



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Upper Mississippi River
1222 Spruce Street Ste. 7.103
St Louis, MO 63103

MSIB Number: 04-26
Date: August 15, 2026
Contact: Waterways Management
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MULTIPLE SAFETY ZONES: Floatzilla Kayak Event and Great River Tugfest – Upper Mississippi River

On Saturday, August 15, 2026, two significant marine events will take place on the Upper Mississippi River, resulting in concurrent and consecutive waterway restrictions. To protect participants, spectator vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards, the Coast Guard is establishing two temporary safety zones. Mariners are advised to plan transits accordingly, as these zones will restrict vessel movement between Mile Marker (MM) 497.6 and MM 479.0 during the specified times.

1. Great River Tugfest

- Location: All navigable waters of the Upper Mississippi River between MM 497.6 and MM 497.2 (Port Byron, IL to LeClaire, IA), from surface to bottom.
- Enforcement Period: August 15, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

2. Floatzilla Kayak Event

- Location: All navigable waters of the Upper Mississippi River between MM 493.0 and MM 479.0, from surface to bottom. (*Note: This event includes approximately 2,000 paddlecraft.*)
- Enforcement Period: August 15, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Regulations and Transit Instructions

During the enforcement periods, entry into, transiting through, mooring, or anchoring within these safety zones is strictly prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port (COTP), Sector Upper Mississippi River, or a designated representative.

Vessels seeking permission to enter or transit either safety zone must contact the Coast Guard Patrol Commander on-scene via VHF-FM Channel 16 or contact Sector Upper Mississippi River at (866) 360-3386. All persons and vessels granted permission to enter the safety zones must comply with the instructions of the COTP or their designated representative.

Violating a safety zone is a serious offense. Persons or vessels that violate these safety zones may be subject to civil penalties, criminal penalties, or both under 46 U.S.C. 70036.

If you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact MST1 Henry Bocke, Sector Upper Mississippi River Waterways Management Division, at (314) 302-2991 or by email at sumrwaterways@uscg.mil.

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