

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117****[CGD08-00-005]****Drawbridge Operating Regulation;
Chef Menteur Pass, LA****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of temporary deviation from regulations; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the U.S. Highway 90 bridge across Chef Menteur Pass, mile 2.8, at Lake Catherine, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. This deviation will test a proposed change to the drawbridge operation schedule. This deviation will change the current morning bridge closure period from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, so that the draw will open on the hour and half-hour during this period. The test deviation will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of a proposed change to the draw operation schedule.

DATES: This deviation is effective from Thursday, June 1, 2000 through Friday, June 30, 2000. Comments must be submitted by July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commander (ob), Eighth Coast Guard District, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3396, or deliver them to room 1313 at the same address between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the Bridge Administration Branch, Eighth Coast Guard District between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Johnson, Bridge Administration Branch, telephone (504) 589-2965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 23, 1999 the operating regulation for the Chef Menteur Pass Bridge was changed to allow the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. (CGD8-96-053, 64 FR 8720 dated February 23, 1999). The Coast Guard received

numerous complaints from operators of commercial fishing vessels, stating that the special operating regulation does not meet the needs of navigation for local commercial fishermen because they are required to haul in their shrimp nets two hours earlier than necessary to be able pass through the bridge before the closure time. This cuts down trawling time resulting in loss of revenue. Based on complaints from local commercial fishermen, the Coast Guard has determined that the special drawbridge operating regulation may not meet the reasonable needs of navigation.

The Coast Guard is proposing a change to the regulation governing the operation of the bridge and has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. The NPRM requests comments on the Coast Guard's proposal to modify the 33 CFR 117.436 to require the bridge to open only on the hour and on the half-hour from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The draw shall open on signal at all other times or at any time for a vessel in distress. The deviation to the current regulations allows the Coast Guard to test the proposed schedule and evaluate its effectiveness before making a permanent change to the drawbridge opening regulation. Comments will be accepted through July 31, 2000.

Under the temporary deviation, the draw of the U. S. Highway 90 bridge across Chef Menteur Pass, mile 2.8 at Lake Catherine, Orleans Parish, Louisiana will open to navigation only on the hour and on the half-hour between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. from June 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. The draw shall open on signal at all other times or at any time for a vessel in distress.

Dated: May 1, 2000.

K.J. Eldridge,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, 8th Coast Guard Dist., Acting.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165****[COTP Western Alaska 00-004]****RIN 2115-AA97****Safety Zone; Redoubt Shoal, Cook Inlet, Alaska****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary 500-yard radius moving safety zone around the Exploratory Drilling Structure OSPREY as it is towed by Crowley Marine Service Tugs from Port Graham, Alaska to its set down site located in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska. This safety zone is implemented to ensure the safe and timely movement and set down of the Drilling Structure OSPREY in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska.

DATES: This temporary final rule is effective from 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2000, until 11:59 p.m. on July 9, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public docket for this rulemaking is maintained by Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Anchorage, 510 "L" Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501. Materials in the public docket are available for inspection and copying at Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Anchorage. Normal Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Commander Rick Rodriguez, Chief of Port Operations, USCG Marine Safety Office, Anchorage, at (907) 271-6724.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Regulatory History**

A notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) was not published for this regulation. In keeping with requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a NPRM. Publishing an NPRM and delaying the effective date would be contrary to national safety interests since immediate action is needed to minimize potential danger to the public. The OSPREY is a large structure that is difficult to maneuver and presents a potential hazard. Publishing an NPRM and delaying the effective date of the regulation is warranted because immediate action is necessary to protect participants and other vessel traffic from the potential hazards associated with this operation.

Background and Purpose

The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary 500-yard radius moving safety zone on the navigable waters of the United States around the Exploratory Drilling Structure OSPREY as it is towed by Crowley Marine Service Tugs from Port Graham, Alaska to its set down site located in Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, Alaska, latitude 60°41'74" W, longitude 151°40'33" N. This safety zone is implemented to ensure the safe and timely movement