

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Minerals Management Service****30 CFR Parts 203, 256, and 260****Announcement of Public Meeting on Public Law 104-58, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Deep Water Royalty Relief Act, and Its Effect on OCS Natural Gas and Oil Resource Management**

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (Act) authorized the Secretary of the Interior to modify the terms of certain existing leases and to establish new terms for leases in water depths of 200 meters or greater in the Gulf of Mexico west of 87 degrees 30 minutes West longitude. The Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a public meeting at the Westin Canal Place, Vieux Carré Theatre, 100 Rue Iberville, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, on March 12-13, 1996 to receive written and oral comments on this topic.

Both individual and joint MMS-industry panel discussions will be used to cover the full range of options. The first day will concentrate on tracts offered for lease after November 28, 1995. The second day will be reserved for detailed discussion of options for royalty volume suspensions on existing leases. Topics will include options for: (1) Application and eligibility requirements; (2) review and approval process; (3) economic viability; and (4) definition of "new production." These topics are also the subject of an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which will be published in the Federal Register February 23, 1996 and which will be accessible on the MMS homepage on the World Wide Web.

All interested parties are invited to attend both sessions, but it would be especially valuable for those who may prepare the bids for upcoming Gulf of Mexico lease sales or who may want to apply for relief on existing leases to attend. Those wishing to attend any part of the 2-day session may register in advance and should indicate which day(s) they plan to be present. (Seating is limited to 295.) Reservations should be made no later than March 6, 1996, to Mary Carter, Gulf of Mexico Regional Office, Minerals Management Service, Elmwood Towers Building, 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Jefferson, Louisiana 70123—(504) 736-2675, or facsimile (504) 736-2647.

DATES: Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13, 1996, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Westin Canal Place, Vieux Carré Theatre, 100 Rue Iberville, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130—(504) 566-7006 or 1-800-228-3000. Contact person: Mary Carter, (504) 736-2675.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Walter Cruickshank, Chief, Offshore Minerals Analysis Division, Minerals Management Service, at either Mail Stop 4013, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240 or telephone: (202) 208-3822. You may access the text of the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking from the MMS homepage on the World Wide Web at <http://www.mms.gov/whatsnew.html>.

Dated: February 20, 1996.
Thomas Gernhofer,
Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management.
[FR Doc. 96-4215 Filed 2-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 100**

[CGD01-96-008]

RIN 2115-AE46

Special Local Regulation: Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race, Winter Harbor, ME

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to establish a permanent special local regulation for the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race. The event is held annually on the second Saturday in August, in the waters of Winter Harbor, Winter Harbor, ME. This regulation is needed to protect the boating public from the hazards associated with high speed powerboat racing in confined waters.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be mailed to Commander (b), First Coast Guard District, Captain John Foster Williams Federal Building, 408 Atlantic Ave., Boston, MA 02110-3350, or may be hand delivered to Room 428 at the same address, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant (jg) B.M. Algeo, Chief, Boating Affairs Branch, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8311.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Request for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this notice (CGD01-96-008), the specific section of the proposal to which each comment applies, and give reasons for each comment. The Coast Guard requests that all comments and attachments be submitted in an 8½" x 11" unbound format suitable for copying and electronic filing. If that is not practical, a second copy of any bound material is requested. Persons requesting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposal in view of the comments. The Coast Guard plans no public hearing. Persons may request a public hearing by writing to Commander (b), First Coast Guard District at the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include reasons why a hearing would be beneficial. If it is determined that the opportunity for oral presentations will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the Federal Register.

Discussion of Proposed Amendments

The Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race is a local, traditional event that has been held for more than thirty years in Winter Harbor, ME. In the past, the Coast Guard has promulgated individual regulations for each year's running of the race. Given the recurring nature of the event, the Coast Guard desires to establish a permanent regulation for this event. The proposed regulation would establish a regulated area on Winter Harbor and would provide specific guidance to control vessel movement during the race.

This event includes up to 50 power-driven lobster boats and druggers competing in heats on a marked course at speeds approaching 25 m.p.h. The event typically attracts approximately 75 spectator craft. The Coast Guard will assign a patrol to the event, and the race course will be marked. However, due to the speed, large wakes, and proximity of the participating vessels, it is necessary to establish a special local regulation to

control spectator and commercial vessel movement within this confined area. Spectator craft are authorized to watch the race from any area as long as they remain outside the designated regulated area.

The proposed section will be effective annually on the second Saturday in August, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. or as published in a Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. A rain date is established for the following Sunday during the same time period. In emergency situations, provisions may be made to establish safe escort by a Coast Guard or designated Coast Guard vessel for vessels requiring transit through the regulated area.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposal is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order. It has been exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under that order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation, under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT, is unnecessary. This conclusion is based on the limited duration of the race, the extensive advisories that will be made to the affected maritime community, and the minimal restrictions which the regulation places on vessel traffic.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard must consider the economic impact on small entities of a rule for which a general notice of proposed rulemaking is required. "Small entities" may include (1) small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields and (2) governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

For the reasons discussed in the Regulatory Evaluation, the Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposal will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Collection of Information

This proposal contains no collection of information requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Federalism

The Coast Guard has analyzed this proposal under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this proposal does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Environment

The Coast Guard has considered the environmental impacts of this proposal and concluded that, under paragraph 2.B.2.e.34(h) of COMDTINST 16475.1B, (as revised by 59 FR 38654, July 29, 1994) this proposal is a regulation issued in conjunction with an annually issued regatta or marine parade permit and is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 100

Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Waterways.

Proposed Regulation

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 100 as follows:

1. The authority citation for Part 100 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1233; 49 CFR 1.46 and 33 CFR 100.35.

2. Section 100.114, is added to read as follows:

§ 100.114 Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Race, Winter Harbor, ME.

(a) *Regulated Area.* The regulated area includes all waters of Winter Harbor, ME, within the following points (NAD 83):

Latitude	Longitude
44°23'07" N.	068°04'52" W.
44°22'12" N.	068°04'52" W.
44°22'12" N.	068°05'08" W.
44°23'07" N.	068°05'08" W.

(b) *Special Local Regulations.* (1) The Coast Guard patrol commander may delay, modify, or cancel the race as conditions or circumstances require.

(2) No person or vessel may enter, transit, or remain in the regulated area unless participating in the event or unless authorized by the Coast Guard patrol commander.

(3) Vessels encountering emergencies which require transit through the regulated area should contact the Coast Guard patrol commander on VHF Channel 16. In the event of an emergency, the Coast Guard patrol commander may authorize a vessel to transit through the regulated area with a Coast Guard designated escort.

(4) All persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the Coast Guard on-scene patrol commander. On-scene patrol personnel include commissioned, warrant, and petty officers of the U.S. Coast Guard. Upon hearing five or more short blasts from a U.S. Coast Guard vessel, the operator of a vessel shall proceed as directed. Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary may also be present to inform vessel operators of this regulation and other applicable laws.

(c) *Effective period.* This section is in effect from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. annually on the second Saturday in August, unless otherwise specified in a Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. In case of inclement weather, this section will be in effect the following Sunday at the same time, unless otherwise specified in a Coast Guard Notice to Mariners.

Dated: February 13, 1996.

J.L. Linnon,

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

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BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

46 CFR Part 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 161

[CGD 94-108]

RIN 2115-AF24

Electrical Engineering Requirements for Merchant Vessels

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: As a result of requests from a national trade association, the Coast Guard will hold a public meeting and extend the comment period for a proposed rule published on February 2, 1996, an additional 15 days beyond the original 45 day comment period on its proposed electrical engineering regulations for merchant vessels.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 25, 1996, and will begin at 9 a.m. Comments must be received on or before April 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in room 2230, Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Written comments may be mailed to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA/3406) (CGD 94-108), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001 or may be delivered to room 3406 at the above address between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.,