



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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High Volume Port Area – State of Washington Notice of Intent Published

The Coast Guard announced today Federal Register publication of a Notice that it intends to comply with recent legislation that would expand an existing higher volume port area (HVPA) for Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The expansion would add Pacific Ocean waters, under U.S. jurisdiction and within a 50 mile arc measured from Cape Flattery, Washington, to the HVPA. HVPAs require certain tankers to plan for faster response times following a spill of the tanker's cargo. The expansion could require a tanker's owner or operator to review and modify its existing vessel response plan (VRP) accordingly, and to receive Coast Guard approval for the modified VRP by October 15, 2015.

The Notice of Intent and related materials may be reviewed online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number: USCG-2011-0576.

For more information on this rulemaking, please contact Lieutenant Evelyn Samms at 202-372-1225 or Evelyn.B.Samms@uscg.mil.

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