

Ninth District 24-Hour Emergency Contacts

Sector Eastern Great Lakes

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Sector Detroit

110 Mt. Elliott Street
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: (833) 388-8724
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Sector Lake Michigan

2420 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Phone: (414) 747-7182
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Sector Northern Great Lakes

337 Water Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Phone: (906)635-3233
E-mail: d09-smb-secsaultstemarie-commandcenter@uscg.mil

Vessel Traffic Service St. Marys River

Address: 337 Water Street
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
Phone: (906) 635-3232
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U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District



Welcomes you to the Great Lakes!

Welcome to the Great Lakes

As the world's largest surface freshwater ecosystem, the Great Lakes are a vital economic and environmental resource. Laws and regulations designed to protect these waters are strictly enforced.

This pamphlet, provided by the U.S. Coast Guard Ninth District, serves to inform vessel masters of environmental discharge laws applicable while operating in the U.S. waters of the Great Lakes.

Operators are also reminded of their legal responsibility to report marine casualties, hazardous conditions, and federal crimes while navigating in U.S. waters. These reports are essential to maintaining navigational awareness, protecting the Great Lakes ecosystem, and ensuring a safe and efficient Marine Transportation System (MTS).

U.S. Environmental Laws and Regulations

Ballast Water: Seagoing commercial vessels must comply with the Ballast Water Discharge Standards found in 33 CFR 151.

Garbage: The discharge of garbage from a vessel into the Great Lakes is prohibited under the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Oil and Oily Wastes: The discharge of oil and/or oily waste from a vessel into the Great Lakes is prohibited under the provisions of the Clean Water Act.

Sewage and Graywater: The discharge of sewage and graywater from a vessel into the Great Lakes is generally prohibited under the Clean Water Act.

Marine Casualty Reporting

Marine casualties that occur upon the navigable waters of the U.S. involving commercial vessels must be reported to the Coast Guard as outlined in 46 CFR 4.05-1. These reports should be submitted via Form CG-2692.

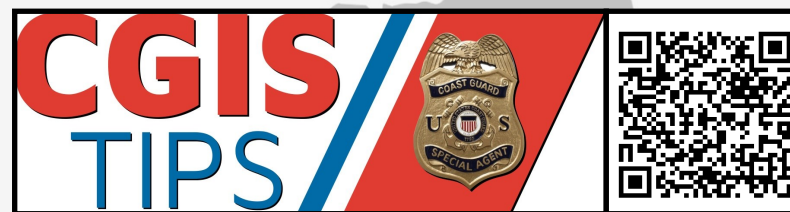
Hazardous Condition Reporting

If a hazardous condition occurs on board or is caused by a vessel, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge must immediately notify the Coast Guard, per 33 CFR 160.216. Hazardous conditions are those that may negatively impact the safety of any vessel, bridge, structure, or shore area or harm the environmental quality of a U.S. waterway.

Anonymous Reporting

U.S. federal law violations can be reported anonymously anytime.

Examples of Federal Crimes are (but not limited to): polluting the navigable waters of the U.S., illegal fishing, maritime smuggling of weapons, narcotics and money, human trafficking, merchant mariner credential fraud, physical assault, homicide, and **sexual assault, sexual harassment and/or abuse.**



Waterways and Aids to Navigation

For any identified deficiencies regarding Aids to Navigation (ATON), hazards to navigation, or other MTS issues, contact the Ninth Coast Guard District Command Center at (216) 902-6117.

Vessels are encouraged to regularly review Coast Guard Broadcasts, Local Notices to Mariners (LNM), and Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) to remain informed on current waterway conditions, weather, and other navigational hazards, including novel uses of the marine environment. LNM and local MSIBs may be found below:

[District Nine Local Notice to Mariners Bulletins](#)

[District Nine Marine Safety Information Bulletins](#)