

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2024–0277]

RIN 1625–AA00

Safety Zone, Calcasieu River Ship Channel, Lake Charles, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for all navigable waters between Mile Marker 30 and 31 on the Calcasieu River Ship Channel. The safety zone is needed to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by partially blocking the federally maintained channel to unload a ship loader at a waterfront facility. Entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port, Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur.

DATES: This rule is effective without actual notice from April 12, 2024, through April 26, 2024. For the purposes of enforcement, actual notice will be used from April 8, 2024, until April 12, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG–2024–0277 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 rule, call or email Lieutenant Mache Mason, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 337–912–0073, email msulcwmm@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 under authority in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). This statutory 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.” 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. The ship loader unload will partially block the federally maintained channel, compromising public safety, and preventing commercial and recreational vessels from transiting. The Coast Guard must establish this temporary safety zone by April 8, 2024, and lacks sufficient time to publish an NPRM, provide a reasonable comment period, and then consider those comments before establishing the necessary safety zone.

Also, 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 impracticable because the Coast Guard must establish this safety zone by April 8, 2024, to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with partially blocking a federally maintained channel to unload a ship loader at a waterfront facility.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the ship loader unload at this location would be a safety concern for commercial and recreational vessels in the vicinity. The purpose of this rule is to ensure safety of vessels and the navigable waters in the safety zone before, during, and after the ship loader unload.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

The effective period of the rule will be from April 8, 2024, to April 26, 2024, to accommodate any weather delays. This rule will be enforced from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. on the day of the unload. The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the unload date, as well as any changes in the dates and times of the enforcement period, through Broadcast Notices to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins as appropriate.

The safety zone will cover all navigable waters between Mile Markers 30 and 31 on the Calcasieu River Ship Channel. The ship loader unload will occur at 30°11'30.90" N, 093°17'45.7" W. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect persons and vessels, in the nearby navigable waters during the ship loader unload.

No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative.

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 size, location, and duration of the safety zone. Smaller vessel traffic will be able to safely transit around this safety zone which would impact a small, designated area of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel for 12 hours. Moreover, the Coast Guard would issue a Marine Safety Information Bulletin and Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF–FM marine channel 16 about the zone, and the rule would allow vessels to seek permission to enter the zone.

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 safety zone that will be enforced for 12 hours that will prohibit entry between Mile Markers 30 and 31 on the Calcasieu River Ship Channel for the unload of a ship loader at a waterfront facility. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) 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.

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 165

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 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08-0277 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-0277 Safety Zone; Calcasieu River Ship Channel, Lake Charles, LA.

(a) *Location.* All navigable waters between Mile Marker 30 and 31 on the Calcasieu River Ship Channel.

(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 Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) Under the general safety zone regulations in subpart C of this part, entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the COTP or a designated representative.

(2) To seek permission to enter, contact the COTP or the COTP's representative on VHF-FM channel 13 or 16, or by phone at telephone at 337-912-0073.

(3) The COTP or a designated representative may forbid and control the movement of all vessels in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol vessel, a vessel shall come to an immediate stop and comply with the directions given. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(4) The COTP or a designated representative may terminate the operation of any vessel at any time it is deemed necessary for the protection of life or property.

(d) *Enforcement period.* The safety zone in this section is in effect from April 8, 2024, through April 26, 2024. It will be subject to enforcement from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the day of the unload. The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the unload date through Broadcast Notices to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins as appropriate.

(e) *Informational broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the effective period for the safety zone as well as any changes in the dates and times of the enforcement period through Broadcast Notices to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins as appropriate.

Dated: April 8, 2024.

A.R. Migliorini,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur.

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