



Port Community Information Bulletin # 19-23  
Sector St. Petersburg, Florida (727) 824-7506

Release Date: October 11, 2023

## **SAFETY ZONES FOR RESTRICTED VISIBILITY IN TAMPA BAY**

Reduced visibility poses a significant hazard to vessel movement. In the Tampa Bay area, fog occurs an average of 50 days annually. Most of this fog occurs from November through March and is most likely during the early morning hours. During these times, fog can be located either offshore, onshore, or both. The main shipping channel is 43-miles in length, relatively narrow, and, as a result, reduced visibility in any part of the channel can be hazardous to marine traffic. Many vessels transiting through Tampa Bay carry potentially dangerous cargos and the long narrow channel offers little room for error and minimal “bail-out” anchorages for deep-draft vessels. It is important for all vessel operators to be vigilant and contact the Coast Guard if you encounter any issues.

When visibility is reduced to 1 nautical mile, or less, anywhere in Tampa Bay, to include the main channel out to the Fairway Anchorages, the Coast Guard will immediately close the appropriate zone(s) to all commercial traffic, including small passenger vessels.

Information regarding the exact latitude and longitude of each safety zone is provided in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 165.782. This PCIB, along with an illustration of the restricted visibility zones for Tampa Bay can be found on Sector St. Petersburg’s Homeport page.

Questions regarding this PCIB or required actions, should be directed to U. S. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Chief, Waterways Management Division, LCDR Eunice James at (727) 824-7506.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. P. Kahle".

M. P. Kahle  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port