



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Delaware Bay
1 Washington Ave
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REQUEST FOR COMMENTS – DISTRIBUTION OF BROADCAST NOTICE TO MARINERS

The Coast Guard is seeking comments regarding proposed changes to the Distribution of Scheduled Navigation Safety Messages (Broadcast Notice to Mariners) by Mobile and Internet methods.

In 2020, the Coast Guard began making broadcast notices to mariners containing locally relevant information accessible by mobile devices and the internet. Previously, the only way to obtain this information in a timely fashion was to tune in to local Coast Guard broadcasts that take place on very high frequency (VHF) marine radio two or more times per day. The new methods of information delivery have included Rich Site Summary, also known as Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, email, and other means such as map-based filtering. The Coast Guard has received public feedback indicating that mariners prefer the real-time accessibility of mobile and internet access to this information over scheduled VHF broadcasts, because access is more timely, reliable, convenient, and customizable. Also, some mariners have reported that VHF broadcast notice to mariners are bothersome, because they are perceived as unnecessary radio clutter that can be distracting when maneuvering along a dock, in ports or other areas of congested traffic. The Coast Guard is considering phasing out the process of distributing this information by routine VHF radio broadcasts, and is seeking public comment.

Mariners are encouraged to visit the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for docket number USCG-2020-0187 in the search bar to view each document related to this proposed change. The direct link to the comment section of this docket is <https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCG-2020-0187-0004/comment>.

Comments on this proposed change must be submitted on or before August 16, 2021.

Please send comments and concerns to the Sector Delaware Bay Waterways Management Division at the following email address: DelawareBayWWM@uscg.mil.

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