



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Delaware Bay
1 Washington Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19147

MSIB Number: 08-26
Contact: Waterways Management Staff
Phone: 206-815-6688, Option 3
E-Mail: DelawareBayWWM@uscg.mil
Date: February 6, 2026

Ice Condition Update

The Captain of the Port (COTP), Sector Delaware Bay has amended the Ice Condition for the following areas, in accordance with the safety zones, identified in Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 165.550.

Upper Delaware River

The COTP, Sector Delaware Bay has set *Ice Condition Three* for all navigable waters of the Upper Delaware River, **north of the Betsy Ross Bridge**.

The following restrictions are in effect: only steel hull vessels with a 1,500 minimum shaft horsepower and a main engine cooling system design that prevents blockage from ice, and that are part of a vessel convoy, may enter, operate in, or transit the Upper Delaware River. Also, vessels may only transit during daylight hours.

Delaware River

The COTP, Sector Delaware Bay has set *Ice Condition Two* for all navigable waters of the Delaware River, **south of the Betsy Ross Bridge to Artificial Island, in New Jersey**, including the navigable waters of the Schuylkill River, Salem River, and Christina River.

The following restrictions are in effect: only steel hull vessels with 1,500 minimum shaft horsepower and a main engine cooling system design that prevents blockage from ice, may enter, operate in, or transit through the Delaware River, Schuylkill River, Salem River, and Christina River.

Delaware Bay

The COTP, Sector Delaware Bay has set *Ice Condition One* for all waters of the Delaware Bay, **south of Artificial Island to the entrance of the Delaware Bay**.

The following restrictions are in effect: only steel hull vessels are allowed to enter, operate in, or transit the Delaware Bay.

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (C&D) Canal

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prescribes a steel hull and 2,500 minimum shaft horsepower for the C&D Canal. Transits are permissible for all vessels with a steel hull and at least 1,500 minimum shaft horsepower, only when following a 2,500 minimum shaft horsepower (or greater) vessel. The canal dispatcher on duty should be contacted regarding conditions and requirements for vessels using the C&D Canal at (410) 855-5580.

This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.

New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway

The COTP, Sector Delaware Bay has set *Ice Condition Two* for all waters of the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, including all tributaries.

The following restrictions are in effect: only steel hull vessels with 1,500 minimum shaft horsepower and a main engine cooling system design that prevents blockage from ice, may enter, operate in, or transit through the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway, including all tributaries.

Contact Information

Vessels prohibited from transiting an area listed above, may request permission to transit, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the transit, by contacting the COTP, Sector Delaware Bay via email secdelbaymtsru@uscg.mil, or via phone at (833) 453-1007.

All requests must include the following information when requesting permission to transit:

- Hull type
- Main engine cooling system type
- Transit speed
- Date and time of transit
- Planned precautions being taken for encounters with ice

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) supersedes MSIB 03-26 and MSIB 04-26 (Update 1).

Additionally, mariners can utilize the QR code below to report ice conditions and submit a photo of the observed conditions.



If there are any questions regarding the information of this bulletin, please contact the Marine Transportation System Recovery Branch at (215) 778-4289.


K. F. HIGGINS-BLOOM
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port, Sector Delaware Bay

This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.