USCG District 17
Bering Strait Port Access Route Study

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What we do:

• Oversee 6 Buoy Tenders located throughout Alaska
• Record Custodian for ~1,400 ATON
• Tracking of discrepant ATON
• Private ATON permitting
• Publish Local Notice to Mariners
• Bridge Administration
• Waterway Studies and Management
PARS Actions to Date

• Nov 2010 – USCG began PARS of Bering Strait and solicited public comment on the need for a vessel routing system in the region.

• Sep 2011 – PARS public comment period closed with 25 public submissions that overwhelmingly supported some form of vessel routing system but caution that specific impacts could not be determined until a vessel route was proposed.
PARS Actions to Date (cont.)

• 2012 – 2014 – After reviewing public comments the USCG determined the scope of the PARS needed to be expanded and a proposed vessel route developed.

• Dec 2014 – USCG re-announced the PARS with an expanded geographic scope and a proposed vessel routing system.

• Aug 2015 – Public comment period closes with 28 submissions.
PARS Actions to Date (cont.)

• Dec 2016 – Submitted PARS to Coast Guard Headquarters and DHS for review.
• Jan 2017 – PARS is awaiting publication in the Federal Registry followed by a 90 day public comment period.
PARS Expanded Study Area
PARS Proposed Route

• Unimak Pass to Chukchi Sea, w/extension towards St Lawrence Is.
• 4 nm wide two-way vessel route
• 8 nm circular precautionary areas
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PARS Proposed Route
Most Commented On

- Areas to be avoided (ATBA’s)
- Speed Restrictions
- Hunter Safety
- Proximity to King Island
PARS Report – Preliminary Findings

• Required by White House Executive Order
• 128 page report
• Study looked at vessel AIS tracks from 2014-15
• Ship traffic was broken into categories
• Study also looked at casualty history
• Lots of new information on what is really going on out on the water
• Large file size - if you can’t download call us
Recommendations

• Recommend dropping the Russian track leg
• Recommend 4 ATBAs:
  • St. Lawrence Island
  • Nunivak Island
  • Western Side of Bering Strait
  • King Island
The Future of PARS

• DHS will:
  – Publish the findings in the Federal Register
  – Open for Public Comments for 90 days

• What Then...
  – Possibly maintain status quo
  – Draft a proposal for IMO consideration
  – Modify PARS and solicit additional comments
PARS Information

www.Regulations.gov

then search

“USCG-2014-0941”
Questions?

www.Regulations.gov
then search
“USCG-2014-0941”
Contact Information

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