



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

### 33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2023-0008]

RIN 1625-AA00

### Safety Zone; Ocean Rainforest Aquaculture, Santa Barbara, CA, Second Safety Zone

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

---

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for the navigable waters, approximately 5 miles offshore of Santa Barbara, California. This safety zone is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by ongoing aquaculture gear deployment and installation. Entry of persons or vessels into this safety zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Los Angeles - Long Beach (COTP), or their designated representative. The Coast Guard recently issued a safety zone for this area, but additional time is needed to complete the installation.

**DATES:** This rule is effective without actual notice from [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], until March 31, 2023. For the purposes of enforcement, actual notice will be used from February 27, 2023, until [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2023-0008 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 about this rule, call or email LCDR Maria Wiener, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles –

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Table of Abbreviations**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
E.O.	Executive order
FR	<b>Federal Register</b>
LLNR	Light List Number
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
Pub. L.	Public Law
§	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) because it is impracticable. The sponsor recently updated their timeline and timeframe for the aquaculture gear installation after we issued the first safety zone. Immediate action is needed to protect the public from safety hazards associated with the ongoing aquaculture gear deployment and installation. This safety zone needs to be extended due to delays with gear deployment. It is impracticable to publish an NPRM because we must establish this safety zone by February 27, 2023, and lack sufficient time to publish a rule, collect public comments, and to address them before the event date.

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 immediate action is needed to

ensure the safety of persons, vessels, and the marine environment in the vicinity of Santa Barbara during aquaculture gear installation and deployment starting February 27, 2023.

### **III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule**

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The Captain of the Port Sector Los Angeles - Long Beach (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the aquaculture gear deployment and installation will be a safety concern for anyone within 34°20'13.28", 119°42'49.84"W; thence to 34°20'14.60"N, 119°42'3.71"W; thence to 34°19'56.48"N , 119°42'4.01"W; thence to 34°19'55.20"N , 119°42'50.24"W; thence to the beginning.

The Coast Guard recently published a safety zone titled “Safety Zone; Ocean Rainforest Aquaculture, Santa Barbara, CA” for this area and purpose on February 9, 2023, at 88 FR 8369. That safety zone was in effect between February 9 until February 16, 2023. The sponsor has indicated that they need additional time to complete the deployment and installation. The Coast Guard is issuing this subsequent safety zone to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in the navigable waters within the safety zone while aquaculture deployment and installation is occurring.

### **IV. Discussion of the Rule**

This rule establishes a safety zone from February 27, 2023, through March 31, 2023. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters from the surface to the sea floor in and around Santa Barbara, CA, starting from: 34°20'13.28", 119°42'49.84"W; thence to 34°20'14.60"N, 119°42'3.71"W; thence to 34°19'56.48"N , 119°42'4.01"W; thence to 34°19'55.20"N , 119°42'50.24"W; thence to the beginning. These coordinates are based on North American Datum of 1983. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or his designated representative. Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach may be contacted on VHF–FM Channel 16 or (310) 521-3801. The marine public will be notified of the safety zone via Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

A designated representative means a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel designated by or assisting the COTP in the enforcement of the safety zone.

If the COTP determines that the zone need not be enforced during this entire period, the Coast Guard will announce via Broadcast Notice to Mariners when the zone will no longer be subject to enforcement.

## **V. Regulatory Analyses**

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and executive orders (E.O.s) related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and E.O.s, 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, duration, and time-of-year of the safety zone. This rule impacts an area of 16-acres for 36 days between the months of February and March 2023. Vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around this safety zone, which will impact a small, designated area of Santa Barbara, CA.

### *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 (Public Law 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 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.

*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, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and 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 safety zone encompassing an area of 16-acres for 14 days during the aquaculture gear installation and deployment. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60, in Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023-001-01, Rev. 1. Due to urgency, a record of environmental consideration is not required, but will be provided if necessary.

*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:** 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

2. Add § 165.T11-122 to read as follows:

#### **§ 165.T11-122 Safety Zone; Ocean Rainforest Aquaculture, Santa Barbara, CA.**

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: all navigable waters from the surface to the sea floor in and around Santa Barbara, CA, starting from: 34°20'13.28", 119°42'49.84"W; thence to 34°20'14.60"N, 119°42'3.71"W; thence to 34°19'56.48"N , 119°42'4.01"W; thence to 34°19'55.20"N , 119°42'50.24"W; thence to the beginning. These coordinates are based on North American Datum of 1983.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, a *designated representative* means a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach (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 hailing Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach on VHF–FM Channel 16 or calling at (310) 521-3801. 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 period.* This section will be enforced from February 27, 2023, through March 31, 2023. If the COTP determines that the zone need not be enforced during this entire period, the Coast Guard will announce via Broadcast Notice to Mariners when the zone will no longer be subject to enforcement.

Dated: February 27, 2023.

R. D. Manning,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,

Captain of the Port Sector Los Angeles – Long Beach.

[FR Doc. 2023-04331 Filed: 3/1/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 3/2/2023]