



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander
Coast Guard Sector Boston
427 Commercial St
Boston, MA 02109

MSIB Number: 26-003
Date: June 18, 2026
E-Mail: SecBosWaterways@uscg.mil

Sail Boston 250 – Harbor-Wide Regulations

The Captain of the Port (COTP) Boston has established temporary special local regulations, multiple security zones, and has temporarily suspended certain anchorage grounds in Boston Harbor before, during, and after Sail Boston 250 events. The regulations being enforced for these events are available at [Sail Boston 250](#).

Security and Safety Zones - Moving and Fixed: Strict security and safety zones are established around participating vessels from July 10, 2026, through July 16, 2026. Naval Vessel Protection Zones are enforced at all times within U.S. waters.

Moving Security Zones: Moving security zones are enforced within the COTP Boston Zone.

- **Foreign Naval Vessels*:** No vessel or person may approach within **100 yards** of any foreign flag naval vessel.
- **Naval Vessel Protection Zones:** Any vessel or person operating within **500-yards** of a U.S. Naval Vessel shall navigate at a minimum speed necessary to maintain course. No vessel or person may approach within **100-yards** [as cited in 33 CFR 165.2025](#).

Safety Zones: Safety zones are enforced within the COTP Boston Zone.

- **Tall Ships*:** No vessel or person may approach within a **100-yard radius** of each participating Tall Ship while anchored in Broad Sound.
- **Tall Ships*:** No vessel or person may approach within **1000-yards** ahead and astern and **100-yards** on each side of each participating Tall Ship during their transit from anchorage to mooring.
- **Tall Ships*:** No vessel may approach within a **25-yard radius** surrounding each participating Tall Ship while moored at various locations throughout the Port of Boston.
- **Fireworks Display Zones:** The Fan Pier Fireworks Display Zone will be in effect on July 11, 2026 and July 15, 2026 from 9:15 PM to 9:35 PM [as cited in 33 CFR 165.119](#). No vessel or person may enter within a **700-foot radius** of the fireworks barge in approximate position 42°21'23.2" N 071°02'26"W (NAD 1983), located off the Fan Pier, South Boston, MA.

Suspended Anchorages Grounds: Mariners are advised that several federal anchorage grounds (including Anchorage 1 – Bird Island Anchorage, Anchorage 2 – President Roads Anchorage, Anchorage 3 – Long Island Anchorage, Anchorage 4 – Castle Island Anchorage, and Anchorage 5 – Explosive Anchorage) are temporarily suspended from July 11, 2026, through July 16, 2026. Vessels wishing to anchor in a suspended anchorage grounds may be able to do so if the anchorage is not being used by event participant or spectator vessels, and the Coast Guard gives specific authorization to anchor. To request authorization, contact Sector Boston on VHF-FM Channel 12 or at (833) 449-0539.

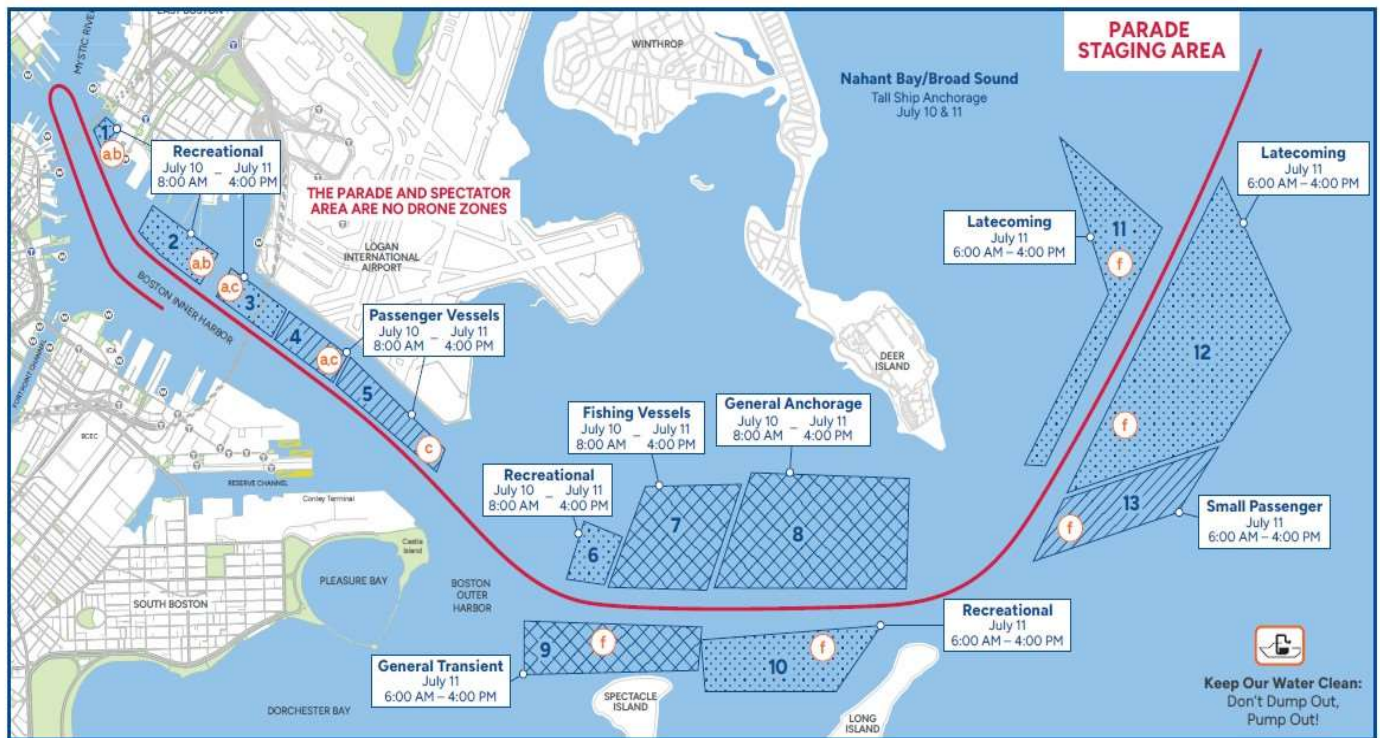
** The Captain of the Port (COTP) will make notification of the exact names of the vessels in advance of each enforcement period for the security zone to the local maritime community through the Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs) and Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs).*

Spectator Areas (Figure 1):

These Regulated Areas will be enforced from 11:59 p.m. July 10, 2026 through 4 p.m. on July 16, 2026, unless otherwise noted. [See 33 CFR 100.T0199-0707](#) for specific Spectator Area locations and positions.

- **Spectator Area 1**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°22'06" N/071°02'43" W, 42°22'11" N/071°02'39" W, 42°22'07" N/071°02'32" W, and 42°22'03" N/071°02'35" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels that are 45 feet or less in length and have superstructures that do not exceed 10 feet in height.
- **Spectator Area 2**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°21'41" N/071°02'25" W, 42°21'47" N/071°02'20" W, 42°21'35" N/071°01'53" W, and 42°21'29" N/071°01'58" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels that are 45 feet or less in length and have superstructures that do not exceed 10 feet in height.
- **Spectator Area 3**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°21'26" N/071°01'51" W, 42°21'32" N/071°01'47" W, 42°21'25" N/071°01'33" W, and 42°21'19" N/071°01'37" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels that are 45-feet or less in length and their height above water does not exceed 50-feet.
- **Spectator Area 4**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°21'19" N/071°01'37" W, 42°21'25" N/071°01'33" W, 42°21'09" N/071°01'02" W, and 42°21'04" N/071°01'06" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of inspected and uninspected small passenger vessels (certificated by the Coast Guard under Subchapters T and K of [Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations](#)), and charter vessels that do not exceed 50-feet in height above the water line.
- **Spectator Area 5**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°21'04" N/071°01'06" W, 42°21'09" N/071°01'02" W, 42°20'48" N/071°00'29" W, and 42°20'47" N/071°00'29" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of inspected and uninspected small passenger vessels (certificated by the Coast Guard under Subchapters T and K of [Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations](#)), and charter vessels that do not exceed 50-feet in height above the water line.
- **Spectator Area 6**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°20'09" N/070°59'39" W, 42°20'23" N/070°59'32" W, 42°20'19" N/071°59'17" W, and 42°20'07" N/070°59'24" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels.
- **Spectator Area 7**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°20'06" N/070°59'23" W, 42°20'32" N/070°59'08" W, 42°20'32" N/070°58'31" W, and 42°20'05" N/070°58'45" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels.
- **Spectator Area 8**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°20'06" N/070°58'43" W, 42°20'35" N/070°58'28" W, 42°20'33" N/070°57'29" W, and 42°20'05" N/070°57'31" W. This spectator area is designated a Deep Draft and general spectator area, in the event a visiting foreign Naval Vessel is anchored within the zone, a 500-yard Naval Protective Zone will be established prohibiting all vessels from entering the established zone.
- **Spectator Area 9**—(i) All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°19'45" N/070°59'55" W, 42°19'58" N/070°59'55" W, 42°19'57" N/070°58'47" W, and 42°19'44" N/070°58'47" W. This spectator area is designated as general transient spectator area for all vessels that do not exceed 50-feet in height above the water line, with no overnight anchoring. This spectator area is only applicable from 6 a.m. on July 11, 2026, until 4 p.m. on July 11, 2026.
- **Spectator Area 10**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°19'44" N/070°58'44" W, 42°19'58" N/070°58'47" W, 42°19'55" N/070°57'28" W, and 42°19'43" N/070°57'35" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of recreational vessels with no overnight anchoring. This anchorage is only applicable from 6 a.m. on July 11, 2026, until 4 p.m. on July 11, 2026.
- **Spectator Area 11**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°20'30" N/070°56'30" W, 42°21'58" N/070°56'05" W, and 42°21'32" N/070°55'27" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of late arriving recreational vessels and no overnight anchoring. This spectator area is only applicable from 6 a.m. on July 11, 2026, until 4 p.m. on July 11, 2026.

- **Spectator Area 12**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°20'07" N/070°56'28" W, 42°21'43" N/070°54'51" W, 42°21'18" N/070°54'29" W, and 42°20'05" N/070°55'51" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of late arriving recreational vessels and no overnight anchoring. This spectator area is only applicable from 6 a.m. on July 11, 2026, until 4 p.m. on July 11, 2026.
- **Spectator Area 13**—All waters bounded by the following coordinates: 42°19'55" N/070°56'40" W, 42°20'06" N/070°56'28" W, 42°20'05" N/070°55'51" W, and 42°19'51" N/070°56'05" W. This spectator area is designated for the exclusive use of inspected and uninspected small passenger vessels (certificated by the Coast Guard under Subchapters T and K of [Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations](#)), and charter vessels. This spectator area is only applicable from 6 a.m. on July 11, 2026, until 4 p.m. on July 11, 2026.



BOSTON HARBOR SPECTATOR ANCHORAGES

PARADE OF SAIL | SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026



PRESENTED BY: **MB Meet BOSTON**

LEGEND

- Parade of Sail Route
- ▨ Anchorage for Passenger Vessels
- ▤ Anchorage for Recreational Vessels
- ▩ General Anchorage
- ▧ Security Zone - Keep Out

Anchorage areas are enforced and vessel movement is restricted

RESTRICTIONS

- (a) Vessels 45 feet or less in length
- (b) Superstructures not to exceed 10 feet
- (c) Height above water not to exceed 50 feet
- (d) Captain of the port permission needed
- (e) Inspected/uninspected passenger vessels, sailing school vessels, and bareboat charter vessels
- (f) No overnight anchoring

Boston Harbor is a No Discharge Area
Hail Pump Out Boat on VHF CH 13 and CH 69.

NOTES

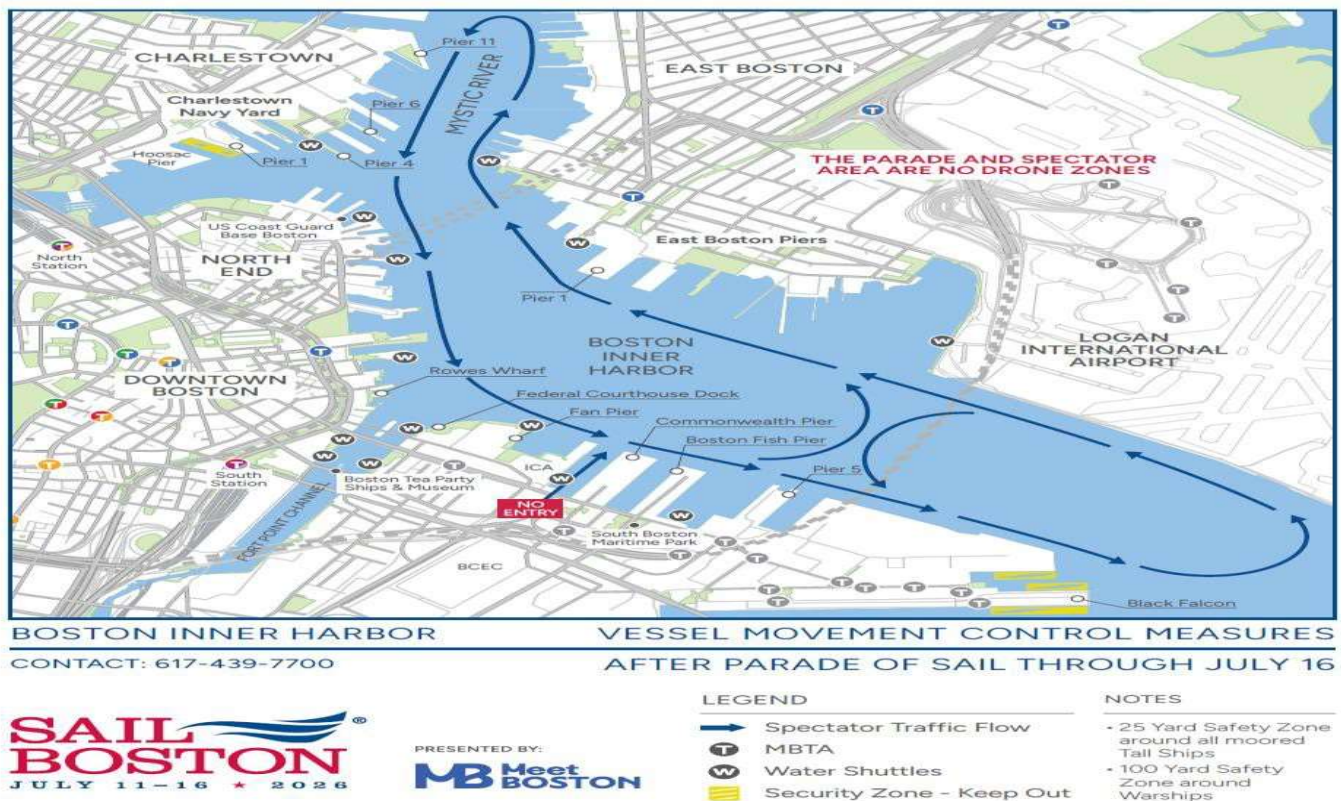
- Anchorages open July 10, 2026 at 8:00 AM. Exception: Anchorages 9–13 (See Restriction (e))
- 25 Yard Safety Zone around all moored Tall Ships
- 100 Yard Safety Zone around Warships

(Figure 1. Spectator Viewing Areas and Parade Route)

Traffic Pattern (Figure 2):

This Regulated Area will be enforced from 4 p.m. July 11, 2026 until 8 a.m. on July 16, 2026, and includes all the waters of Boston Harbor to include all waters west of a line drawn from the monument at Castle Island to the Logan Airport Security Zone Buoy “24”, and then to land in approximate position 42°20’28”N, 71°00’27”W, including the Reserved Channel to the Summer Street bridge, the Charles River to the Gridley Locks at the Charles River Dam, the Mystic River at the Alford Street Bridge, and the Chelsea River to the McArdle Bridge. During the effective period, vessel operators transiting through the regulated area shall proceed in a **counterclockwise direction at no wake speeds not to exceed 5 knots**, unless otherwise authorized by the Captain of the Port (COTP). Vessels shall stay generally as far to the starboard side of the channel as is safe and practical. [See 33 CFR 100.T0199-0707](#) for the Traffic Pattern Regulated Area boundaries for additional information on this Regulated Area.

- To facilitate commercial ferry traffic with minimal disruption, commercial ferries within the regulated area, moving between stops on their normal routes, will be exempt from the mandatory counterclockwise traffic pattern. This exemption does not give ferries navigational preference or in any way alter their responsibilities under the Rules of the Road or other pertinent regulations.
- Vessel operators who are tenants of the World Trade Center and Fish Pier docks will be allowed access to this portion of the Waterway. Due to the severe restriction of channels resulting from the Tall Ships mooring plan, recreational craft will not be allowed access to these areas.
- Vessel operators transiting through the traffic pattern area must maintain at least a 25-yard safe distance from all participating Sail Boston Tall Ships and must make way for all deep draft vessels in the area.
- When a vessel greater than 125 feet enters the waterway between the Commonwealth Pier and the Fish Pier, no other vessel will be allowed to enter until the larger vessel departs the area, unless authorized by the on-scene COTP’s representative.
- During the effective period, only vessels which are tenants within the channels of the Commonwealth and the Fish Pier will be allowed access.
- To obtain permissions required by this regulation, individuals may reach the COTP or a COTP representative via Channel 16 or 833-449-0539 (Sector Boston Command Center).



(Figure 2. Vessel Movement Control Measures, Traffic Pattern)

Fireworks Display Zone (Figure 3): The Fan Pier Fireworks Display Zone will be in effect on July 11, 2026 and July 15, 2026 from 9:15 PM to 9:35 PM [as cited in 33 CFR 165.119](#). No vessel or person may enter within a **700-foot radius** of the fireworks barge in approximate position 42°21'23.2" N 071°02'26"W (NAD 1983), located off the Fan Pier, South Boston, MA.



(Figure 3. Firework Display Zone)

Staying Informed: If necessary, the Coast Guard will issue subsequent, targeted Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) detailing the specific closures and operational restrictions for these events throughout the Port of Boston. All MSIBs pertaining to these events can be found at Northeast Coast Guard District's Local Notice to Mariners website <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/local-notice-to-mariners?district=1+0&subdistrict=n>, under the Special Notices section. Mariners are strongly advised to monitor VHF-FM Channel 16 for Broadcast Notices to Mariners which provide for real-time updates and enforcement statuses.

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Sector Boston Waterways Management at SecBosWaterways@uscg.mil.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian M. Hall".

Brian M. Hall
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Prevention Department
By Direction