

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 117 and 165

[CGD09–03–204]

[RIN 1625–AA09; 1625–AA00]

Temporary Regulations, Saginaw River, August 14–18, 2003

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish proposed temporary safety zones and drawbridge suspension regulations during the Bay City Tall Ship Celebration to be held August 14–18, 2003 located on the Saginaw River in Bay City, Michigan. These safety zones are necessary to promote the safe navigation of vessels and the safety of life and property during the periods of heavy vessel traffic expected during these events. These safety zones are intended to restrict vessel traffic from a portion of Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before April 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand-deliver comments and related material to: Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Detroit, 110 Mt. Elliott Ave, Detroit MI 48207–4380. Marine Safety Office Detroit maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Junior Grade Brandon Sullivan, Marine Safety Office Detroit, at (313) 568–9580.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (CGD09–03–204), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Comments and attachments should be submitted on 8 1/2" × 11" unbound paper in a format suitable for copying. Persons requesting acknowledgement of receipt of comments should include a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Marine Safety Office Detroit at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one 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**.

Background and Purpose

Bay City Tall Ship Celebration 2003 is a community-wide maritime festival in Bay City, MI, featuring a 12-mile ship parade, fireworks, and in-port viewing and tours of moored historic tall ship vessels between August 14 and August 18, 2003. The parade of ships is the start of the Bay City Celebration. The parade will form in Saginaw Bay and traverse the Saginaw River to the Liberty Bridge and the Friendship Pier.

Vessels will moor at docks along Veterans Park and Wenonah Park between the Liberty Bridge and the Friendship Pier in Bay City. We are proposing to establish a temporary moving safety zone around the parade vessels during the parade to ensure the safety of passengers, crew and visitors. A second proposed temporary safety zone would be established, once the vessels are moored, between the Liberty Bridge and the Friendship Pier (by light buoy 28) mile marker six. Fireworks are scheduled to take place in Veterans Park on August 16, 2003 from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. We believe the proposed temporary

safety zone, which would already be in place for the moored vessels, would be sufficient to protect waterside viewers during the event.

These temporary regulations are prompted by the high degree of control necessary to ensure the safety of both participating and spectator vessels during the events occurring in Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River. These proposed regulations provide guidance on vessel movement controls and proposed safety zones that will be in effect at specified marine locations during specified times. The temporary regulations are specifically designed to minimize adverse impacts on commercial users of the affected waterways.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

The events planned for The Bay City Tall Ships Celebration for the period August 14–18, 2003 are as follows:

(1) *Parade of Ships, August 14, 2003.* Bay City Tall Ship Celebration 2003 will hold its tall ship parade on August 14, 2003. The parade is expected to begin at 2 p.m. in Saginaw Bay. To accommodate the start time, tall ships shall begin mustering at approximately 1 p.m. in Saginaw Bay, near the starting point at position 43°43'54" N, 83°46'54" W (northeast of Saginaw Bay Channel Light "12" (LLNR 10675)).

The parade route starts abeam of Saginaw Bay Channel Light "12" and proceeds up the Saginaw Bay Channel into the Saginaw River. It continues up the Saginaw River to a point near the Veterans Memorial Park and Wenonah Park located between the Liberty Bridge and the Friendship Pier, where the parade will end and the parade vessels will moor.

To ensure the safety of the public during the parade, shoreside public safety vehicles must be fully capable of crossing the Saginaw River. To accommodate this public safety need, the Independence Bridge and the Liberty Bridge will open for vessel traffic on a rotating basis. Thus, both bridges will not be open at the same time.

The Independence Bridge will open for the passage of two to three parade vessels and then close. The vessels will then proceed up the river to the Liberty Bridge, which will open to allow passage. After the Liberty Bridge has closed, the Independence Bridge will open to allow two or three more parade