USCG ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY (ACPARS)

In May 2011 the US Coast Guard announced that it was conducting a Port Access Route Study of the entire East Coast of the United States and participation by interested parties was encouraged.

It was critical that the Coast Guard received input from maritime stakeholders to determine whether existing and projected uses of the waterways, including the effects of new routeing measures, may have on users.

The study is necessary to determine if new routeing measures or changes to existing routeing measures were necessary to balance the multiple uses of the waterway, while ensuring the safety of navigation.

The Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study (ACPARS) Workgroup (WG) was given three objectives to complete within the limits of available resources. These were to:

1. Determine whether the Coast Guard should initiate actions to modify or create safety fairways, Traffic Separation Schemes (TSSs) or other routeing measures;

2. Provide data, tools and/or methodology to assist in future determinations of waterways suitability for proposed projects; and

3. Develop, in the near term, Automatic Identification System (AIS) products and provide other support as necessary to assist Districts with all emerging coastal and offshore energy projects.

The final ACPARS report is now available here:
http://www.uscg.mil/lantarea/acpars/