



**Notice of Coastal Consistency Review
State of Connecticut**

**Federal Consistency Determination for Vessel Operations Undertaken in Connecticut Coastal
Zone, 2023 – 2038**

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received a request submitted by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) pursuant to Section 307(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act to review a proposed action affecting coastal resources for consistency with the enforceable policies of Connecticut's federally approved Coastal Management Program as contained in Sections 22a-90 through 22a-112 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

NOAA's OMAO has issued a notice that serves as the federal Nationwide Consistency Determination (CD) for Vessel Operations Undertaken in CT Coastal Zones during the time period of 2023 to 2038, as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) for the implementation of activities that may have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal users or resources of Connecticut's coastal zone. This Nationwide CD discusses the potential effects from vessel operations undertaken by NOAA's OMAO on the coastal uses and/or resources commonly addressed by the management programs and/or similar coastal policy documents of the 34 participating states and territories. The Proposed Action would allow for the continued vessel operations that support NOAA's primary missions of charting and hydrographic surveying; assessment and management of living marine resources; oceanographic monitoring, research, and modeling; and emergency response. The need for the Proposed Action is to maintain uninterrupted operational fleet capabilities as vessels age and reach the end of their design service life, necessitating modernization of the NOAA fleet.

Questions regarding this proposed action should be directed by email to Lt. Cmdr. Laura Dwyer at omaoenvironmental.compliance@noaa.gov or by phone at 863-606-6846. The Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) is available online at <https://www.oma.noaa.gov/marine-operations/noaa-vessel-operations-draft-pea>. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the application from the above contact or by sending a request for an electronic copy to Karen Michaels at CT DEEP at Karen.Michaels@ct.gov. All interested parties are invited to express their views on this action. Comments regarding this application may be submitted via electronic mail to Karen.Michaels@ct.gov no later than fifteen (15) days from the publication date of this notice.

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Approved by:

Brian P. Thompson, Director
Land & Water Resources Division
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse