



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information September 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. MSIB: Novel Coronavirus – Mariner Credentials Update (Change 3):** The Coast Guard has published [MSIB 08-20 \(Change 3\)](#) to update guidance concerning mariner credentials, medical certificates and course approvals, and the action being taken by the Coast Guard due to the novel coronavirus and the disease it causes (COVID-19). We are doing this in keeping with national guidance to meet the challenge of this disease and in response to a number of questions and concerns raised by the maritime industry and mariners. The provisions in this MSIB are consistent with the Executive Order on Regulatory Relief to Support Economic Recovery issued on May 19, 2020.

The Coast Guard has also been consulting with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other administrations to ensure alignment with respect to the extension of endorsements issued in accordance with the Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, as amended (STCW). We are taking a pragmatic approach consistent with the IMO Secretary General's circular Letter No.4204/Add.5 dated March 17, 2020.

Please be aware the following measures may cause a backlog in the processing of credentials and course approvals, especially near the end of the extension dates. Mariners and training providers are strongly encouraged to fulfill the requirements and submit applications as early as possible in order to avoid a lapse in their credential or training approval. Similarly, training providers need to make every effort to submit their application early to avoid expiration of their current approval.

To mitigate the impact to the seafarers and the industry caused by the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19, the Coast Guard is taking the following actions:

- Merchant Mariner Credentials (MMC) (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until March 31, 2021. Mariners who are actively working on expired credentials that meet the extension criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of this notice.



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- Medical Certificates (National Endorsements only) that expire between March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 are extended until December 31, 2020. Mariners who are actively working on expired medical certificates that meet the extension criteria must carry the expired credential with a copy of this notice. This measure relaxes the requirement to carry an unexpired medical certificate and not the actual medical standards. It is important that mariners with disqualifying medical conditions do not sail.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/08/25/msib-novel-coronavirus-mariner-credentials-update-change-3/>

2. Coast Guard requesting comments to improve Nation's shallow draft waterways ATON system:

The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting an assessment of the Shallow Draft Waterway Systems, the fourth in a series of studies to determine the navigation requirements for mariners in the U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS). The Waterways Analysis and Management System (WAMS) study will help the Coast Guard to determine the Aids to Navigation (ATON) requirements in the Shallow Draft Waterway Systems which includes all navigable waterways of the United States less than 12 feet.

The WAMS study is focused on providing consistent, program-wide policy necessary to support Coast Guard District Commanders in the execution and management of ATON services within the Shallow Draft Waterway System. The shallow draft system is present in all nine Coast Guard Districts. The recommendations will not determine what individual ATON to add, keep, or remove, but they may shape policy for the next generation waterway system management and design. All ATON activities remain under the purview of the local District Commander. The assessment is part of the U.S. Coast Guard's effort to make navigable waterways of the United States safer, more efficient and resilient. Studies have been previously conducted of the Atlantic and Pacific Seacoast Systems along with the Western Rivers (Inland Waterways) System. Future studies are planned to include the Intracoastal Waterways and Deep Draft Waterway Systems.

Waterway users, interested parties, and stakeholders are invited to provide comments or feedback via the tool posted at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ShallowWaterWAMS>. This link will remain available until November 1, 2020. <https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2020/08/10/coast-guard-requesting-comments-to-improve-nations-shallow-draft-waterways-aton-system/>