



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG-2023-0702]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary Final Rule

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a special local regulation for the San Diego Sharkfest Swim marine event that will be held on the navigable waters of San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of life on these navigable waters of San Diego Bay during a swim event on October 21, 2023. This rule would prohibit spectators from anchoring, blocking, loitering or transiting through the event area unless authorized by the Captain of the Port San Diego or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on October 21, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this rule, call or email Lieutenant Junior Grade Shelley Turner, Waterways Management, U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego, CA; telephone (619) 278-7656, e-mail MarineEventsSD@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 we must establish this special local regulation by October 21, 2023. The Coast Guard was given short notice from the event sponsor that the date of the event would differ from the existing annual marine event as outlined in 33 CFR 100.1101, Table 1 to § 100.1101, Item 7. As such, it is impracticable to publish an NPRM because we lack sufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing the rule in time for the new event dates. This regulation is necessary to ensure the safety of life on the navigable waters of San Diego Bay during the marine event.

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 public interest because immediate action is needed to ensure the safety of life on the navigable waters of San Diego Bay during the marine event on October 21, 2023.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231). The Captain of the Port Sector San Diego (COTP) has determined that a large number of swimmers in San Diego Bay associated with the San Diego Sharkfest Swim marine event on October 21, 2023, poses a potential safety concern. This rule is needed to protect persons, vessels, and the marine environment in

the navigable waters within San Diego Bay while the event is occurring.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a special local regulation from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on October 21, 2023. This special local regulation will cover the navigable waters of San Diego Bay encompassed by a line connecting the following coordinates beginning at 32°42'14"N, 117°09'55"W (Point A); thence running southerly to 32°41'49"N, 117°09'57"W (Point B); thence running south, along the shoreline to 32°41'19"N, 117°09'48"W (Point C); thence running north easterly to 32°41'23"N, 117°09'41"W (Point D); thence running northerly to 32°42'00"N, 117°09'38"(Point E); thence running northerly, along the shoreline to the beginning point. The duration of the zone is intended to ensure the safety of vessels, event participants, and these navigable waters during the scheduled marine event. No vessel or person would be permitted to enter the regulated area without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. The regulatory text appears at the end of this document.

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. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, as amended by Executive Order 14094 (Modernizing Regulatory Review). 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-day of the regulated area. The affected portion of the San Diego Bay will be of a 1 hour limited duration, during morning hours when vessel traffic is historically low and is necessary for safety of life to participants in the event. Moreover, the Coast Guard would make a post in the Local Notice to Mariners with details on the regulated area, as well as issue a Safety Marine Information Broadcast over Channel 22A.

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 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 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 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 regulated area that would limit access to certain areas of San Diego Bay from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L61 of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1.

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.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security Measure, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

PART 100 – SAFETY OF LIFE ON NAVIGABLE WATERS

1. The authority citation for part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70041; 33 CFR 1.05–1.

2. Add § 100.T11-133 to read as follows:

§ 100.T11-133 San Diego Sharkfest Swim, San Diego Bay, California.

(a) *Regulated area.* The regulations in this section apply to the following area: all navigable waters of San Diego Bay encompassed by a line connecting the

following points beginning at 32°42'14"N, 117°09'55"W (Point A); thence running southerly to 32°41'49"N, 117°09'57"W (Point B); thence running south, along the shoreline to 32°41'19"N, 117°09'48"W (Point C); thence running north easterly to 32°41'23"N, 117°09'41"W (Point D); thence running northerly to 32°42'00"N, 117°09'38"(Point E); thence running northerly, along the shoreline to the beginning point. These coordinates are based on the 1984 World Geodetic System (WGS 84).

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

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 San Diego (COTP) in the enforcement of the regulations in this section.

Participant means all persons and vessels registered with the event sponsor as a participants in the race.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) All non-participants are prohibited from entering, transiting through, anchoring in, or remaining within the regulated area described in paragraph (a) of this section unless authorized by the Captain of the Port San Diego or their designated representative.

(2) Vessels requiring entry into this regulated area must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF-FM Channel 21A or by telephone at 619-278-7033.

(3) The COTP will provide notice of the regulated area through advanced notice via Local Notice to Mariners and Safety Marine Information Broadcasts on Channel 22A.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on October 21, 2023.

Dated: October 10, 2023.

J. W. Spitler,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Captain of the Port San Diego.

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