

Harbor Safety Committee

of the San Francisco Bay Region

*Mandated by the California Oil Spill
Prevention and Response Act of 1990*

September 4, 2007, 2007

To: Ferry Service Providers (per recipient list below)
From: John Davey, Chair HSC Ferry Operations Work Group

Re: Ferry Routing Protocol, Navigation way points and cross track error diagrams

After extensive discussion and review by the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee (HSC), Ferry Operations Workgroup including input from Vessel Traffic Service Management, Port Captains for Golden Gate Ferry, Bay Link Ferry, Blue & Gold Fleet, Harbor Bay Maritime, Red & White Fleet, Hornblower Cruises & Events, the Water Transit Authority, individual Ferry Captains, and the San Francisco Bar Pilots the attached Ferry Routing Protocol navigation way points and cross track error overlays have been produced. While it is the understanding of the group that this product is subject to future enhancements it represents substantial modifications and refinement to the routing protocol initially implemented in November 2006.

The protocol data files to be delivered to you are for installation on each ferry vessel that is deployed in scheduled commuter ferry service that calls at the San Francisco Ferry Terminals including landing facilities at Gates B and E and the Golden Gate Ferry dock. It is not at this time projected to be installed upon excursion vessels operating on San Francisco Bay. The workgroup has agreed and requests that each service provider install this program on their vessels in preparation of an implementation date of Friday, September 7, 2007. It is the understanding of the workgroup that this protocol will be used for navigational guidance in conducting ferry service until further notice of changes produced by the workgroup.

The workgroups next action regarding the routing protocol will be to include a graphic and notational translation of the plan onto NOAA Charts and a written outline of the protocol to be included in the HSC's Harbor Safety Plan. The Coast Guard will not issue new rules specific to the protocol; however, where protocol routes exist, they are considered the published routes in accordance with the National Vessel Traffic Service Regulations, Reporting Exemptions--33CFR161.23(a)(1).

Questions regarding delivery, interpretation or instructions on the protocol should be directed to Scott Humphrey, Training director, USCG Vessel Traffic Services San Francisco at 415.556.0127 ex. 112 or scott.humphrey@uscg.mil

On behalf of the Harbor Safety Committee, Ferry Operations workgroup I would like to extend my appreciation for all of the efforts of its members and participants that were involved in creating the ferry routing protocol and look forward to its successful implementation.

Regards

John Davey, Chair HSC Ferry Operations Work Group
Assistant Deputy Director, Maritime
Port of San Francisco

Recipients: F.S. Humphrey, VTS: John Beard, Golden Gate Ferry: Pat Murphy, Blue & Gold Fleet Carl Friedrich, Baylink Ferry: Rocky Harris, Harbor Bay Maritime: Keith Stahnke, Water Transit Authority Gerry Wheaton, Nav Manager, NOAA :J. Mc Carthy, S. F. Marine Exchange- on behalf of the HSC