

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, contact Mr. Jorge Arroyo, Office of Vessel Traffic Management (G-MWV-1), Coast Guard, telephone (202) 267-6277, fax (202) 267-4826 or e-mail: jarroyo@comdt.uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Andrea M. Jenkins, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-0271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Request for Comments

We encourage you to respond to our request for comments by submitting comments and related materials. All comments received will be posted, without change, to <http://dms.dot.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. We have an agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to use the Docket Management Facility. Please see DOT's "Privacy Act" three paragraphs below.

Submitting comments: If you submit a comment, please include your name and address, identify the docket number [USCG-2003-14878], indicate the specific question you are responding to, and give the reason for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by electronic means, mail, fax, or delivery to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know that they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

Viewing comments and documents: To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time and conduct a simple search using the docket number. You may also visit the Docket Management Facility in room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Privacy Act: Anyone can search the electronic form of all 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 the Department of Transportation's Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Questions

In addition to the eight questions that will be the topic of the meetings, published in the **Federal Register** (http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/pdf88/255517_web.pdf) on September 26, 2003 (68 FR 55643), we add the two following questions:

(9) Our final rule published in the **Federal Register** (http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/pdf88/257425_web.pdf) on October 22, 2003 (68 FR 60559), specifically exempted fishing vessels and certain passenger vessels from AIS carriage requirements. Other than costs, are there any specific reasons—particularly regarding safety or security—that warrant these vessels being excluded from AIS carriage? In particular, describe why these vessels should be treated differently from other commercial vessels over 65 feet in length?

(10) Recognizing that the cost of AIS are not insignificant, and are deemed by various commenters as being unreasonable, at what cost point would AIS be reasonable or not impose an undue burden?

Public Meetings

The public meetings regarding this notice on the expansion of Automatic Identification System (AIS) carriage requirements for U.S. waters will be held, respectively—

- November 5, 2003, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. (noon), at 8th Coast Guard District, Hale Boggs Federal Building, Room B100, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

- November 13, 2003, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at New Bedford Whaling Museum, Museum Theater, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740-6398.

- December 9, 2003, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 13th Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 915 Second Avenue, 4th Floor, Northern Auditorium, Seattle, WA 98174.

Dated: October 24, 2003.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 03-27284 Filed 10-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[CGD08-03-044]

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC) will meet to discuss various issues relating to navigational safety on the Lower Mississippi River and related waterways. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The next meeting of LMRWSAC will be held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. This meeting may adjourn early if all business is finished. Requests to make oral presentations or submit written materials for distribution at the meeting should reach the Coast Guard on or before November 12, 2003. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee in advance of the meeting should reach the Coast Guard on or before November 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Crescent City Room Suite 1830 at the World Trade Center Building, 2 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant (LT) Rick Paciorka, Committee Administrator, telephone (504) 589-4222, fax (504) 589-4241. Written materials and requests to make presentations should be mailed to Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office New Orleans, Attn: LT Paciorka, 1615 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of Meeting

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC). The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Introduction of committee members.
- (2) Remarks by CAPT R. W. Branch, Executive Director.
- (3) Approval of the May 6, 2003 minutes.
- (4) Old Business:
 - (a) Captain of the Port status report.
 - (b) VTS update report.
 - (c) PORTS update report.
- (5) New Business.