

(COTP) or a designated representative. A designated representative may be a Patrol Commander (PATCOM). The PATCOM may be aboard either a Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel. The PATCOM may be contacted on Channel 16 VHF-FM (156.8 MHz) by the call sign "PATCOM" or by calling (314) 269-2332.

(2) All persons and vessels not registered with the sponsor as participants or official patrol vessels are considered spectators. The "official patrol vessels" consist of any Coast Guard, state, or local law enforcement and sponsor provided vessels assigned or approved by the COTP or a designated representative to patrol the regulated area.

(3) Spectator vessels desiring to transit the regulated area may do so only with prior approval of the COTP or a designated representative and when so directed by that officer will be operated at a minimum safe navigation speed in a manner which will not endanger participants in the regulated area or any other vessels.

(4) No spectator vessel shall anchor, block, loiter, or impede the through transit of participants or official patrol vessels in the regulated area during the effective dates and times, unless cleared for entry by or through an official patrol vessel.

(5) Spectator vessels may anchor outside the regulated area, but may not anchor in, block, or loiter in a navigable channel. Spectator vessels may be moored to a waterfront facility within the regulated area in such a way that they shall not interfere with the progress of the event. Such mooring must be complete at least 30 minutes prior to the establishment of the regulated area and remain moored through the duration of the event.

(6) 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.

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

(8) The COTP or a designated representative will terminate enforcement of the special local regulations at the conclusion of the event.

(d) *Information broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will

inform the public of the enforcement times and date for this regulated area through Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs), Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate.

Dated: August 14, 2019.

**S.A. Stoermer,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Upper Mississippi River.*

[FR Doc. 2019-17875 Filed 8-19-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 9110-04-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2019-0545]

RIN 1625-AA09

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Niantic River, Niantic, CT

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is proposing to modify the operating schedule that governs the S156 Bridge across the Niantic River, mile 0.1 at Niantic, CT. The bridge owner, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, submitted a request to allow six hours' notice for night time transits during the months of November and April due to infrequent bridge openings. This proposed rule would align the regulations for the S156 Bridge with other Connecticut Department of Transportation bridges.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before October 21, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG-2019-0545 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

See the "Public Participation and Request for Comments" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below for instructions on submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this proposed rule, call or email Mr. Jeffrey Stieb, First Coast Guard District Bridge Management Specialist; telephone 617-223-8364, email [Jeffrey.D.Stieb@uscg.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.D.Stieb@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR Code of Federal Regulations  
 CT DOT Connecticut Department of Transportation  
 DHS Department of Homeland Security  
 FR Federal Register  
 OMB Office of Management and Budget  
 NPRM Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Advance, Supplemental)  
 § Section  
 U.S.C. United States Code

## II. Background, Purpose and Legal Basis

The S156 Bridge at mile 0.1 over the Niantic River at Niantic, Connecticut, has a vertical clearance of 9 feet at mean high water and 12 feet at mean low water. Vertical clearance is unlimited when the draw is open. Horizontal clearance is approximately 65 feet. Waterway users include recreational and small commercial vessels.

The existing regulation, 33 CFR 117.215(b), requires that from December 1 through March 31, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. the draw shall open on signal if at least six hours' notice is given. CT DOT has requested that the start of the winter schedule begin one month sooner and end one month later than presently allowed by the regulation. This rule change will align the winter operation and staffing of the three CT DOT drawbridges located in the same operational area by extending the range of months during which six hours' notice is required to include November and April. This rule change will allow for more efficient and economic operation of the bridge while meeting the reasonable needs of navigation.

## III. Discussion of Proposed Rule

The bridge logs show that during the last three years only three requests to open occurred between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. in November and no request to open were received between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. in April. None of the requests were from commercial vessels. CT DOT and the Coast Guard have conducted outreach to stakeholders with no objections received. The Coast Guard proposes to permanently modify the operating regulation.

The proposed rule would provide that, from November 1 through April 30, between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., the draw shall open on signal if at least six hours' notice is given. It is our opinion that the proposed rule meets reasonable needs of marine traffic.

## IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive Orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses

based on 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. Executive Order 13771 directs agencies to control regulatory costs through a budgeting process. This NPRM has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, the NPRM has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and pursuant to OMB guidance it is exempt from the requirements of Executive Order 13771.

This regulatory action determination is based on the fact that only three vessel transits would have been affected over the past three years. We believe that this proposed change to the drawbridge operation regulation at 33 CFR 117.215(b) will meet the reasonable needs of navigation.

#### B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA), 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 proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The bridge will continue to open on signal with six hours’ notice between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. during the months of November and April. Based on the last three years of records, an average of one vessel annually will be affected by the proposed change.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

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 proposed 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 contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above. The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this proposed rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

#### C. Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.).

#### D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Government

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 proposed 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 proposed rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) because it would 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. If you believe this proposed rule has implications for federalism or Indian tribes, please contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section above.

#### 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 proposed rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this proposed rule elsewhere in this preamble.

#### F. Environment

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Department of Homeland

Security Management Directive 023–01 and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have made a preliminary determination that this action is one of a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This proposed rule simply promulgates the operating regulations or procedures for drawbridges. Normally such actions are categorically excluded from further review, under paragraph L49 of Chapter 3, Table 3–1 of U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Implementing Procedures 5090.1A preliminary Record of Environmental Consideration and a Memorandum for the Record are not required for this proposed rule. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this proposed rule.

#### G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to contact 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.

#### V. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation.

We encourage you to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. If your material cannot be submitted using <http://www.regulations.gov>, contact the person in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document for alternate instructions.

We accept anonymous comments. All comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> and will include any personal information you have provided. For more about privacy and the docket, visit <http://www.regulations.gov/privacynotice>.

Documents mentioned in this NPRM as being available in this docket and all public comments, will be in our online docket at <http://www.regulations.gov> and can be viewed by following that website's instructions. Additionally, if you go to the online docket and sign up for email alerts, you will be notified when comments are posted or a final rule is published.

#### List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

#### PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 33 U.S.C. 499; 33 CFR 1.05–1; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

■ 2. Revise § 117.215(b) to read as follows:

##### § 117.215 Niantic River.

(b) The draw of the S156 Bridge, mile 0.1, at Niantic, shall open on signal; except that, from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, the draw shall open only for the passage of commercial vessels. From November 1 through April 30, from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., the draw shall open on signal if at least six hours' notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

Dated: July 26, 2019.

A.J. Tiongson,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2019–17937 Filed 8–19–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

##### Coast Guard

##### 33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG–2019–0661]

RIN 1625–AA00

#### Safety Zone, Swim Around Charleston, Charleston, SC

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard proposes to establish a temporary moving safety zone during the Swim Around Charleston, a swimming race occurring

on the Wando River, the Cooper River, Charleston Harbor, and the Ashley River, in Charleston, South Carolina. The temporary moving safety zone is necessary to protect swimmers, participant vessels, spectators, and the general public during the event. Persons and vessels would be prohibited from entering the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Charleston or a designated representative. We invite your comments on this proposed rulemaking.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must be received by the Coast Guard on or before September 19, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2019–0661 using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for further instructions on submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions about this proposed rulemaking, call or email Lieutenant Chad Ray, Sector Charleston Office of Waterways Management, Coast Guard; telephone (843) 740–3184, email [Chad.L.Ray@uscg.mil](mailto:Chad.L.Ray@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, Purpose, and Legal Basis

On July 24, 2019, Kathleen Wilson notified the Coast Guard that she will be sponsoring the Swim Around Charleston occurring October 6, 2019. The race will impact waters of the Wando River, Cooper River, Charleston Harbor, and Ashley River, in Charleston, South Carolina. The Captain of the Port Charleston (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the event would be a safety concern for race participants, spectators, and others on the navigable waters around the event.

The purpose of this rulemaking is to ensure the safety of persons, vessels, and the marine environment before, during, and after the scheduled event. The Coast Guard is proposing this rulemaking under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034.

##### III. Discussion of Proposed Rule

The COTP proposes to establish a temporary safety zone on the waters of

the Wando River, Cooper River, Charleston Harbor, and Ashley River, in Charleston, South Carolina during Swim Around Charleston from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on October 6, 2019.

Approximately 50 swimmers are anticipated to participate in the race. Persons and vessels desiring to enter, transit through, anchor in, or remain within the regulated area may contact the COTP by telephone at (843) 740–7050, or a designated representative via VHF radio on channel 16, to request authorization. If authorization to enter, transit through, anchor in, or remain within the regulated area is granted, all persons and vessels receiving such authorization must comply with the instructions of the COTP or a designated representative. The COTP will provide notice of the safety zone by Local Notice to Mariners, Broadcast Notice to Mariners, and on-scene designated representatives. The regulatory text we are proposing appears at the end of this document.

##### IV. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this proposed 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. Executive Order 13771 directs agencies to control regulatory costs through a budgeting process. This NPRM has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, the NPRM has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and pursuant to OMB guidance it is exempt from the requirements of Executive Order 13771.

This regulatory action determination is based on: (1) Non-participant persons and vessels may enter, transit through, anchor in, or remain within the regulated area during the enforcement periods if authorized by Sector Charleston COTP or a designated representative; (2) vessels not able to enter, transit through, anchor in, or remain within the regulated area without authorization from Sector Charleston COTP or a designated representative may operate in the surrounding areas during the enforcement period; (3) the Coast Guard