



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG-2025-0586]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; Galveston Channel, Galveston, TX

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a special local regulation for the safety of life on certain waters of the Galveston Channel in Galveston County, TX. These regulations will be enforced during a boat parade which will be held annually, on the third Saturday in September. This proposed rulemaking prohibits entry of non-participants into the regulated area unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port, Sector Houston-Galveston (COTP) or designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective [INSERT DATE 5 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2025-0586 in the search box and click "Search." Next, in the Document Type column, select "Supporting & Related Material."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email Lieutenant Ignacio J. Fernández-Cuervo, Marine Safety Unit Texas City, Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone (281) 309-1617, email MSUTexasCityWaterways@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COTP	Captain of the Port, Houston-Galveston
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	Federal Register
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
PATCOM	Patrol Commander
§	Section
SLR	Special Local Regulation
U.S.C.	United States Code

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

Coast Guard regulations define “regatta or marine parade” as an organized water event of limited duration which is conducted according to a prearranged schedule. 33 CFR 100.05(a). And, as explained in 33 CFR 100.15, the Coast Guard requires that an organization planning to hold a regatta or marine event apply for a permit if the event, by its nature, circumstances, or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the United States. Upon the approval of an application, under 33 CFR 100.35(a), the COTP may promulgate such “Special Local Regulations” (SLR's) as he or she deems necessary to ensure safety of life on the navigable waters immediately prior to, during, and immediately after the event.

The Texian Navy submitted a marine event permit application in 2024 for a boat parade, and the event was permitted by the Coast Guard with a temporary SLR created for the event, which expired after the 2024 event completion. The Texian Navy submitted a new marine event permit application again in 2025 and expressed intent to submit applications annually to hold the event on the same day each year (the third Saturday in September). In response, on August 8, 2025, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) titled Special Local Regulation; Galveston Channel, Galveston, TX (90 FR 38423). There we stated why we issued the NPRM and invited comments on our proposed regulatory action related to this boat parade. During the comment period that ended August 18, 2025, we received no comments.

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 prompt action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with the 2025 boat parade scheduled for September 20, 2025.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under the authority in 46 U.S.C. 70041. The Captain of the Port Sector Houston-Galveston (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the boat parade will be a safety concern for anyone within a 200-yard radius of the parade in the Galveston Channel. This rule is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment in the navigable waters within the regulated areas while the parade is ongoing.

IV. Discussion of Comments, Changes, and the Rule

As noted above, we received no comments on our NPRM published August 8, 2025. There are no changes in the regulatory text of this rule from the proposed rule in the NPRM.

This rule modifies 33 CFR 100.801 by listing a new recurring marine event in Table 3 of § 100.801, which covers the Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston COTP Zone. The regulated area created by this rule would encompass three zones to include a Pre-Staging Zone, Spectator Zone, and Parade Transit Zone as described below:

Pre-Staging Zone: This area is the pre-staging area for participating vessels to line up. It will include all waters within a 200-yard radius of 29°20'23" N, 094°46'37" W.

Spectator Zone: All vessels that will be viewing the event will be required to stay within a designated area. The sponsor is responsible for marking the spectator zone with four buoys on the outer corners and ensuring that all vessels within the area are anchored and remain in the area during parade transit. The following coordinates are the

approximate location of the Spectator Zone: 29°19'17" N, 094°46'36" W, thence to 29°19'37" N, 094°46'53" W, and both points connecting to the eastern shore.

Parade Transit Zone: This area is exclusive to vessels participating in the parade. It will include all waters within the following areas: 29°19'07.02" N, 094°47'10.98" W, thence to 29°18'55.43" N, 094°47'04.23" W, thence to 29°20'29.45" N, 094°46'14.18" W, thence to 29°20'32.68" N, 094°46'29.94" W, and along the shore line back to the beginning point.

A person or vessel not registered with the event sponsor as a participant or assigned as official patrols would be considered a spectator. A spectator vessel must not loiter within the navigable channel while within the regulated area. Official patrol vessels would direct spectators to the designated spectator zone. Official Patrols are any vessel assigned or approved by the Commander, Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston with a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer onboard and displaying a Coast Guard ensign. Official Patrols enforcing this regulated area can be contacted on VHF-FM channel 12. All non-participants will be prohibited from entering the established pre-staging and parade transit zones without obtaining permission from the on-water Safety Officer or designated representative. To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative by VHF Radio Channel 12. Those in the regulated area must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the designated representative.

The term "designated representative" means Coast Guard Patrol Commanders, including Coast Guard coxswains, petty officers, and other officers operating Coast Guard vessels, and Federal, state, and local officers designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston in the enforcement of the regulated areas.

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.

A. 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 received no comments from the Small Business Administration on this rulemaking. 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 for the following reasons. The zone will be for only one day each year. Vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around the regulated areas which would impact a small, designated area of the Galveston Channel for less than five hours. The Coast Guard will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the zone, and the rule will allow vessels to seek permission to enter the regulated areas.

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 will 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.

B. 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).

C. 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.

D. 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.

E. 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 marine event and special local regulation lasting only five hours that will prohibit entry within 200 yards of the vessel staging area, parade transit zone, and designate a vessel spectator zone. 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. A 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.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

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

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard is proposing to amend 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. In § 100.801, amend table 3 by adding a new entry at the end of the table to read as follows:

§ 100.801 Annual Marine Events in the Eighth Coast Guard District.

* * * * *

Table 3 of § 100.801 – SECTOR HOUSTON-GALVESTON ANNUAL AND
RECURRING MARINE EVENTS

Date	Event/Sponsor	Houston-Galveston Location	Regulated Area
* * * * *			
10. Third Saturday in September.	Texian Navy Day Celebration / The Texas Navy Association	Galveston Channel, TX	<p><i>Pre-Staging Zone:</i> This area is the pre-staging area for participating vessels to line up. It will include all waters within a 200-yard radius of 29°20'23" N, 094°46'37" W.</p> <p><i>Spectator Zone:</i> All vessels that will be viewing the event will be required to stay within a designated area. The sponsor is responsible for marking the spectator zone with four buoys on the outer corners and ensuring that all vessels within the area are anchored and remain in the area during parade transit. The following coordinates are the approximate location of the Spectator Zone: 29°19'17" N, 094°46'36" W, thence to 29°19'37" N, 094°46'53" W, and both points connecting to the eastern shore.</p> <p><i>Parade Transit Zone:</i> This area is exclusive to vessels participating in the parade. It will include all waters within the following areas: 29°19'07.02" N, 094°47'10.98" W, thence to 29°18'55.43" N, 094°47'04.23" W, thence to 29°20'29.45" N, 094°46'14.18" W, thence to 29°20'32.68" N, 094°46'29.94" W, and along the shore line back to the beginning point.</p>

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Dated: September 8, 2025.

Nicole D. Rodriguez
 Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
 Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston.