



## MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 25-01



July 02, 2025

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

### **Harbor Safety Committee Best Practices for Navigating in Reduced Visibility**

This bulletin promulgates updated Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) Guidelines for Navigating in Reduced Visibility (Enclosure 1). All HSC guidelines and associated Critical Maneuvering Area (CMA) best practices are monitored by Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) San Francisco and relayed to the maritime community. This bulletin cancels and supersedes Sector San Francisco MSIB 15-02.

The HSC Best Practices for Navigating in Reduced Visibility provide guidance for vessels planning or executing a voyage in the San Francisco Bay and Delta region during periods of reduced visibility. The HSC Guidelines identify 10 CMAs within the Bay in which increased caution and adherence to prudent seamanship should be taken. A CMA is defined as a location within the San Francisco Bay and Delta Region where additional standards of care are required due to the restrictive nature of a narrow channel, proximity of hazards, or the prevalence of adverse currents. The dynamic and unpredictable nature of visibility conditions within the San Francisco Bay can introduce uncertainty and additional risk when transiting these areas. All mariners should refer to Enclosure (1) for specific guidance.

Mariners are to comply at all times with the International Regulations for Avoiding Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and all applicable VTS regulations (33 CFR 161). For additional information or guidelines please contact the Sector San Francisco Chief of Waterways Management at [SFWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:SFWaterways@uscg.mil) or Vessel Traffic Service at (415) 399-7410.

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Enclosure: (1) Harbor Safety Committee Best Practices for Navigating in Reduced Visibility