Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled ADDRESSES. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at http://www.regulations.gov, keyword search MARAD–2022–0144 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see ADDRESSES for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit the information you claim to be confidential commercial information by email to SmallVessels@dot.gov. Include in the email subject heading “Contains Confidential Commercial Information” or “Contains CCI” and state in your submission, with specificity, the basis for any such confidential claim highlighting or denoting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

In the event MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department’s FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under those procedures will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT’s compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit https://www.transportation.gov/privacy.

Jurisdiction


By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.

For further information contact:  
Chad Dorsey, Designated Federal Officer, at MTSNAC@dot.gov or at (202) 997–6205. Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Please visit the MTSNAC website at https://www.maritime.dot.gov/outreach/maritime-transportation-system-mts/mtsnac. 

Supplementary Information:

I. Background

The MTSNAC is a Federal advisory committee that advises the U.S. Secretary of Transportation through the Maritime Administration on issues related to the marine transportation system. The MTSNAC was originally established in 1999 and mandated in 2007 by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110–140). The MTSNAC is codified at 46 U.S.C. 50402 and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

II. Agenda

The agenda will include: (1) welcome, opening remarks, and introductions; (2) administrative items; (3) subcommittee break-out sessions; (4) updates to the Committee on the subcommittee work; (5) public comments; and (6) discussions relevant to formulate recommendations for improving the maritime transportation strategy. A final agenda will be posted on the MTSNAC internet website at https://www.maritime.dot.gov/outreach/maritime-transportation-system-mts/mtsnac at least one week in advance of the meeting.

III. Public Participation

The meeting will be open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend in person must RSVP to the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section with your name and affiliation. Seating will be limited and available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Services for Individuals with Disabilities: The public meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. The U.S. Department of Transportation is committed to providing equal access to this meeting for all participants. If you need alternative formats or services because of a disability, such as sign language, interpretation, or other ancillary aids, please contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Public Comments: A public comment period will commence at approximately 11:45 a.m. EST on August 30, 2022, and again on August 31, 2022, at the same time. To provide time for as many people to speak as possible, speaking time for each individual will be limited to three minutes. Members of the public who would like to speak are asked to...
Contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Commenters will be placed on the agenda in the order in which notifications are received. If time allows, additional comments will be permitted. Copies of oral comments must be submitted in writing at the meeting or preferably emailed to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Additional written comments are welcome and must be filed as indicated below.

**Written comments:** Persons who wish to submit written comments for consideration by the Committee must send them to the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before August 26, 2022.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2022–0145 by any one of the following methods:
- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Search MARAD–2022–0145 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- **Mail or Hand Delivery:** Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2022–0145, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.
- **Note:** If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

**Instructions:** All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.


**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described in the application, the intended service of the vessel GODS GRACE is:
- **Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:** “I intend to use this vessel for sunset and daytime cruises in and around southern Georgia and the west coast of Florida, FL.”
- **Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:** “Florida and Georgia.”
  (Base of Operations: Saint Simons Island, GA)
- **Vessel Length and Type:** 50′ Sail

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD 2022–0145 at http://www.regulations.gov. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade to carry no more than 12 passengers will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, MARAD will not issue an approval of the vessel’s coastwise endorsement eligibility. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the application, and address the eligibility criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**Public Participation**
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