



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information August 2020



Allegheny River

Ninth Street Bridge (0.8): Due to planned work, the vertical clearance may be reduced more than one foot below low steel. Mariners are urged to transit with caution. Estimated completion is August of 2020.

Ohio River

Wellsburg Bridge (75.5): Trestle and cofferdam installation underway. The new bridge will provide a minimum of 800 feet of horizontal clearance. Environmental review underway. Tentatively scheduled construction or November 2020.

Ninth Street Bridge (90.8): Rehabilitation and painting. Vertical clearance reduced by 4 inches until Oct. 2022.

Bellaire Bridge (94.3): Demolition date to be determined.

Tygart River

1-79 Twin Bridges Replacement (2.6): Pre-application stage.

Areas of Interest

- 1. On-Water Mass Gatherings – Recreational, Sporting, or Cause-Related Events:** The Coast Guard Waterways Policies and Activities Division has released [MSIB 17-20](#) to highlight the impacts of on-water mass gatherings to the public and Maritime Transportation System (MTS).

On-water mass gatherings pose concerns due to the safety issues they create for the boating public and the Maritime Transportation System (MTS). Regardless of the nature of these gatherings, whether recreational, sporting or cause-related, they are primarily a boating safety issue. As these types of marine events continue to grow in popularity throughout the country, the Coast Guard will work together with its port partners to ensure the safety on the marine transportation system. These actions will take into account health and safety factors including but not limited to local COVID-19 and social distance guidelines as well as current unrest.

The Coast Guard issues permits for, and monitors marine events, to ensure safety of life at sea and on our waterways. Permits are required for powerboat races, sailing regattas, and other marine events that have the potential to draw an accumulation of spectator craft, may obstruct a waterway, or introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of human life on the navigable waters of the United States. A large gathering of recreational boaters would not necessarily meet the requirement for an event permit. It is recommended you contact your local Captain of the Port to determine if your event will require a permit.

The Coast Guard and our port partners are committed to ensuring the safety and security of the waterway. The Coast Guard and other local agencies will provide on-water safety and law enforcement assets. The goal of these patrols is to ensure mariners using the waterway are not negatively impacted due to the anticipated increase in vessel traffic and to ensure that commercial traffic can safely continue operations.



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Regardless of the nature of the event, the Coast Guard's role is to ensure the safety and security of the maritime transportation system. The presence of the Coast Guard and its partners on the waterway is not to support the event itself, but to ensure the waterway is safe for all mariners due to the anticipated increase in traffic.