(6) Southeast spectator fleet area. The area is bounded by a line commencing at position latitude 38°16′47.20″ N, longitude 076°37′54.80″ W, thence southerly to latitude 38°16′43.30″ N, longitude 076°37′55.20″ W, thence easterly to latitude 38°16′43.20″ N, longitude 076°37′47.80″ W, thence northerly to latitude 38°16′44.80″ N, longitude 076°37′48.20″ W, thence northwesterly to point of origin.

(7) South spectator fleet area. The area is bounded by a line commencing at position latitude 38°16′55.36″ N, longitude 076°38′17.26″ W, thence southeasterly to latitude 38°16′50.39″ N, longitude 076°38′03.69″ W, thence southerly to latitude 38°16′48.87″ N, longitude 076°38′03.68″ W, thence northwesterly to latitude 38°16′53.82″ N, longitude 076°38′17.28″ W, thence northerly to point of origin.

(b) Definitions. As used in this section:

Buffer area is a neutral area that surrounds the perimeter of the Race Area within the regulated area described by this section. The purpose of a buffer area is to minimize potential collision conflicts with marine event participants or race boats and spectator vessels or nearby transiting vessels. This area provides separation between a race area and spectator areas or other vessels that are operating in the vicinity of the regulated area established by the special local regulations.

Captain of the Port (COTP) Maryland-National Capital Region means the Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region or any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer who has been authorized by the COTP to act on his behalf.

Event Patrol Commander or Event PATCOM means a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard who has been designated by the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region.

Milling area is an area described by a line bound by coordinates provided in latitude and longitude that outlines the boundary of a milling area within the regulated area defined by this section. The area is used before a demonstration starts to warm up the boats engines.

Official Patrol means any vessel assigned or approved by Commander, Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer on board and displaying a Coast Guard ensign.

Participant means a person or vessel registered with the event sponsor as participating in the Southern Maryland Boat Club Leonardtown Regatta or otherwise designated by the event sponsor as having a function tied to the event.

Race area is an area described by a line bound by coordinates provided in latitude and longitude that outlines the boundary of a high-speed power boat demonstration area within the regulated area defined by this section.

Spectator means a person or vessel not registered with the event sponsor as participants or assigned as official patrols and is present with the purpose of observing the event.

Spectator area is an area described by a line bound by coordinates provided in latitude and longitude that outlines the boundary of a spectator area within the regulated area defined by this section.

(c) Special local regulations:

(1) The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or Event PATCOM may forbid and control the movement of all vessels and persons, including event participants, in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol, a vessel or person in the regulated area shall immediately comply with the directions given by the patrol. Failure to do so may result in the Coast Guard expelling the person or vessel from the area, issuing a citation for failure to comply, or both. The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or Event PATCOM may terminate the event, or a participant’s operations at any time the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or Event PATCOM believes it necessary to do so for the protection of life or property.

(2) Except for participants and vessels already at berth, a person or vessel within the regulated area at the start of enforcement of this section must immediately depart the regulated area.

(3) A spectator must contact the Event PATCOM to request permission to either enter or pass through the regulated area. The Event PATCOM, and official patrol vessels enforcing this regulated area, can be contacted on marine band radio VHF–FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz) and channel 22A (157.1 MHz). If permission is granted, the spectator must pass directly through the regulated area as instructed by Event PATCOM. A vessel within the regulated area must operate at safe speed that minimizes wake.

(4) Only participant vessels and official patrol vessels are allowed to enter the race area and milling area.

(5) Only participant vessels and official patrol vessels are allowed to enter and transit directly through the buffer area, in order to arrive at or depart from the race area.

(6) A person or vessel that desires to transit, moor, or anchor within the regulated area must obtain authorization from the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region or PATCOM. A person or vessel seeking such permission can contact the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region at telephone number 410–576–2693 or on Marine Band Radio, VHF–FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz) or the PATCOM on Marine Band Radio, VHF–FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz).

(7) The Coast Guard will publish a notice in the Fifth Coast Guard District Local Notice to Mariners and issue a marine information broadcast on VHF–FM marine band radio announcing specific event date and times.

(d) Enforcement officials. The Coast Guard may be assisted with marine event patrol and enforcement of the regulated area by other Federal, State, and local agencies.

(e) Enforcement period. This section will be enforced from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 31, 2021, and, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 1, 2021.

Dated: July 6, 2021.

David E. O’Connell.

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2021–0392]

RIN 1625–AA00

Fixed and Moving Safety Zone; Around the USACE Bank Grading Units and USACE Mat Sinking Unit

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary fixed and moving safety zone for all waters within 300 yards of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Bank Grading Units and USACE Mat Sinking Unit while operating on the Lower Mississippi River between MM332 through MM862. The safety zone is needed to protect persons, property, infrastructure, and the marine environment from the potential safety hazards associated with the bank grading and mat sinking operations performed by the USACE. During the effective period, USACE operations may require at times one way traffic, or complete closures during daylight hours when no traffic will be allowed to transit within 300 yards of
the operation. Broadcast Notice to Mariners will be used to inform marine traffic of these times based on notice provided by the USACE. Deviation from the safety zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port, Lower Mississippi River, or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from July 15, 2021 until December 31, 2021.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to https://www.regulations.gov, type USCG–2021–0392 in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH.” Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this rule.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email MSTC Lindsey Swindle, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 901–521–4813, email Lindsey.M.Swindle@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
COTP Captain of the Port Sector Lower Mississippi River
DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
§ Section

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because the USACE is taking necessary and immediate action to protect persons, property, infrastructure, and the marine environment.. Completing the full NPRM process is impracticable because the USCG must establish this safety zone as soon as possible to protect persons, property, infrastructure, and the marine environment from the potential safety hazards associated with the time critical USACE operations. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be contrary to the public interest because we must respond to the potential safety hazards associated with the bank grading and mat sinking operations in the LMR by July 15, 2021.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231). The Captain of the Port (COTP, LMR has determined that potential hazards associated with the bank grading and mat sinking operations will be a safety concern for anyone within a 300 yard radius of USAE equipment. This rule is needed to protect persons, property, infrastructure, and the marine environment within the safety zone while USACE operations are being conducted.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a temporary safety zone from July 15, 2021, through December 31, 2021. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters of the LMR from Mile Marker (MM) 332 through MM 862 extending the entire width of the river. The safety zone will only be activated when USACE operations preclude safe navigation of the established channel. The duration of the zone is intended to protect persons, property, infrastructure, and the marine environment in these navigable waters while operations are being conducted. Broadcast Notice to Mariners will be used to inform marine traffic of these times based on notice provided by the USACE.

Entry of persons or vessels into this safety zone is prohibited unless authorized by the COTP or a designated representative. A designated representative is a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard assigned to units under the operational control of USCG Sector Lower Mississippi River. Persons or vessels seeking to enter the safety zones must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative on VHF–FM channel 16 or by telephone at 314–2609–2332. If permission is granted, all persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or designated representative. The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the enforcement times and date for this safety zone through Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs), as appropriate.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive Orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive Orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, and duration of the safety zone. This safety zone will temporarily restrict navigation on the LMR from MM 332 through MM 863, from July 15, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Moreover, The Coast Guard will issue BNMs, LNMs, and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins as appropriate. The rule allows vessels to seek permission to enter the zone.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. 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 rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the temporary safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

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 rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees.
implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a temporary safety zone on the LMR from MM 332 through MM 863, that will prohibit entry into this temporary zone. The safety zone will only be enforced while operations preclude the safe navigation of the established channel. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60 of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

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 amends 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: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

2. Add §165.T08–0392 to read as follows:

§165.T08–0392 Fixed and Moving Safety Zone; around USACE Bank Grading Unit and USACE Mat Sinking Unit.

(a) Location. The following area is a safety zone: All waters of the Lower Mississippi River from MM 332 through MM 863.

(b) Regulations. (1) The safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section will be activated when USACE operations preclude safe navigation of the established channel. The Coast Guard will inform marine traffic of the of the times the safety zone is activated using Broadcast Notice to Mariners.