



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Increased Grounding Frequency

The Captain of the Port, Sector Delaware Bay, has observed an increase in the number of groundings by deep draft vessels within the Sector Delaware Bay Captain of the Port Zone. A majority of these groundings have occurred while the vessel was at anchor. These groundings have caused vessel's significant delays and increase the risk of marine pollution within the port.

Standing a vigilant anchor watch is key to identifying signs of a dragging anchor and taking early action to avoid a vessel grounding. Mariners should choose anchorage grounds with the impact of current and predicted weather patterns in mind. Weather can change quickly within the Delaware River and Bay, mariners are encouraged to employ proactive measures such as keeping engines in immediate standby, utilizing two anchors, or utilizing assist tugs if conditions warrant. Making the necessary arrangements to mitigate the impact of any adverse conditions is vital to the safety of navigation on the Delaware River and Bay.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this bulletin, please contact the Waterways Management staff at (215) 271-4814/4889 or the Command Center at (215) 271-4807.

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Captain of the Port, Delaware Bay