

§560. Vessels at anchorage

1. Purpose. The Legislature intends by the enactment of this section to exercise the police power of the State through the department by conferring upon the department the exclusive power to deal with the hazards and threats of danger and damage posed by the anchorage of oil-carrying vessels in the waters of the State. The purpose of rules adopted by the board is to protect the coastal waters, tidal flats, beaches and lands adjoining the waters of the State from damage by the intentional or accidental discharge of oil, other pollutants as defined in section 361-A or air contaminants as defined in section 582 or explosion from the accumulation of gases aboard vessels and to prohibit interference with the harvesting of marine resources and aesthetic and recreational uses of coastal waters.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

2. Definitions.

A. As used in this section, the word "anchorage" means the mooring for a period of definite or indefinite duration of a vessel designed or used to carry oil, which is not waiting for a scheduled loading or unloading of cargo in Maine waters, but does not include the mooring of a vessel for bunkering, maintenance, repair or overhaul, or in connection with or as a part of sea trials. [PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

3. Board to adopt rules. The board shall adopt rules limiting or, to the extent the board determines necessary, prohibiting the anchorage in Maine coastal waters, estuaries or rivers under the jurisdiction of the State of vessels designed or used to carry oil as cargo. All rules adopted by the board under this section do not apply to vessels at anchorage prior to July 1, 1975.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

4. Scope of rules. In adopting these rules, in addition to other provisions of this subchapter, the board's consideration must include, but is not limited to:

A. The location, duration and type of anchorage; [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

B. The type and capacity of vessels permitted anchorage; [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

C. The systems and precautions necessary for safety on each vessel; [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

D. The training, number and availability of crew members aboard each vessel; [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

E. A requirement for contingency plans in the event of accident, fire, storm or other unforeseen acts; [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

F. The protection of the natural environment, aesthetic and recreational uses of State waters; and [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

G. The protection of the fisheries or fishing industry of the State. [PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW).]

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

5. Exemption. The board may by rule exempt certain activities not inconsistent with the purposes of this section. An unpowered vessel of less than 500 barrels total oil storage capacity is exempt from the provisions of this section, provided that the vessel is subject to any applicable rules administered by the United States Coast Guard and the owner notifies the commissioner of the location and contents of the vessel within 7 days of establishing the anchorage.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

6. Prohibition. No person may have a vessel at anchorage in Maine waters for more than 7 days without a current license from the department.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

7. Licenses and fees. A license is required for anchorage of a vessel in Maine waters and a fee of 1/2¢ per deadweight ton is due for each 30 days of anchorage or part thereof. The department may license properly treated effluents and emissions regulated by this section consistent with the other environmental laws of the State .

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

8. Application for a license. Any person desiring to have a vessel at anchorage in Maine waters shall apply in writing to the commissioner and, shall publish public notice of the application and a brief summary in a paper of general circulation in the vicinity of the proposed activity and provide information as required by rule of the board. After receipt of the application, the department shall issue a license or deny a license giving the reasons therefor or order a hearing thereon. Any person denied a license without a hearing may request, in writing, within 30 days after notice of denial, a hearing before the department. The request must set forth in detail the findings to which that person objects, the basis of such objection and the nature of the relief requested.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

9. Penalty.

[PL 1977, c. 564, §139-A (RP).]

10. Board to solicit advice. The Board of Environmental Protection shall solicit the advice of the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commander of the United States Coast Guard prior to adopting any rules under this section.

[PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 (AFF); PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. B, §128 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 578 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 78, §§203-206 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 300, §§37,38 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 564, §§139-A (AMD). PL 1983, c. 566, §31 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 419, §12 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 890, §§A40,B128 (AMD).

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