

contacted via VHF Channel 16. Vessel operators given permission to enter or operate in the safety zone must comply with all directions given to them by the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan, or an on-scene representative.

Dated: June 2, 2017.

A.B. Cocanour,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Lake Michigan.

[FR Doc. 2017-11994 Filed 6-8-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket No. USCG-2017-0416]

RIN 1625-AA00

Safety Zone; Annual Event in the Captain of the Port Buffalo Zone—Thunder on the Niagara Hydroplane Boat Races

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce certain safety zones located in the Code of Federal Regulations. This notice of enforcement includes the Thunder of the Niagara Hydroplane boat races. This action is necessary and intended for the safety of life and property on navigable waters during this event. During each enforcement period, no person or vessel may enter the respective safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port Buffalo.

DATES: The regulation in 33 CFR 165.939(a)(30) will be enforced on August 5 and 6, 2017 from 8:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this notice of enforcement, call or email LT Michael Collet, Chief of Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, 1 Fuhrmann Blvd. Buffalo, NY 14203; telephone 716-843-9322, email SectorBuffaloMarineSafety@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will enforce the Safety Zone; Annual Event in the Captain of the Port Buffalo Zone listed in 33 CFR 165.939(a)(30) for the following event:

(1) *Thunder on the Niagara Hydroplane boat races, North Tonawanda, NY;* The safety zone listed in 33 CFR 165.939(a)(30) will be enforced from 8:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. on August 5 and 6, 2017.

Pursuant to 33 CFR 165.23, entry into, transiting, or anchoring within the safety zone during an enforcement period is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Buffalo or his designated representative. Those seeking permission to enter the safety zone may request permission from the Captain of Port Buffalo via channel 16, VHF-FM. Vessels and persons granted permission to enter the safety zone shall obey the directions of the Captain of the Port Buffalo or his designated representative. While within a safety zone, all vessels shall operate at the minimum speed necessary to maintain a safe course.

This notice of enforcement is issued under authority of 33 CFR 165.939 and 5 U.S.C. 552(a). In addition to this notice of enforcement in the **Federal Register**, the Coast Guard will provide the maritime community with advance notification of this enforcement period via Broadcast Notice to Mariners or Local Notice to Mariners. If the Captain of the Port Buffalo determines that the safety zone need not be enforced for the full duration stated in this notice he or she may use a Broadcast Notice to Mariners to grant general permission to enter the respective safety zone.

Dated: June 5, 2017.

J.S. Dufresne,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Buffalo.

[FR Doc. 2017-11953 Filed 6-8-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2017-0248]

RIN 1625-AA00

Safety Zone; Chincoteague Channel, Chincoteague Islands, VA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for navigable waters of the Chincoteague Channel in the vicinity of Chincoteague Island, Virginia. The safety zone is needed to protect persons, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created during a firework display. Entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Hampton Roads.

DATES: This rule is effective from 9:30 p.m. through 10:30 p.m. on July 1, 2017, or on July 8, 2017, if weather renders the primary date unsuitable.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2017-0248 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 LCDR Barbara Wilk, Waterways Management Division Chief, Sector Hampton Roads, U.S. Coast Guard, telephone 757-668-5580, email HamptonRoadsWaterway@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations
DHS Department of Homeland Security
FR Federal Register
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking
§ Section
U.S.C. United States Code

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 information about the fireworks scheduled for July 1, 2017 was not received by the Coast Guard with sufficient time to allow for an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. It is contrary to the public interest to publish an NPRM because immediate action is needed to ensure the safety of the fireworks participants, patrol vessels, and other vessels transiting the fireworks display area.

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**. A restriction on vessel traffic during the fireworks display scheduled for July 1, 2017 is necessary to protect life, property, and the environment; therefore, a 30-day notice is both impracticable and contrary to public

interest. Delaying the effective date would be contrary to the regulation's intended objectives of protecting persons and vessels and enhancing public and maritime safety.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 33 U.S.C. 1231. The Captain of the Port Hampton Roads (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the fireworks display scheduled for July 1, 2017, with a rain date of July 8, 2017, will be a safety concern for anyone within 60 yards of a point on land and immediately adjacent to navigable waters at latitude 37°55'41" N., longitude 075°23'09" W. This rule is needed to protect persons, vessels, and the marine environment from hazards associated with a fireworks display over the navigable waters of Chincoteague Channel.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a safety zone on Chincoteague Channel, Chincoteague, VA from 9:30 p.m. through 10:30 p.m. on July 1, 2017, with a rain date of July 8, 2017. The safety zone will include all navigable waters within 60 yards of a point on land immediately adjacent to navigable waters at latitude 37°55'41" N., longitude 075°23'09" W. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect persons, vessels, and the marine environment on navigable waters during the fireworks display. Except for participants and vessels authorized by the COTP, no vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone. The COTP will provide notice of enforcement for the safety zone by all appropriate means that conveys notice to affected segments of the public, including publication in the Local Notice to Mariners and Marine Information Broadcasts.

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. Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of

harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This rule has not been designated a "significant regulatory action," under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, duration, and time-of-year of the safety zone. Vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around this safety zone which will impact a small designated area of the Chincoteague Channel in the vicinity of Chincoteague Island, VA for 15 minutes and during a time of year when vessel traffic is normally low. Moreover, the Coast Guard will issue Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the zone and the rule allows vessels to request 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 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 contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you

wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. If you believe this rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023–01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, 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 safety zone lasting less than 15 minutes that will prohibit entry within 60 yards of a point on land immediately adjacent to navigable waters located at latitude 37°55'41" N., longitude 075°23'09" W. This action is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph 34(g) of Figure 2–1 of the Commandant Instruction. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. We request any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this rule.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact 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: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Add § 165.T05–0248 to read as follows:

§ 165.T05–0248 Safety Zone, Chincoteague Channel; Chincoteague Islands, VA.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, Captain of the Port means the Commander, Sector Hampton Roads. Representative means any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer who has been authorized to act on the behalf of the Captain of the Port. Participants mean individuals and vessels involved in the fireworks display.

(b) *Locations.* The following area is a safety zone: All navigable waters of

Chincoteague Channel within 60 yards of the fireworks display located near the shoreline at a point on land at approximate position latitude 37°55'41" N., longitude 075°23'09" W. (NAD 1983).

(c) *Regulations.* (1) All persons are required to comply with the general regulations governing safety zones in § 165.23.

(2) With the exception of participants, entry into or remaining in this safety zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port, Hampton Roads or his designated representatives. All vessels underway within this safety zone at the time it is implemented are to depart the zone immediately.

(3) The Captain of the Port, Hampton Roads or his representative can be contacted at telephone number (757) 668–5555. The Coast Guard and designated security vessels enforcing the safety zone can be contacted on VHF–FM marine band radio channel 13 (165.65 Mhz) and channel 16 (156.8 Mhz).

(4) This section applies to all persons or vessels wishing to transit through the safety zone except participants and vessels that are engaged in the following operations:

- (i) Enforcing laws;
- (ii) Servicing aids to navigation, and
- (iii) Emergency response vessels.

(5) The U.S. Coast Guard may be assisted in the patrol and enforcement of the safety zone by Federal, State, and local agencies.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced from 9:30 p.m. through 10:30 p.m. on July 1, 2017, or on July 8, 2017, if weather renders the primary date unsuitable.

Dated: June 5, 2017.

Richard J. Wester,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Hampton Road.

[FR Doc. 2017–11989 Filed 6–8–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 14

RIN 2900–AP96

Expanded Delegation Authority for Procedures Related to Representation of Claimants

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulations on representation of claimants for VA

benefits to specifically permit additional delegations of authority within the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), update the titles of certain individuals and offices in OGC, and make a minor procedural clarification. These amendments are necessary to allow OGC to streamline the procedures related to representation of claimants and to ensure correct titles of certain individuals and offices in OGC are reflected in the regulations. In addition, a procedural clarification is being made by adding a sentence that was inadvertently omitted from a previous final rule.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This rule is effective June 9, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jonathan Taylor, Benefits Law Group Staff Attorney, Office of the General Counsel (022), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–7699 (this is not a toll-free telephone number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA OGC is streamlining its procedures related to representation of VA claimants because of increased and higher-than-anticipated workload. This document amends 38 CFR part 14 to specifically permit additional delegations of authority and to update titles of OGC positions to reflect the current organization of OGC.

Under 38 U.S.C. chapter 59, the VA Secretary has authority to recognize attorneys, agents, and Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representatives for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of benefit claims; regulate fees charged by accredited attorneys and agents; and prescribe the rules of conduct applicable while providing claims assistance. In December 2006, Congress enacted the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109–461), which significantly amended chapter 59. Section 101 of the Act required VA to: (1) Regulate the qualifications and standards of conduct applicable to accredited attorneys and agents; (2) annually collect information about accredited attorneys' and agents' standing to practice or appear before any court, bar, or Federal or State agency; (3) proscribe accreditation of individuals who have been suspended or disbarred from any such entity without reinstatement; (4) add to the list of grounds for suspension or exclusion of attorneys or agents from further practice before VA; and (5) subject VSO representatives and individuals recognized for a particular claim to suspension and exclusion from further