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**Commander**

**U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England**

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**Woods Hole, MA 02543**

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**MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**[MSIB # 05-14]**

**6 May 2014**

**Future of Navigation Listening Sessions**

**Boston**

**10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, 3 June 2014**

**John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center**

**55 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02142**

**New York City**

**10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, 10 June 2014**

**Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House**

**1 Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan, NY**

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration invite you to join us in a series of listening sessions to help shape our 21st century aids to navigation system.

The long-term goal of this initiative is to build a more reliable, available, and efficient aids to navigation system in U.S. waterways. These listening sessions will be focused on data informational services required by mariners for safe navigation and how we (the federal government) can provide that information and infrastructure. Listening sessions will be hosted by a panel representing each of three sponsoring federal agencies (Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, NOAA). There will also be a website where interested individuals can post recommendations.

Some of the essential discussion questions to be addressed include:

* What is your biggest navigation safety concern?
* If we could do one thing over the next year to improve your ability to navigate safely and efficiently, what would you choose?
* How can you best access information to update your charts and publications from the Notice to Mariners? Would you like to have this information provided locally?
* What do you like *best* and *least* about your ECDIS/ECS system and ENCs/IENCs?
* What would improve your ECDIS/ECS user experience?
* How can we improve our PDF products to be more useful for navigation?
* If you use charts on a mobile device, what type of device and what applications or services?
* How often do you use real-time observation systems such as NOAA PORTS , tides and water level information from National Weather Service, Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, and would you use observational information if it was broadcast over AIS?
* What Electronic Aids to Navigation (eATON) prototypes (AIS AtoN, virtual buoys, etc.) might be most useful to you?

A listening session for the New England region will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, 3 June 2014, at the John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA.

Another listening session will be held in New York City from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, 10 June 2014, at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House, 1 Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Petty Officer Robert Cottrell at robert.l.cottrell@uscg.mil.

For those unable to attend one of the sessions, an online survey will be also be available by 15 June 2014 to solicit feedback from waterway users.

Questions regarding this Bulletin may be addressed to Mr. Edward G. LeBlanc at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England, 401-435-2351, or Edward.G.LeBlanc@uscg.mil.

 P. R. Lattanzi

 Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

 Chief, Prevention Department

 Sector Southeastern New England

 By direction