

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office/Group
Los Angeles-Long Beach

165 N. Pico Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90802
Staff Symbol:

Phone: (310) 980-4444

APPENDIX - E

16601

6 June 96

CAPTAIN OF THE PORT LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 1-96

Subj: DESIGNATION OF NARROW CHANNELS AND FAIRWAYS IN THE LA/LB
CAPTAIN OF THE PORT ZONE

1. PURPOSE: This notice updates and replaces Captain of the Port Notice 2-93 and serves to designate waterways in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and approaches which the Captain of the Port determines to be "Narrow Channels or Fairways" in the context of Rule 9 of the International Rules of the Road (COLREGS) and the Inland Steering and Sailing Rules. The designation of these waters is to minimize maneuvering conflicts between large commercial vessels and smaller vessels and to help ensure the safe, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in this major port complex.

2. DISCUSSION: There are thousands of commercial and recreational vessels operating in the relatively confined waters of the ports of LA/LB and the seaward approaches. With over 5,500 large commercial vessels, some as large as 1,070 feet length overall, calling on the ports of LA/LB the potential exists for serious major marine casualties developing from conflicts with recreational and small vessels. To date, there have been numerous "near misses" as a result of smaller vessels not appreciating the maneuvering limitations of large vessels and not understanding which waters are "Narrow Channels or Fairways". A deep draft vessel maneuvering to avoid a recreational vessel faces the potential of grounding and causing a major oil spill, diverting into the path of other recreational vessels or standing on course with the hope the conflicting vessel takes adequate evasive action. In practice, large vessels, deep draft vessels and tugs with tows can only safely navigate in the channels, fairways and port approaches.

Rule 9 of the COLREGS and Inland Rules of the Road prohibit vessels less than 20 meters (approx. 65' in length) from impeding the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only in a "Narrow Channel or Fairway". Violation of these regulations may result in penalties of \$10,000. In addition, small vessels operating too close to large vessels and impeding their safe transit are considered to be "negligently operated" and may be cited for \$10,000 for violation of this regulation.

To assist in the safe navigation of all marine traffic and to provide mariners an understanding of waters that fall within the definition of "Narrow Channels and Fairways" these waters are

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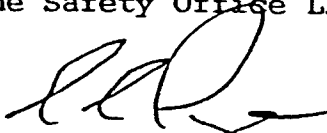
identified below. Mariners are urged to report infractions to the Captain of the Port via radio at the onset of a "close quarters" situation on VHF Channel 16 and or submission of the attached reporting form.

3. ACTION: The Coast Guard Captain of the Port designates the following waterways as "Narrow Channels and Fairways" as defined in Rule 9 of the COLREGS and the Inland Rules of the Road.

a. The Los Angeles and Long Beach Pilot operating areas as reflected on NOAA Chart 18751. These areas generally extend from the "Angel's Gate" and "Queen's Gate" breakwater openings seaward for 1 mile.

b. All navigational channels inside the LA/LB federal breakwater leading to deep draft berths in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach including, but not limited to the Los Angeles Main Ship Channel, Long Beach Channel, and Cerritos Channel.

c. Incidents where vessel operators fail to comply with Rule 9 and provisions of this Notice should immediately be brought to the attention of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port as appropriate and or through submission of the "Incident Report" attached to this Notice. Questions regarding the implementation of this Notice should be directed to the Chief of Port Operations, at Coast Guard Marine Safety Office LA/LB at the above listed number.



E. E. PAGE
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port
Los Angeles-Long Beach

Distribution: LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED BY THE USCG IN ORDER FOR THEM TO INVESTIGATE INCIDENTS OF SMALL VESSELS HAMPERING THE PROGRESS OF SHIPS OR TUGS WITH TOWS IN THE HARBOR AREA.

CF # _____ OTHER IDENTIFYING # _____

NAME OF SMALL VESSEL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF SMALL VESSEL: _____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: _____

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON BOARD: _____

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT: _____

DESTINATION OF SMALL VESSEL (IF KNOWN): _____

NAME OF SHIP/TUG: _____ MASTER: _____

DESTINATION OF SHIP/TUG: _____

WEATHER CONDITIONS AT THE TIME: _____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT (USE REVERSE IF NECESSARY): _____

MASTER or PILOT (PRINT NAME)

MASTER or PILOT (SIGNATURE)

SUBMIT TO MANAGEMENT: