

Information Regarding the U.S. Coast Guard Expanding Automatic  
Identification System Carriage

*(Email text from Brian Corrigan, dated 02/05/2009 with the attached informational flyer.)*

Per the below excerpt from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) NAVCEN site, the Coast Guard is considering expanding AIS (Automated Information System) carriage requirements. The expansion would include, among others, fishing vessels over 65 feet (including Canadian tuna trollers fishing in the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the U.S./Canada Albacore Tuna Treaty). As indicated in the below links, the public comment period for this rule ends April 15, 2009. The Coast Guard will also be holding a public meeting in Washington D.C. on March 5, 2009.

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**Automated Information System Frequently Asked Questions** - located on the internet at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/AISFAQ.htm>

**Question 19** Is the USCG considering expanding AIS carriage to other vessels or outside of Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) areas?

**Answer** Yes. On December 16, 2008 the Coast Guard published a proposed rule to expand AIS requirements, beyond VTS areas, to all U.S. navigable waters and require AIS carriage for additional commercial vessels, including commercial vessels carrying 50 or more passengers, fishing vessels 65 feet or greater, high-speed passenger vessels, dredges and floating plants operating in or near channels or fairways, and vessels carrying or moving certain dangerous cargo.

The proposed rule is located at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/73\\_FR\\_78295\\_NOAD-AIS\\_NPRM.pdf](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/73_FR_78295_NOAD-AIS_NPRM.pdf) and a copy of the USCG informational flyer regarding this proposed action is located at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/USCG\\_AIS\\_Expanding\\_3-fold\\_\(1PG\).pdf](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/USCG_AIS_Expanding_3-fold_(1PG).pdf)

We invite you to attend our public meeting. Meeting information can be found at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/74\\_FR\\_3534\\_NOAD-AIS\\_Notice-Public\\_Mtg.pdf](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/74_FR_3534_NOAD-AIS_Notice-Public_Mtg.pdf) .

You may also visit the following site to comment on our proposal and its significant changes to the current AIS requirements.

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=US CG-2005-21869>

Changes to the current AIS requirements can be found at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/AIS\\_NPRM\\_Changes\\_1pg.pdf](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/AIS_NPRM_Changes_1pg.pdf) and the current AIS requirements can be found at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais/USCG%20AIS%20Regulations%20-%20Now%20and%20Proposed.pdf> .

# U.S. Coast Guard Expanding AIS Carriage



Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a maritime navigation safety communications system standardized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that: Provides vessel information, including the vessel's identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety-related information automatically to appropriately equipped shore stations, other ships, shore stations, aides to navigation and aircraft; receives automatically such information from similarly fitted ships, monitors and tracks ships; and exchanges data with shore-based facilities.

- It works as a digital VHF-FM radio self-organizing local area network—imagine a party line GPS-enabled cell phone system where all users within radio range know where each is and autonomously and continuously send each other (navigation) messages.
- These messages (AIS data) are transmitted between 2-10 seconds dependent on the vessel's speed or course change; 3 minute intervals when at anchor or at speeds under 3 knots (Class B units transmit at every 30 seconds).

## PROPOSED RULEMAKING [USCG-2003-21869]

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (73 FR 78295)—in an effort to improve navigation safety, enhance the ability to identify and track vessels, heighten our overall maritime domain awareness, and thus help us address threats to maritime transportation safety and security and mitigate the possible harm from such threats, the Coast Guard published and solicited comments on a proposed rule that would expand the applicability of AIS requirements (see 33 CFR 164.46), beyond USCG Vessel Traffic Service areas, to all U.S. navigable waters and require it use by most commercial self-propelled vessels. Such as:

- Commercial self-propelled vessels of 65 feet or greater (no exceptions, although certain waivers possible);
- Commercial towing vessels of 26 feet or greater and over 600 hp;
- Commercial vessels carrying 50 or more passengers (vice current threshold of 150 for hire);
- Commercial hi-speed vessels carry 12 or more passengers;
- Certain dredges & floating plants, and,
- Vessel moving certain dangerous cargoes

See reverse for other noteworthy proposed changes in this rulemaking. Changes are to take effect no less than 7 months after publication of the Final Rule. This rule may change in view of comments filed at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

*Previous actions regarding the expansion of AIS carriage:*

- July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 we sought public comment via a Federal Register notice.
- October-December, 2003 we conducted 3 public meetings (New Orleans, Seattle, New Bedford) on the subject.
- October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005 we announced our intent to extend carriage to all U.S. navigable waters in the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda.

For more information on this rule and AIS visit [www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/enav/ais) or email us at [cgnav@uscg.mil](mailto:cgnav@uscg.mil)

## Estimated Expanded AIS Population

<b>Ships ≥ 65 ft</b>	<b>2,973</b>
Freight Ship	298
Industrial Ship	748
MODU	210
OSV	553
Research Vessel	97
School Ship	19
Tank Ship	122
Unclassified	385
Unknown	541
<b>Fishing ≥ 65 ft</b>	<b>5,520</b>
Documented	4,571
Undocumented (est.)	949
<b>Towing ≥ 26 ft &amp; ≥ 600 hp</b>	<b>4,560</b>
<b>Passenger (pax)</b>	<b>3,235</b>
≥ 65ft	2,167
< 65' but ≥ 50 pax	1,062
>30 kts & >12 pax for hire	6
<b>Dredges &amp; Floating Plants</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Foreign Flag ≥ 65ft</b>	<b>1,119</b>
<b>Total (U.S.)</b>	<b>16,323</b>
<b>Total (All)</b>	<b>17,442</b>