



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Port Access Route Study: Approaches to Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts

This bulletin provides advance notice for a Port Access Route Study (PARS) to encourage maximum stakeholder participation in the study process.

1. The Coast Guard intends to publish a Notice of Study in the Federal Register announcing the commencement of an Approaches to Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts Port Access Route Study (MNMPARS). The purpose of this study will be to evaluate the adequacy of existing vessel routing measures and determine whether additional vessel routing measures are necessary to improve navigation safety due to factors such as planned or potential offshore development, current port capabilities and planned improvements, increased vessel traffic, changing vessel types and traffic patterns, weather conditions, or navigational difficulty. Examples of potential measures could include traffic separation schemes, two-way routes, recommended tracks, deep-water routes, precautionary areas, and areas to be avoided. The recommendations of the study may subsequently be implemented through rulemakings or in accordance with international agreements.
2. The PARS will commence upon publication of the Notice of Study in the Federal Register and will cover an approximate 20,500 square nautical mile study area that includes the Gulf of Maine, the New Hampshire Seacoast, and the Massachusetts Bay region within the First Coast Guard District Area of Responsibility (AOR). Through the study process, we will coordinate with federal, state, tribal, and foreign state agencies (as appropriate) and consider the views of maritime community representatives, environmental groups, and other interested stakeholders. A primary purpose of this coordination is, to the extent practicable, to reconcile the need for safe access routes with other reasonable waterway uses.
3. This advance notice is provided to increase awareness of the upcoming PARS and to promote stakeholder participation in the study process. We encourage you to participate in this study by submitting comments and related materials that address impacts to safe navigation within the area of study. The Notice of Study will include a 45 day comment period and instructions for submitting comments.
4. For questions regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin contact LTJG Thomas Davis, Waterways Management at First Coast Guard District, telephone (617) 223-8632, e-mail SMB-D1Boston-MNMPARS@uscg.mil.

Captain Richard J. Schultz, First Coast Guard District Chief of Prevention, sends