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From: Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston  
To: Distribution

Subj: COTP POLICY ON UNDER THE KEEL CLEARANCES

Under the authority of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 160, the Coast Guard has a responsibility for the safety of vessels and operation conducted at waterfront facilities within the Port. This policy letter outlines the under the keel clearance requirements for vessels underway and especially moored vessels within the COTP Houston-Galveston zone.

All vessels shall remain afloat at all times within the Port of Houston and the Port of Galveston, including while moored at facilities. Operators of vessels must take into account tidal state and weather conditions to ensure that this requirement is met. The Coast Guard is prepared to take immediate appropriate action to address any vessel that cannot safely moor at their berths due to inadequate depths.

For further information regarding this policy, contact the Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston at (713) 671-5111 or the Marine Safety Unit Galveston at (409) 766-3690.

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Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston