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COAST GUARD ADVISORY NOTICE (CGAN 2025-036)

To: Distribution

Date: December 12, 2025

From: Waterways Management Division

Revision No: 00

Re: 2025-2026 Ice Season

The 2025-2026 ice season will commence on December 15, 2025. As in past ice seasons, the Coast Guard will request mariners to report transit information north of the George Washington Bridge prior to getting underway. As during the 2024-2025 ice season, the Coast Guard asks mariners to report this information to the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). The VTS will continue to use procedures and protocols established last year to track vessel transits and provide more timely navigational advisories on the Upper Hudson River, to improve safety and facilitate commerce on that waterway.

For vessels getting underway from locations in the VTS Area (south of the Holland Tunnel Ventilator in New York Harbor), with final destinations north of the George Washington Bridge, the VTS Channel 11 operator will request cargo information (type/quantity) in addition to normal transit information. Mariners may provide cargo information by calling the watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 if they prefer not to transmit that data over the radio. Upon arrival at the Holland Tunnel ventilators, the Channel 14 operator will provide a traffic report as far north as Yonkers, and request the mariner contact the VTS watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 once moored or anchored. The VTS will continue to actively track the vessel via AIS to its final destination and will be available to provide traffic reports/navigational advisories upon request. Unfortunately, VTS New York does not have VHF communications capability north of the George Washington Bridge. Mariners can call the VTS watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 if that means of communication is assessed as safe, or can relay requests through the Sector New York Command Center on VHF channel 16.

For vessels departing waterfront facilities or anchorages north of the George Washington Bridge, the VTS requests mariners contact the VTS watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 prior to getting underway. The VTS will collect transit information and actively track the vessel via AIS to its destination. The VTS will provide mariners with traffic reports/navigational advisories upon request. Mariners are requested to contact the VTS watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 once moored or anchored.

Mariners should contact the VTS watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088 or the Sector Command Center via VHF channel 16 if beset by ice or otherwise requesting ice breaking assistance. The VTS will coordinate the Coast Guard response with the Sector New York Command Center.

VTS New York has created an Alert Warning System distribution list for Hudson River users to receive navigational advisories via text and/or email. Any mariners requesting to be added to this distribution list should email the VTS at SECNYVTS@uscg.mil or call the watch supervisor at (718) 354-4088. Additionally, the Navigation Center will publish daily Ice Reports on the New York Port Status and Contact Information Page linked here: [Port Status | Navigation Center](#).

VTS New York continues to be very interested in your feedback regarding these procedures to improve service delivery to our customers. Please email or call the VTS at SECNYVTS@uscg.mil or (718) 354-4088 with any recommendations during the course of this ice season so we can collaboratively improve safety and facilitate commerce on the Hudson River.