

United States Coast Guard

Naval Vessel Protection Zone

Effective: September 14, 2001

- All vessels within 500 yards of a U.S. naval vessel shall operate at the minimum speed necessary to maintain a safe course and shall proceed as directed by the official patrol (a Coast Guard commissioned, warrant or petty officer; or the Commanding Officer of a U.S. naval vessel or his or her designee).
- No vessel is allowed within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel, unless authorized by the official patrol.
- Vessels requesting to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel shall contact the official patrol on VHF-FM channel 16. The official patrol may permit vessels that can only operate safely in a navigable channel to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel in order to ensure a safe passage in accordance with the Navigation Rules.
- Commercial vessels anchored in a designated anchorage area may be permitted to remain at anchor within 100 yards of passing naval vessels.

Regulatory Information

The Coast Guard has established temporary regulations for the safety and security of U.S. naval vessels in the navigable waters of the United States. The regulation is issued under the authority contained in 14 U.S.C. § 91. Naval Vessel Protection Zones will provide for the regulation of vessel traffic in the vicinity of U.S. naval vessels in the navigable waters of the United States.

These zones are necessary to provide for the safety and security of United States naval vessels in the navigable waters of the United States.

This rule, for safety and security concerns, controls vessel movement in a regulated area surrounding U.S. naval vessels. U.S. naval vessel means any vessel owned, operated, chartered, or leased by the U.S. Navy; and any vessel under the operational control of the U.S. Navy or a unified commander.

Violations of these regulations are punishable as a class D felony (imprisonment for not more than 6 years and a fine of not more than \$250,000) and in rem liability against the vessel.

Assistance for Small Entities

We want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the address listed under ADDRESS.

If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

ADDRESS

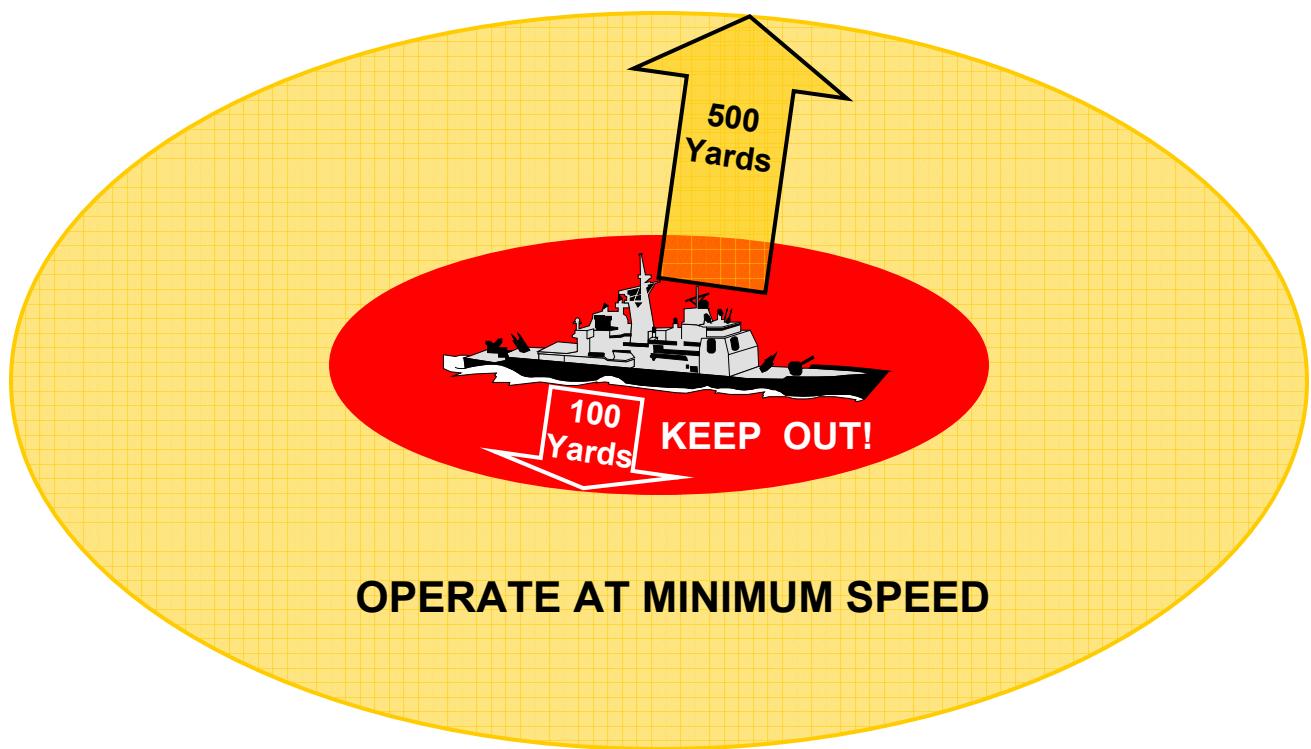
Commander (Amr)
Coast Guard Atlantic Area,
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004
(757) 398-6372.



WARNING!

Do not approach within 100 yards of any U.S. naval vessel.

If you need to pass within 100 yards of a U.S. naval vessel in order to ensure a safe passage in accordance with the Navigation Rules, you must contact the U.S. naval vessel or the Coast Guard escort vessel on VHF-FM channel 16.



You must operate at minimum speed within 500 yards of any U.S. naval vessel
and proceed as directed by the Commanding Officer or the official patrol.

Violations of the Naval Vessel Protection Zone are a felony offense, punishable by up to 6 years in prison and/or up to \$250,000 in fines

Your role in keeping our waterways safe and secure...



Keep your distance from all military, cruise-line, or commercial shipping! Do not approach within **100-yards**, and slow to minimum speed within **500-yards** of any U.S. naval vessel. Violators face 6 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, not to mention a quick and severe response.

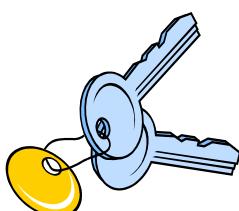
Observe and avoid all security zones. Avoid commercial port operation areas, especially those that involve military, cruise-line or petroleum facilities. Violators will be perceived as a threat, and will face a quick, determined and severe response.



Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in the channel. If you do, then expect to be boarded by law enforcement officials.



Keep a sharp eye out for anything that looks peculiar or out of the ordinary. Report all activities that seem suspicious to the local authorities, the Coast Guard and the port or marina security. Do not approach or challenge those acting in a suspicious manner.



Always secure and lock your boat when not on board. This includes while visiting marina restaurants or a friend's dock and other piers. Never leave your boat accessible to others. Always take the keys to the boat with you.

When storing your boat, make sure it is secure and its engine is disabled. If it is on a trailer, make the trailer as immovable as possible.



**First and foremost,
make sure your boat is
safe and that it meets
all safety requirements
and regulations.**

Making sure that your boat has a current *Vessel Safety Check* is an important first step. You can arrange for a *Vessel Safety Check* of your boat by contacting your local Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadron.

Remain sober and alert when out on the water. Stay in control of your craft and respect the rights of others lawfully enjoying the waterways.

Know and obey the navigation rules. To find a safe boating class in your area call (800) 336-2628.

Wear your life jacket as a badge of support for your Coast Guard men & women on patrol. By displaying your commitment to safe boating, you will help reduce the demands placed on the Coast Guard's limited resources and assets.



Keep Our Waterways Safe and Secure



Report:

Suspicious persons conducting unusual activities

Individuals establishing roadside stands near marinas or other waterfront facilities

Unknown persons photographing or creating diagrams

Unknown or suspicious persons loitering for extended periods of time

Unknown or suspicious persons renting watercraft

Suspicious vendors attempting to sell/deliver merchandise or drop off packages

**National Response Center
(800) 424-8802**

Keeping Our Waterways Safe and Secure

Now is the time to get back on the water... and enjoy the many rewards and opportunities our marine environment offers.



But, this is also a time when we must all be more cautious and continuously aware of our surroundings!

Times such as these require some tighter safety and security measures for the upcoming boating season...