

Coast Guard study recommends establishing voluntary fairways to support safe navigation along West Coast

September 16, 2022

U.S. COAST GUARD
PACIFIC COAST – PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY (PAC-PARS)

What is the PAC-PARS?

The Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS) is the first comprehensive evaluation of maritime traffic patterns along the Pacific Coast.

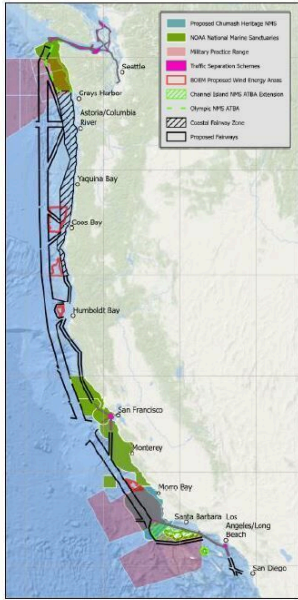
The U.S. Coast Guard studied navigational conditions for vessels accessing ports and making coastal transits in light of evolving uses of coastal waters: offshore renewable energy, aquafarms, and space launch activities among others.

The PAC-PARS is available now, and it provides recommendations for new voluntary fairways along the Pacific Coast.

Access the study and provide comments at:
<https://www.regulations.gov>
And search the docket number
"USCG-2021-0345"
Submit comments on or before
October 25th, 2022.

Also find the study at:
<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/port-access-route-study-reports>

Or visit our Homeport page for the latest on webinars and outreach activities:
<https://cglink.uscg.mil/efedac43>





The Coast Guard requests public comment on the draft Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS).

A Federal Register Notice of Availability for the draft PAC-PARS has been opened for comment. Comments and related materials must be received on or before Oct. 25, 2022.

This is the first comprehensive evaluation of vessel traffic patterns that use Pacific coastal waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington.

The main goal of the PAC-PARS is to evaluate historic and future waterway usage to determine navigational risk and provide recommendations to uphold safety of navigation. To do this, the study examined vessel tracking data from the past 10 years and considered environmental data, existing and planned offshore development infrastructure, and historical marine incident data among other datasets.

The Coast Guard also considered concerns and recommendations from key maritime stakeholders and members of the public. Prior to this public comment period, the Coast Guard received comments during two previous public comment periods spanning over 200 days.

“There has been significant growth of waterway use along the Pacific Coast; we are committed to maintaining a high level of navigational safety for all members of the maritime community,” said Lt. Cmdr. Sara Conrad, activities chief for Coast Guard Pacific Area Port and Facilities. “This draft study provides recommendations that facilitate safe vessel transits along the coast and connect to major port approaches in light of the increasing demand for use of our waterways.”

The draft PAC-PARS recommends establishing new voluntary fairways for coastwise and nearshore vessel traffic with connections to existing Traffic Separation Schemes and ports. These fairways would facilitate safe and predictable traffic patterns as the demand for and use of Pacific coastal waters increases. Charts of these recommended fairways can be found in Appendix I, II, and III of the study.

The public can also view the study in a more user-friendly manner at USCG Navigation Centers website <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/port-access-route-study-reports>. The Coast Guard posted the study to a Homeport webpage <https://cglink.uscg.mil/efedac43> where the most current information about upcoming webinars and outreach activities will be posted.

A Notice of Availability for the draft study was published on the Federal Register under docket USCG-2021-0345, and can be found by searching the docket above at www.regulations.gov