



MARINE SAFETY
INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB): 23-01

January 05, 2023

U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco
Department of Homeland Security



Requirements for Humboldt Bay Bar Crossing for Tank Vessels

This bulletin advises mariners on the procedures for tank vessels to request permission from the Sector Humboldt Bay Commander to cross the Humboldt Bay Bar in accordance with the Regulated Navigation Area (RNA) described in [33 CFR § 165.1195](#). The RNA includes all navigable waters of the Humboldt Bay Bar Channel and the Humboldt Bay Entrance Channel, Humboldt Bay, CA. A tank vessel is defined in [33 CFR § 165.1195\(b\)](#) "as any vessel that is constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue."

In accordance with [33 CFR § 165.1195](#), a tank vessel is required to request permission for every bar crossing, to include inbound and outbound transits, within four hours of crossing. Permission must be requested by contacting Station Humboldt Bay on VHF-FM Channel 16 or (707) 443-2213. If unable to reach Station Humboldt Bay, contact Sector Humboldt Bay at VHF-FM Channel 16 or (707) 839-6113.

Bar crossings will not be permitted if all the following conditions are not met:

- (1) Sector Humboldt Bay Commander has granted permission to cross;
- (2) Sea conditions at the bar are less than six feet;
- (3) Winds at the bar are less than 30 knots;
- (4) The transit will take place during daylight hours;
- (5) The vessel has only a single tow or no tow;
- (6) The visibility at the bar is greater than 1,000 yards; and
- (7) The vessel and tow are in proper operating condition.

The Master of the vessel may request a waiver to cross the bar from the Sector Humboldt Bay Commander at least four hours prior to the planned bar crossing time using the same communication method as above. The waiver request must contain the following:

- (1) A description of the proposed operation;
- (2) The conditions for which the waiver is requested;
- (3) The reasons for requesting the waiver;
- (4) The reasons that the requester believes the proposed operation can be accomplished safely; and
- (5) A callback phone number.

The Sector Humboldt Bay Commander has the final authority to grant permission to cross the bar, close the bar, or grant a waiver. The Sector Humboldt Bay Commander decision will be communicated to the Master of the tank vessel by Sector Humboldt Bay via Station Humboldt Bay.

More information on this RNA can be found in [33 CFR § 165.1195](#). Any tank vessel that fails to receive proper permission to transit the RNA from the Sector Humboldt Bay Commander may be subject to enforcement action, to include Civil Penalty of not more than \$103,050 for each violation.

For additional information regarding this bulletin, please contact the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Humboldt Bay at (707) 839-6113 or Sector San Francisco Waterways Management Division at SFWaterways@uscg.mil or 415-399-7401.

Sincerely,

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