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9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG-2026-0951]

RIN 1625-AA08

Special Local Regulation; ChattaWake Wakesurfing Event, Tennessee River, Chattanooga TN

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Temporary final rule

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a special local regulation (SLR) for the ChattaWake wakesurfing competition, from Mile Marker 462 to 466 on the Tennessee River near Chattanooga, TN. This rulemaking will create a special regulated area requiring non-participants to transit at no-wake speed to protect wake surfers from potential hazards on the waterway.

DATES: This rule is effective from 7 a.m. on August 13, 2026, through 5 p.m. on August 16, 2026.

ADDRESSES: To view available documents, go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for USCG-2026-0951.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this rule, contact MST2 Jason Brincefield, MSD Nashville Waterways Management Division, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone (206) 815-7006, or email STL-SMB-MSDNASHVILLE@USCG.MIL.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COTP	Captain of the Port

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

II. Background and Authority

On June 3, 2026, an organization notified the Coast Guard that they will be sponsoring the ChattaWake 2026 wakesurfing competition on the Tennessee River at Mile Marker 464. The event will be held from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on August 13, 2026, through August 16, 2026, in Chattanooga, TN. The race will include approximately 90 participants and 5 or more spectator craft, and it involves participants surfing in the wake of a lead vessel.

The Captain of the Port, Ohio Valley (COTP) is issuing this Special Local Regulation (SLR) under the authority in 46 U.S.C. 70041. The COTP has determined that potential hazards associated with the wakesurfing event include the gathering of a large number of participating and spectator vessels in a small area of the river, the possibility of wake surfers entering the water in the vicinity of participating and spectator vessels, and vessels operating at high speeds to facilitate surfing and recovery of individual participants from the water. The purpose of this rulemaking is to protect event participants, non-participants, and transiting vessels during the scheduled event.

Because of these potential hazards, the Coast Guard is issuing this rule without prior notice and comment. As is authorized by 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 it is impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The Coast Guard was notified of this event on June 3, 2026, but we must establish this SLR by August 13, 2026, to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment. Therefore, we don’t have enough time to solicit and respond to comments.

For the same reasons, the Coast Guard finds that under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

III. Discussion of the Rule

This rule establishes a special regulated area from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day from August 13, 2026, through August 16, 2026. The regulated area covers all navigable waters from Mile Marker 462 to Mile Marker 466 on the Tennessee River. Non-participating or spectator vessels may transit through this area during these times, but must do so at no-wake speed, or the minimum safe speed necessary to maintain course through the regulated area. The regulatory text appears at the end of this document.

IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analysis based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders.

A. Impact on Small Entities

The regulatory flexibility analysis provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601-612, do not apply to rules that are not subject to notice and comment. Because the Coast Guard has, for good cause, waived the notice and comment requirement that would otherwise apply to this rulemaking, the Regulatory Flexibility Act's flexibility analysis provisions do not apply here.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), if this rule will affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions, contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Small businesses may send comments to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards by calling 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

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in that Order.

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

As required by The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538), the Coast Guard certifies that this rule will not result in an annual expenditure of $100,000,000 or more (adjusted for inflation) by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector.

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 et seq.), 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 is a special regulated area. 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.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

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 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.T899-0951 to read as follows:

§ 100.T899-0951 Special Local Regulation; ChattaWake Wakesurfing Event, Tennessee River, Chattanooga, TN

(a) *Location*. This special local regulation applies to the following regulated area: All waters of the Tennessee River, from surface to bottom, from Mile Marker 462 to Mile Marker 466.

(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, Ohio Valley (COTP) in the enforcement of the regulated area. *Participant* means all persons and vessels registered with the event sponsor as a participant in the race.

(c) *Regulations*. (1) All non-participants transiting through or within the regulated area described above must do so at no-wake speed.

(2) Those in the special regulated area must comply with all lawful orders or

directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative.

(3) For further questions contact the COTP or the COTP's representative on VHF-FM channel 16 or by telephone at +1 (800) 253-7465.

(d) *Enforcement period*. This section will be enforced from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day from August 13 through August 16, 2026. The COTP will also provide notice of the regulated area through via broadcast notice to mariners and by on-scene designated representatives.

Randy L. Preston,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Captain of the Port, Ohio Valley.

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