I. Background, Purpose and Legal Basis

On July 18, 2017, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled, “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Shrewsbury River, Sea Bright, New Jersey” in the Federal Register (82 FR 32777) soliciting comments on the proposed rule through September 18, 2017. In addition, Commander (dpb), First Coast Guard District published Public Notice 1–155 dated July 28, 2017. The Monmouth County Highway Bridge, mile 4.0, across the Shrewsbury River at Sea Bright, New Jersey, has a vertical clearance of 15 feet at Mean High Water and 17 feet at Mean Low Water when the span is in the closed position. Vertical clearance is unlimited when the draw is open. Horizontal clearance is 75 feet. Waterway users include recreational vessels and a limited number of commercial vessels including tug/barge combinations.

The existing drawbridge regulation, 33 CFR 117.755, requires the draw of the Monmouth County Highway Bridge to open as follows:

The draw shall open on signal at all times; except that, from May 15 through September 30, on Saturday, Sunday and holidays, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., the draw need only open on the hour.

In response to the comments received, follow-up meetings with Monmouth County officials, and further review of bridge logs and traffic counts, the Coast Guard now proposes to test an alternate schedule by adjusting the proposed rule to allow the draw to open as follows:

The draw shall open on signal at all times; except that, from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day, on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., the draw need only open on the hour.

Before advancing the proposed rule to a final rule, the Coast Guard supports testing an alternate schedule for the 2018 boating season in order to better assess safety concerns and further compare roadway traffic counts versus requests for bridge openings. Monmouth County plans to record traffic counts during the Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day time periods as well as additional one-week periods in July and August. Bridge tenders will also collect boat traffic data. Data from this test and further public comments will best inform our final decision.

The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessel operators can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the drawbridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

II. Public Participation and Request for Comments

We view public participation as essential to effective rulemaking, and will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comment can help shape the outcome of this rulemaking. If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this rulemaking, indicate the specific section of this

Below for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this test deviation, call or email Ms. Donna Leoce, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, telephone 212–514–4332, donna.d.leoce@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2017–0460]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Shrewsbury River, Sea Bright, New Jersey

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Monmouth County Highway Bridge (alternatively referred to as the “Sea Bright Bridge” or the “S–32 Bridge”) across the Shrewsbury River, mile 4.0, at Sea Bright, New Jersey. This deviation will test a proposed change to the drawbridge operation schedule to determine whether a permanent change to the schedule is warranted. This deviation will allow the bridge to operate under an alternate schedule that seeks to balance the seasonally high volume of roadway traffic crossing the bridge during peak hours with the existing needs of marine traffic.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 9 a.m. on May 25, 2018, to 7 p.m. on September 3, 2018.

Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before September 3, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by docket number USCG–2017–0460 using Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below for instructions on submitting comments.

225. and 702(a)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402, 405(a)–(b) and (d)–(h), 416(i), 421(a) and (b)–(j), 422(c), 423, 425, and 902(a)(5)); sec. 211(b), Pub. L. 104–193, 110 Stat. 2105, 2189; sec. 202, Pub. L. 108–203, 118 Stat. 509 (42 U.S.C. 902 note).
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG–2018–0216]

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Long Creek & Sloop Channel, Hempstead, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Loop Parkway Bridge across Long Creek, mile 0.7, and Meadowbrook State Parkway Bridge across Sloop Channel, mile 12.8, both at Hempstead, New York. This deviation is necessary in order to facilitate a motorcycle ride event and allows both bridges to remain in the closed position for two hours.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The docket for this deviation, USCG–2018–0216, is available at http://www.regulations.gov. Type the docket number in the "SEARCH" box and click "SEARCH". Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or email Judy K. Leung-Yee, Bridge Management Specialist, First District Bridge Branch, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 212–514–4336, email Judy.K.Leung-Yee@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The event sponsor requested and the bridge owner for both bridges, the New York State Department of Transportation, concurred with this temporary deviation from the normal operating schedule to facilitate a public event, the Dee Snider's Motorcycle Ride to Benefit Melissa's Wish.

The Loop Parkway Bridge, mile 0.7, across Long Creek has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 21 feet at mean high water and 25 feet at mean low water. The existing bridge operating regulations are found at 33 CFR 117.799(f).

The Meadowbrook State Parkway Bridge, mile 12.8, across Sloop Channel has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 22 feet at mean high water and 25 feet at mean low water. The existing bridge operating regulations are found at 33 CFR 117.799(h).

Under this temporary deviation, the Loop Parkway Bridge and the Meadowbrook State Parkway Bridge may remain in the closed position between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on September 30, 2018. Both waterways are used primarily by seasonal recreational vessels and commercial fishing vessels. Coordination with Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound has indicated no mariner objections to the proposed short-term closure of the draw. Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed position may do so at all times. The bridges will be able to open for emergencies and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels to pass.

The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notices to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessel operators can arrange their transits to minimize any impact caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), both drawbridges must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the effective period of this temporary deviation. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.


C.J. Bisignano,
Supervisory Bridge Management Specialist, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2018–10872 Filed 5–21–18; 8:45 am]

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket No. USCG–2018–0413]

Safety Zone; Annual Swim Around Key West, Key West, FL

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of enforcement of regulation.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will enforce the temporary safety zone for the 42nd Annual Swim Around Key West, Key West, Florida from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on June 16, 2018. Our regulation for Recurring Safety Zones in Captain of the Port Key West Zone identifies the regulated area for this event. This action is necessary to ensure the safety of event participants and spectators. During the enforcement period, no person or vessel may enter, transit through, anchor in, or remain within the regulated area without approval from the Captain of the Port Key West or a designated representative.

DATES: The regulations in 33 CFR 165.786, Table to § 165.786, Item 6.2 will be enforced from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on June 16, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about this notice of enforcement, call or email Gregory Bergstrom, Sector Key West Waterways Management Department, Coast Guard; telephone (305) 292–8772; email Greg.C.Bergstrom@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Coast Guard will enforce the safety zones in 33 CFR 165.786, Table to § 165.786, Item 6.2, from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on June 16, 2018 for the annual Swim Around Key West in Key West, Florida. This action prevents vessels from transiting areas specifically designated as safety zones during the periods of enforcement to ensure the protection of the maritime public and event participants from the hazards associated with the listed annual recurring events. During the enforcement period, no person or vessel may enter, transit through, anchor within, or remain in the designated safety zones.


C.J. Bisignano,
Supervisory Bridge Management Specialist, First Coast Guard District.