boat stations. Due to environmental and operational factors, the Coast Guard is not considering all 18 boat stations identified in the GAO report for consolidation this year. Instead, we anticipate consolidating four stations, with implementation notionally scheduled for fiscal year 2022. These stations have been identified because there are other units nearby capable of responding to cases in these areas, and because these four stations respond to a low number of cases. We do not anticipate any adverse effect on Coast Guard response capability. We expect enhanced proficiency of boat operators as well as a less complicated response system.

III. Discussion

The following seasonal stations, Stations-Small Scituate, MA; Holland, MI; North Superior, MN; and Beach Haven, NJ; have been identified for consolidation with neighboring stations. These are seasonal stations are detached subunits of larger parent stations.

This consolidation is expected to result in a more robust response system by increasing staffing levels and capacity at select nearby boat stations. Such a consolidation creates synergy and more opportunities for boat operators to properly train instead of missing training opportunities while standing ready to respond to calls that do not come.

DATES: Written comments and related material may be submitted to the Coast Guard personnel specified below. Your comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before August 3, 2021.

ADDRESS: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2021–0238 using the Federal rulemaking portal at https://www.regulations.gov. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for further instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about this document, please call or email Todd Atkins, Coast Guard Office of Boat Forces, 202–372–2463, todd.r.atkins@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CIR Code of Federal Regulations

DHS Department of Homeland Security

GAO Government Accountability Office

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