



16781

## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 03-13

May 13, 2013

### Non-Commercial Vessel Safety Requirements for Offshore Dredge Operations for the Captain of the Port, Western Alaska Zone

- Ref: (a) Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter S § 173-187  
(b) State of Alaska Statute AS 05.25  
(c) Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter C and Subchapter I

There has been an overwhelming increase in dredge interest and activity over the past few years, particularly in the Nome offshore tracts. This informational bulletin provides minimum safety requirements for non-commercial gold dredge operators in State of Alaska coastal waters under the concurrent jurisdiction the U.S. Coast Guard and State of Alaska Department of Public Safety.

Effective for the 2013 dredging season, all vessels less than 300 gross tons will be expected to comply with the guidelines previously implemented with the USCG Dredge Vessel Safety Check Program and in accordance with references (a) and (b). All seagoing motor vessels 300 gross tons and above will be expected to meet the safety requirements of reference (c). All non-self propelled vessels requiring a towing vessel for positioning will be required to ensure the towing vessel meet the safety requirements of reference (c).

Operators are highly encouraged to participate in the voluntary examination program. Vessels may be terminated for violations of safety regulations until corrected.

Definitions:

Seagoing vessel: Any vessel that operates outside of the Nome Harbor.

Non-self propelled vessel: Any vessel that does not have an engine for propulsion

Motor vessel: Any vessel that has an engine of any type for propulsion.

Towing vessel: Any vessel over 26ft in length used to push or pull a non-self propelled vessel.

The Voluntary Dredge Safety Check Safety Equipment Examination checklist, a pamphlet detailing Federal Boating Safety Requirements, and State of Alaska Boaters Handbook can be found on the Sector Anchorage website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d17/sectoranchorage/prevention.asp>

The Coast Guard will continue to review and develop regulations. Please contact Kevin Williams at (907) 271-6680 with any questions or concerns, or if your boat does not fit into any of the categories listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. L. Johnson".

S. L. JOHNSON  
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard  
By Direction  
Officer in Charge Marine Inspection,  
Western Alaska