



**Marine Safety Information Bulletin 30-01**  
**Heightened Preparedness**  
**and**  
**Port Security Measures**  
**December 4, 2001**

Due to continuing national security concerns, the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston is immediately implementing additional port security measures throughout the region which may directly affect maritime schedules and operations. Although there is not amplifying threat intelligence that is specific for the regional ports and Outer Continental Shelf at this time, this action is necessary as part of a comprehensive port security regime designed to safeguard human life, vessels and waterfront facilities from sabotage or terrorist acts.

1. Security Zones. The Captain of the Port has established security zones to regulate the circumstances under which certain vessels may enter, transit or operate within these areas, and exclude all other vessels from entering these areas. The primary intention is to recognize isolated, highly industrialized, waterway segments and restrict use to vessels engaged directly or in support of those industries. As such, waterway use by recreational and fishing vessels is being impacted in the following waterway segments:

**Houston, TX:** The Houston Ship Channel and all associated turning basins, bounded by a line drawn between Houston Ship Channel Light 132 (LLNR-24445) and Houston Ship Channel Light 133 (LLNR-24450) west to the T & N Rail Road Swing Bridge at the entrance to Buffalo Bayou, including all waters adjacent to the ship channel from shoreline to shoreline and the first 200 yards of connecting waterways;

**Bayport, TX:** The Port of Bayport Ship Channel and Turning Basin containing all waters south of a line drawn from Bayport Ship Channel Light 9 (LLNR-23295) and a western point at latitude 29-36.43'N longitude 095-01.29'W;

**Texas City, TX:** The Port of Texas City Channel, Turning Basin and Industrial Canal containing all waters bounded by the area south and west of a line drawn between Cut B Inner Range Rear Light (LLNR-24770), and Texas City Channel Light 19 (LLNR-24810);

**Freeport, TX:** The Old Brazos River Cut, and the Dow Barge Canal containing all waters bounded by its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway by a line drawn between the eastern point at latitude 28-56.45'N longitude 095-18.2'W, and the western point at latitude 28-56.37'N longitude 095-18.33'W.

**Security Zone Regulations:**

- (a) *Applicability.* All vessels and watercraft are excluded from operating on the waters described in this section *except*:
- (1) Commercial vessels operating at waterfront facilities;
  - (2) Commercial vessels transiting directly to or from waterfront facilities, under specific approval from the appropriate port and/or facility authority;
  - (3) Vessels providing direct operational/logistic support to commercial vessels identified in this section;
  - (4) Vessels operated by, or under the direction of, the appropriate port and/or facility authority;
  - (5) Vessels operated under the authority of cognizant federal, state, county, or municipal agencies.
- (b) *Regulations.*
- (1) Entry into, transit through, fleeting, loitering or anchoring within these areas is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston or his designated on-scene representative.
  - (2) The designated on-scene representatives are “Houston Traffic”, and the USCG Patrol Commander and may be contacted via VHF/FM Marine Channel 16.

2. Vessel Controls. The USCG will continue to evaluate each commercial vessel advance notice of arrival/departure. Operators are advised that due to heightened security concerns, transit delays can be anticipated. The COTP will require certain vessels to undergo a USCG port security boarding prior to granting in/outbound clearance, and/or require a USCG Sea Marshal team to escort vessel transits. The USCG will continue to monitor rapidly changing port dynamics, to direct resources appropriately and manage traffic queues efficiently.

3. Maritime Domain Awareness. The USCG will continue to conduct security patrols within the ports and offshore. Operators are advised to maintain enhanced security measures, and to report any suspicious activities to MSO Houston-Galveston at: (713) 671-5100; MSO Galveston at: (409) 766-5417; or VTS Houston/Galveston at: (713) 671-6103.

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Captain of the Port