

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before April 1, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2019–0020 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD–2019–0020 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2019–0020, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**Note:** If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the section entitled *Public Participation*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bianca Carr, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23–453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202–366–9309, Email [Bianca.carr@dot.gov](mailto:Bianca.carr@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel SIRENA is:

—*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* “Time and Trip time commercial charters”

—*Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:* “Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York (excluding New York Harbor), New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.” (Base of Operations: North Charleston, SC)

—*Vessel Length and Type:* 55’ sailboat  
The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD–2019–0020 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action

may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**Public Participation**

*How do I submit comments?*

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

*Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?*

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD–2019–0020 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

*Will my comments be made available to the public?*

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

*May I submit comments confidentially?*

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Legislation and Regulations, MAR–225, W24–220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter setting forth with specificity the basis for any such claim and, if possible, a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

**Privacy Act**

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL–14 FDMS, accessible through [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

**Authority:** 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121 \* \* \*.

Dated: February 25, 2019.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2019–03610 Filed 2–28–19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

**Marine Highway Project Designation Open Season General Information Announcement**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of open season for Marine Highway Project Designations.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Maritime Administration (MARAD) announce that the open season for Marine Highway Project Designation submissions is being extended to January 31, 2022 (Open Season). The purpose of this notice is to extend the invitation to interested parties to submit Marine Highway Project Designation applications to DOT for review and consideration.

**DATES:** There will be six additional project review sessions during the extended Marine Highway Project Designation Open Season. Table 1 contains the application due dates and review periods for each review session. Qualified projects will be announced shortly after the completion of each review session. Applications can also be submitted at any time.

TABLE 1—OPEN SEASON PROJECT DESIGNATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW TIMELINE

Review session	Project application due date (11:59 p.m. Pacific)	Project review period
1 .....	July 31, 2019 .....	August 1, 2019–November 30, 2019.
2 .....	January 31, 2020 .....	February 1, 2020–May 31, 2020.
3 .....	July 31, 2020 .....	August 1, 2020–November 30, 2020.
4 .....	January 31, 2021 .....	February 1, 2021–May 31, 2021.
5 .....	July 31, 2021 .....	August 1, 2021–November 30, 2021.
6 .....	January 31, 2022 .....	February 1, 2022–May 31, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit applications to Fred Jones, Office of Ports & Waterways Planning, W21–311, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 or via email to [mh@dot.gov](mailto:mh@dot.gov). Telephone (202) 366–1123; Fax (202) 366–5904.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Timothy Pickering, Office of Ports & Waterways Planning, W21–312, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366–0704; Fax (202) 366–5904 or email Mr. Pickering at [mh@dot.gov](mailto:mh@dot.gov). You may also visit MARAD's Marine Highway web page at <http://www.marad.dot.gov> search "America's Marine Highway Program." MARAD's Gateway Offices can also respond to questions about the Marine Highway Program, Route Designations, and Project Designation Open Season. Offices contact information is available on the MARAD website at <http://www.marad.dot.gov> search "Office of Gateways."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As originally announced in the **Federal Register** on June 2, 2014 (79 FR 31404), the scope of the Marine Highway Program has been expanded to encompass all of the United States' domestic marine transportation system. Previously, the Program only included waterways that paralleled landside transportation routes, and thus, excluded routes between the mainland and non-contiguous ports and between islands, such as those in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The expanded scope comes from Section 405 of The Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2012 (Pub. L. 112–213), which reads: "[t]he Secretary shall designate short sea transportation routes as extensions of the surface transportation system to focus public and private efforts to use the waterways to relieve landside congestion along coastal corridors or to promote short sea transportation." The scope was further expanded in Section 3508 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Pub. L. 114–92), which adds to the

definition of freight by adding cargo "shipped in discrete units or packages that are handled individually, palletized, or unitized for purposes of transportation" and "freight vehicles carried aboard commuter ferry boats." In addition, the revised final rule that outlines the scope of the Marine Highway Program (46 CFR part 393) was published in the **Federal Register** (82 FR 56902) on December 1st, 2017, and became effective on January 2, 2018.

The purpose of the open season call for project designation is to seek eligible Marine Highway Projects that may establish new or enhance existing Marine Highway Services. Eligible projects may be designated as Marine Highway Projects by the Secretary of Transportation. Being designated a Marine Highway Project allows the Department of Transportation resources to be used to assist public project sponsors, ports, and other local transportation or economic development agencies in the development of their Marine Highway Projects.

The Department's objective through this program is to reduce landside congestion and increase the use of domestic marine transportation by supporting the development of transportation options for shippers. These services provide economic and environmental benefits to the U.S. public at large. Marine Highway Program Designated Projects can improve safety and system resilience, and serve to reduce transportation-related air emissions, transportation costs for shippers, energy consumption, and costs associated with landside transportation infrastructure.

The Department of Transportation will accept and process Project Designation applications that propose to operate or expand service on Designated Marine Highway Routes.

#### Participation

The Marine Highway Project Designation application process is detailed in 46 CFR Section 393.4 *Marine Highway Projects*, which is accessible online at <https://www.federalregister.gov> search

"Revision of the America's Marine Highway Program Regulations."

Although Marine Highway Project Designations often involve private entities such as vessel operators, the applications must be sponsored and submitted to the Department of Transportation by a public entity, such as a State Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or Port Authority. Public/private partnerships are encouraged.

To be eligible for Marine Highway Project Designation status, the proposed project must (1) use U.S. documented vessels, (2) transport containerized freight, trailer-based freight, palletized or unitized freight, or freight carried on passenger vessels, and (3) operate on a designated Marine Highway Route. (Refer to 46 CFR 393.4(c) for a comprehensive description of project eligibility). For further information on recommending that a navigable waterway be designated as a Marine Highway Route, please contact your regional Gateway Office.

(Authority: 49 CFR Sections 1.92 and 1.93)

\* \* \* \* \*

Date: February 25, 2019.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**  
Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2019–03598 Filed 2–28–19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2019–0021]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel AEOLUS (51' Sailboat); Invitation for Public Comments

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirements of the coastwise trade laws to allow the carriage of no