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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ANCHORAGE USAGE REGULATIONS

The Captain of the Port Sector Delaware Bay, through this MSIB, is formally reminding all port operators of the federal regulations regarding anchorage usage, specifically the amount of time vessels may remain at anchorage.

As per 33 CFR 110.157(b)(2), no vessel shall occupy any prescribed anchorage for a longer period than 48 hours without permit from the Captain of the Port. This regulation applies to the sixteen federally regulated anchorages as per 33 CFR 110.157. Anchorage A off the entrance to the Mispillion River, commonly referred to as Big Stone Anchorage, does not fall under this requirement.

To gain permission for an extended anchorage, contact the Waterways management staff at 215-271-4889 or the Coast Guard Command center at 215-271-4807. This request should be made prior to exceeding the 48 hour timeframe. The approval will be dependent on anticipated arrivals, weather and reason for request. The upriver anchorages, especially anchorage 7 (Marcus Hook) and anchorage 9 (Mantua Creek), are not meant for prolonged usage. These anchorages need to be available for deep draft vessel use, to include bunkering, lightering and emergency anchoring. It is requested that companies plan their operations accordingly and if a prolonged anchorage is necessary, it be requested for anchorages other than anchorage 7 and 9.

Further, it is strongly recommended that all operators familiarize themselves with the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware advisories regarding anchorages. These advisories can be found at <http://www.macdelriv.org/TRANSIT.html>.

Failure to comply with the federal regulations can result in a notice of violation, including monetary penalties. Your support of the Coast Guard and our maritime safety/ port operations mission is invaluable and we look forward to our continued inter-agency cooperation and coordination.



David L. Scott
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Delaware Bay