

for the effective coordination of the activities associated with the 1995 Special Olympics World Games. The specific tasking given to the various Coast Guard resources will be included in this OPORD.

Good cause exists for making this regulation effective in less than 30 days after **Federal Register** publication. The Special Olympic World Games (SOWG) represents a dynamic and complex planning challenge. Seven thousand athletes are expected to compete over nine days in 21 sporting events, many occurring on navigable waters of the U.S. Over 500,000 spectators are expected to attend. To adequately deal with the challenges posed by these unique circumstances, the Coast Guard has had to maintain extraordinary flexibility and responsiveness in its planning organization. This requirement for flexibility and responsiveness required publication of the NPRM after SOWG event plans had adequately developed. Also, SOWG events were only recently finalized to the point where the final rule could be issued. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be against the public interest. This rule is required to efficiently and effectively regulate the many waterfront and waterborne activities associated with the SOWG and thereby protect lives and property of participants and spectators.

Regulatory History

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published for this regulation on 28 April 1995. One comment was received and no changes were made to the original proposal.

Discussion of Comments

The Coast Guard received one comment from a passenger vessel charter service company expressing objection to any restriction of movement within New Haven Harbor during the Special Olympics World Games. The charter service company responding was concerned with potential lost revenues due to the restrictions placed on vessel traffic within the harbor. The Coast Guard has considered this comment but does not believe any significant impact results from closing portions of New Haven Harbor due to its limited and temporary duration during the Special Olympics World Games. The restrictions placed on New Haven Harbor due to the fireworks displays will limit the distance into the channel the charter service company will be able to take passengers but it will not prevent the company from taking passengers to view the fireworks displays. The restrictions placed on New Haven Harbor due to the Parade of Sail will prevent the charter service company from taking passengers into the harbor

for approximately eight hours. The restrictions placed on New Haven Harbor are necessary to ensure the safe conduct of each event taking place as part of the Special Olympics World Games. The Coast Guard believes the business realized by the charter service company will be significantly greater as a result of the City of New Haven's hosting the Special Olympics World Games. Therefore, the Coast Guard does not believe the temporary restrictions placed on the charter service's operations constitutes a significant impact.

Discussion of Proposed Amendments

The Coast Guard is establishing a special local regulation for specified waters of Long Island Sound and New Haven Harbor, New Haven, Connecticut. Because of the varied nature of the events planned during the Special Olympics World Games and the length of time over which the events are scheduled to run, the Coast Guard believes the most effective way to meet all safety, security and vessel control objectives is to establish one large regulated area, divided into 15 sectors. As events occur, individual sectors will open and close as the need arises. The following is a chartlet illustrating each sector.

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