

US Coast Guard study

Evaluation of Pacific coastal waterway use Determination of future navigation protocols

On 24 September from San Francisco, the USCG 11th District (Pacific Southwest) announced that it had requested public participation during the Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS).

Federal register notices for the PAC-PARS have been opened for comment.

Comments and related materials must be received on or before 25 January 2022.

It is understood that the PAC-PARS will evaluate the use of coastal waterways by collecting vessel tracking data, environmental data, existing and planned offshore development/infrastructure, historical marine incident data, and public comment.

We learn that this is the first comprehensive evaluation of all vessel traffic patterns that use the Pacific Coast waterway along the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. The main goal of the PAC-PARS is to evaluate historic and future waterway use to determine navigational risk.

Commander William George, Eleventh Coast Guard District Waterways Management chief commented: *‘The primary focus of this study will incorporate all traffic patterns of vessels approaching and departing the major ports and specifically vessel interaction with existing coastal routes.’*

‘The Coast Guard has witnessed a continuous growth of waterway use with current and proposed offshore operations and we are committed to providing the high level of navigational safety that the maritime community expects.’

The PAC-PARS, along with comments from the public, will determine if current navigation protocols are adequate for existing and future traffic levels.

Lieutenant Nicholas Buch, Eleventh District Waterways Management analyst added: *‘District Eleven is excited to begin this opportunity to evaluate all data associated with navigation off the California Coast.’*

‘We are engaging federal, Native American tribes, state, and waterway users to collect any data associated with this study. The public’s input is critical in completing a comprehensive evaluation of the waterway and to provide safe navigational protocols.’

The Notice of Study was published on the federal register under docket USCG-2021-0345, and can be found by searching the docket to be found here: www.regulations.gov

Picture caption

USCGC George Cobb of 11th District Pacific Southwest.

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