

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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Public Affairs Office
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Ninth Coast Guard District concludes comment period on Great Lakes Safety Zones

CLEVELAND - The public comment period, concerning the Ninth Coast Guard District's proposal to establish 34 safety zones throughout the U.S. Great Lakes, expired at midnight Nov. 13, 2006.

More than 880 comments have been submitted to the Federal Docket for formal consideration by the Coast Guard. A final total of docket submissions will be available after all letters, postmarked on or before Nov. 13, are received, and all of the comments received during the public meetings are transcribed and entered into the Federal Docket.

"I pledge to thoroughly review the docket submissions and diligently work towards a resolution that will satisfy all concerns without degradation to the Coast Guard's readiness of the Great Lakes," said Rear. Adm. John E. Crowley, Jr., commander of the Ninth Coast Guard District.

No specific timeline, for the announcement of a final decision, has been set.

The Ninth Coast Guard District continues to maintain the Proposed Safety Zones web site, <http://www.uscgd9safetyzones.com>, with the intention to keep the public informed on the progress of this issue. As of Nov. 14, the web site has provided information to more than 31,000 visitors.

For media inquiries or additional questions, contact the Ninth Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office, in Cleveland, at (216) 902-6020