



October 11, 2018

Captain Kevin Oditt  
Commander, Sector Houston Galveston  
13411 Hillard Street  
Houston, TX 77034

Via email: [Kevin.D.Oditt@uscg.mil](mailto:Kevin.D.Oditt@uscg.mil)

Dear Captain Oditt,

The Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee has been assessing how best to expand the current anchorages near Bolivar, along with better ways to utilize the existing anchorages. Because this is such an important issue to help improve safety by reducing transits within the port, the Waterway Utilization Subcommittee created an Anchorage Working Group to help focus on these issues.

Currently, under 33 CFR 110.197, vessels using Anchorage Alpha and Charlie have a time limit of 48 hours. For extenuating circumstances, the US Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston has the authority to grant extensions to the 48-hour time limit. Anchorage Bravo does not have a similar time limit, so vessels frequently spend extended periods of time anchored there, blocking other vessels with pressing logistical needs (stores, bunkering, crew changes, etc.) from using Anchorage Bravo. To ensure Anchorage Bravo is available for all those vessels with a valid need to use it, the Anchorage Working Group recommended that a 48-hour time limit be applied to Anchorage Bravo. The group believes that this will increase the efficiency of the very limited inshore anchorage space for Houston and Galveston, and should not have any detrimental safety impacts, especially if the ability of VTS to grant exceptions when deemed appropriate is extended to Anchorage Bravo under a new regulation.

During its August 3, 2018 meeting, the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee considered the following Anchorage Working Groups recommendation –

Submit to the Coast Guard a recommendation that vessels be limited to a maximum of 48 hours when anchoring in Anchorage B, and further authorize the Chairman to do all things necessary to affect the aforementioned.

By unanimous vote, the Committee approved the recommendations, which is hereby submitted for your consideration.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 281-40-6119, or [jplunkett@houston-pilots.com](mailto:jplunkett@houston-pilots.com).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.J. Plunkett".

J.J. Plunkett  
Chair, Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee