



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

### 33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2021-0199]

RIN 1625-AA00

### Safety Zones; July 4th Holiday Fireworks in the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region Zone

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

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**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is proposing to establish three temporary safety zones for navigable waters within the Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region Zone. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on these navigable waters of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County, MD, on July 3, 2021, (with alternate date of July 5, 2021), Kent Island Narrows (North Approach) in Queen Anne's County, MD, on July 4, 2021, (with alternate date of July 5, 2021), and Susquehanna River in Harford County, MD, on July 4, 2021, (with alternate date of July 5, 2021), during fireworks displays to commemorate the July 4th holiday. This proposed rulemaking would prohibit persons and vessels from being in these safety zones unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region or a designated representative. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2021-

0199 using the Federal eRulemaking 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:** If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email Mr. Ron Houck, Sector Maryland-National Capital Region Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 410-576-2674, email [Ronald.L.Houck@uscg.mil](mailto:Ronald.L.Houck@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Table of Abbreviations**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COTP	Captain of the Port
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	<b>Federal Register</b>
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code

**II. Background, Purpose, and Legal Basis**

The Fifth Coast Guard District has been notified of three fireworks displays planned throughout the Maryland-National Capital Region to commemorate the July 4th holiday. Hazards from these fireworks displays include accidental discharge of fireworks, dangerous projectiles, and falling hot embers or other debris. To respond to these hazards, the Coast Guard plans to establish temporary safety zones to protect the nearby public.

1. The Sherwood Forest Club, Inc., of Sherwood Forest, MD, plans to conduct a fireworks display from 9:20 p.m. to 9:50 p.m. on July 3, 2021. The fireworks are to be launched from the end of the Sherwood Forest Club main pier, located adjacent to the Severn River, approximately 200 yards east of Brewer Pond in Sherwood Forest, MD. In the event of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be scheduled for July 5,

2021. The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region has determined that potential hazards associated with the fireworks to be used in this display would be a safety concern for anyone within 150 yards of the fireworks discharge site.

2. Queen Anne's County Government, of Centreville, MD, plans to conduct a fireworks display from 10 p.m to 10:20 p.m. on July 4, 2021. The fireworks are to be launched from Kent Island along the Kent Island Narrows (North Approach) in Chester, MD. In the event of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be scheduled for July 5, 2021. The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region has determined that potential hazards associated with the fireworks to be used in this display would be a safety concern for anyone within 800 feet of the fireworks discharge site.
3. The Independence Day Commission of Havre de Grace, MD, plans to conduct a fireworks display from 9:30 p.m to 10 p.m. on July 4, 2021. The fireworks are to be launched from a fireworks barge located in the Susquehanna River, approximately 300 yards southeast of Concord Point in Havre de Grace, MD. In the event of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be scheduled for July 5, 2021. The COTP Maryland-National Capital Region has determined that potential hazards associated with the fireworks to be used in this display would be a safety concern for anyone within 200 yards of the fireworks barge.

The Coast Guard is requesting that interested parties provide comments within a shortened comment period of 15 days instead of the typical 30 days for this notice of proposed rulemaking. The Coast Guard believes a shortened comment period is necessary and reasonable to ensure the Coast Guard has time to review and respond to any significant comments submitted by the public in response to this NPRM and has a

final rule in effect in time for the first scheduled event.

The Coast Guard is proposing this rulemaking under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231).

### **III. Discussion of Proposed Rule**

The COTP is proposing to establish three temporary safety zones for certain navigable waters within the COTP Maryland-National Capital Region Zone, as described in 33 CFR 3.25-15, and would be enforced during the times described below for each zone.

The first safety zone would be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 3, 2021, or if necessary due to inclement weather, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 5, 2021. The safety zone would cover all navigable waters of the Severn River, within 150 yards of a fireworks discharge site located at the end of Sherwood Forest Club main pier in approximate position latitude 39°01'54.0" N, longitude 076°32'41.8" W, Sherwood Forest, MD. The duration of the zone is intended to ensure the safety of vessels and these navigable waters before, during, and after the scheduled 9:20 p.m. to 9:50 p.m. on July 3, 2021 fireworks display.

The second safety zone would be enforced from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4, 2021, or if necessary due to inclement weather, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 5, 2021. The safety zone would cover all navigable waters of the Kent Island Narrows (North Approach), within 800 feet of the fireworks launch site at Kent Island in approximate position latitude 38°58'44.8" N, longitude 076°14'52.9" W, in Queen Anne's County, MD. The duration of the zone is intended to ensure the safety of vessels and these navigable waters before, during, and after the scheduled 10 p.m. to 10:20 p.m. on July 4, 2021 fireworks display.

The third safety zone would be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 4, 2021, or if necessary due to inclement weather, from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on

July 5, 2021. The safety zone would cover all navigable waters of the Susquehanna River within 200 yards of a barge in approximate position latitude 39°32'19" N, longitude 076°04'58.3" W, located at Havre de Grace, MD. The duration of the zone is intended to ensure the safety of vessels and these navigable waters before, during, and after the scheduled 9:30 to 10 p.m. on July 4, 2021 fireworks display.

No vessel or person would be permitted to enter these safety zones without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. The regulatory text we are proposing appears at the end of this document.

#### **IV. Regulatory Analyses**

We developed this proposed 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 NPRM has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, the NPRM has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, duration, and time-of-day of the safety zones, which would impact small designated areas of the Severn River, Kent Island Narrows (North Approach), and Susquehanna River for a total no more than six total enforcement-hours, during the evening when vessel traffic is normally low. Moreover, the Coast Guard will issue Local Notices to Mariners and a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the zones.

##### *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 proposed rule would 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 IV.A above, this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed 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. The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this proposed rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

#### *C. Collection of Information*

This proposed rule would 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 proposed 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 proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) because it would 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 proposed rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

*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 proposed rule would not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

*F. Environment*

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 1, associated 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 made a preliminary determination 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 proposed rule involves five safety zones lasting six total enforcement hours that would prohibit entry within portions of the Severn River, Kent Island Narrows (North Approach), and Susquehanna River. Normally such actions are categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev. 1. A preliminary Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the ADDRESSES section of this preamble. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

#### *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.

### **V. Public Participation and Request for Comments**

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <https://www.regulations.gov>, call or email the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.



We accept anonymous comments. Comments we post to <https://www.regulations.gov> will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and submissions in response to this document, see DHS's eRulemaking System of Records notice (85 FR 14226, March 11, 2020).

Documents mentioned in this NPRM as being available in the docket, and public comments, will be in our online docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. We review all comments received, but we will only post comments that address the topic of the proposed rule. We may choose not to post off-topic, inappropriate, or duplicate comments that we receive. If you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

#### **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 is proposing to amend 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.T05-0199 to read as follows:

#### **§ 165.T05-0199 Safety Zones; July 4th Holiday Fireworks in the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region Zone.**

(a) *Locations.* The following areas are a safety zone: These coordinates are based on datum NAD 83.

- (1) Safety Zone 1. All waters of the Severn River, within 150 yards of a

fireworks discharge site located at the end of Sherwood Forest Club main pier in approximate position latitude 39°01'54.0" N, longitude 076°32'41.8" W, Sherwood Forest, MD.

(2) Safety Zone 2. All navigable waters of the Kent Island Narrows (North Approach), within 800 feet of the fireworks launch site at Kent Island in approximate position latitude 38°58'44.8" N, longitude 076°14'52.9" W, in Queen Anne's County, MD.

(3) Safety Zone 3. All navigable waters of the Susquehanna River within 200 yards of a barge in approximate position latitude 39°32'19" N, longitude 076°04'58.3" W, located at Havre de Grace, MD.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section---

*Captain of the Port (COTP)* means the Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-National Capital Region.

*Designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, you may not enter the safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative by telephone at 410-576-2693 or on Marine Band Radio VHF-FM channel 16 (156.8 MHz). Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

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

(e) *Enforcement periods.* (1) Paragraph (a)(1) of this section will be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 3, 2021. If necessary due to inclement weather on July 3, 2021, it will be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 5, 2021.

(2) Paragraph (a)(2) of this section will be enforced from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 4, 2021. If necessary due to inclement weather on July 4, 2021, it will be enforced from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. on July 5, 2021.

(3) Paragraph (a)(3) of this section will be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 4, 2021. If necessary due to inclement weather on July 4, 2021, it will be enforced from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on July 5, 2021.

Dated: May 5, 2021.

David E. O'Connell,  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,  
Captain of the Port Maryland-National Capital Region.  
[FR Doc. 2021-09947 Filed: 5/7/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/10/2021]