



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Maryland-NCR

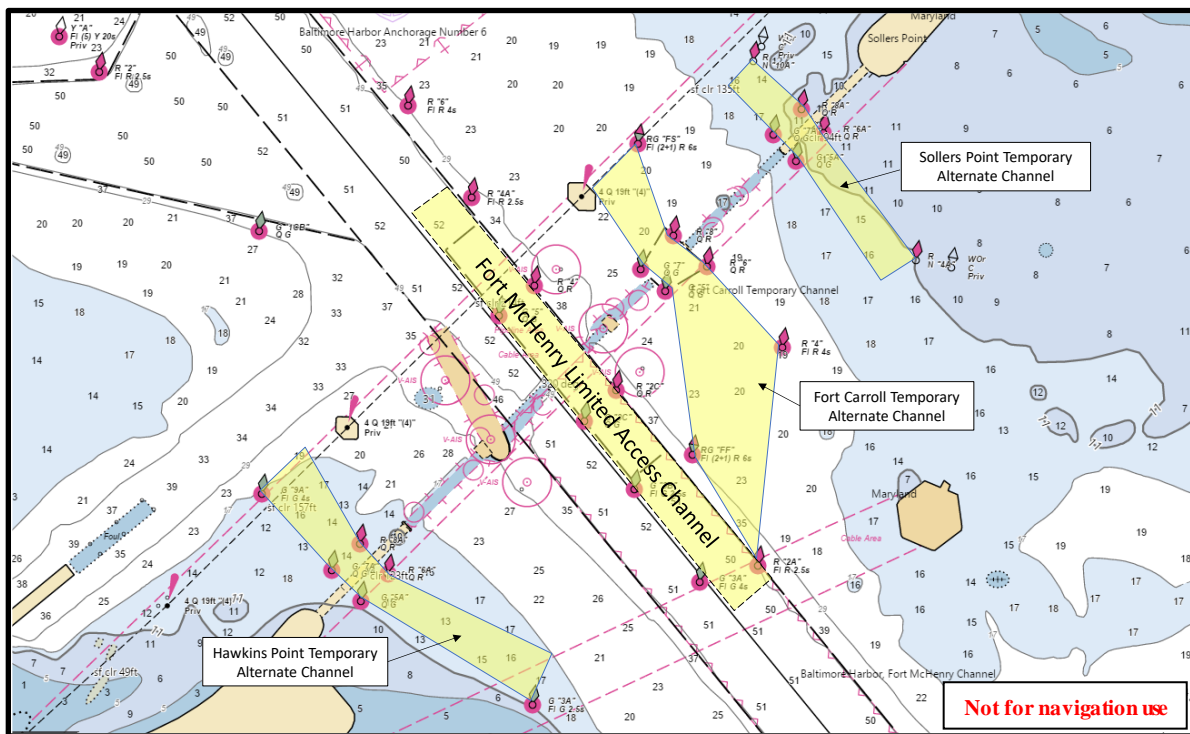
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UPDATE 2 – MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 043-24 – UPDATE 2 April 29, 2024

Port of Baltimore Safety Zone – Key Bridge Response 2024 Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel



The Captain of the Port (COTP) temporarily suspended transits to the Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel on Monday, April 29th at 6 a.m. Following the safe removal of the M/V DALI, the COTP expects to reopen the Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel on or about May 10th for commercially essential vessels to daily from 8 p.m. to 7 a.m. This channel will have a controlling depth of 45 feet, a 300-foot horizontal clearance, and vertical clearance of 214 feet due to the adjacent BG&E powerlines. The controlling depth and available width may change based on survey analysis, and vessel transits will remain at the discretion of the COTP, based on the prevailing weather conditions and salvage operations. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hydrographic survey data for the Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel will be available on [eHydro](https://www.usace.army.mil/Information/Products/USACE-Hydrographic-Survey-Data).

Deep draft vessels utilizing this channel will require a Maryland State pilot and two escort tugs. The Maryland Pilots will impose a 3 foot under keel clearance (UKC) requirement for all vessels and limit transits to winds being less than 15 knots, to include maximum forecasted gusts ([Weather Forecast for 39.22N 76.54W](https://www.weather.gov/baltimore/39.22N_76.54W)). Due to ongoing salvage operations in the area, all transits must be at the slowest safe speed but not to exceed 10 knots.

The Fort Carroll Temporary Alternate Channel with a controlling depth of 20 feet, a 300-foot horizontal clearance, and vertical clearance of 135 feet will remain available (see [MSIB 042-24, Update 1](#)). Additionally, the Sollers Point Temporary Alternate Channel with a controlling depth of 11 feet, a 264-foot horizontal clearance, and vertical clearance of 95 feet; as well as the Hawkins Point Temporary Alternate Channel with a controlling depth of 14 feet, a 280-foot horizontal clearance, and vertical clearance of 124 feet will remain (see [MSIB 039-24](#)).

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Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel

Commercial traffic able to utilize these alternate channels should plan to do so, as to not impact traffic that is limited to the Fort McHenry Limited Access Channel.

The 2,000-yard safety zone around the Francis Scott Key Bridge (see [MSIB 036-24](#)) remains in effect and is intended to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment. No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without first obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. The COTP is currently issuing a Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM) via VHF-FM marine channel 16. Mariners are requested to monitor the VHF channel 16 for the latest information.

You may not enter the safety zone described above unless authorized by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative. To obtain permission to enter the safety zone and transit through any of the established temporary alternate channels, you must, **as early as possible but no less than 4 hours prior to getting underway**, contact the Marine Transportation System Recovery Branch at (505) 203-8141 and MTSrecoveryMDNCR@uscg.mil. These requests must be received between the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Movement requests before 10 a.m. must be received prior to 6 p.m. the previous day. **All movements are subject to the prevailing weather conditions, response and recovery efforts.**

As you approach the safety zone and prior to entry, contact the on-scene Patrol Commander on VHF channel 81A (157.075 MHz) or by phone (505) 929-5975. The Patrol Commander will also monitor VHF channels 13 and 16. Those in the safety zone must comply with all lawful orders or directions given to them by the COTP or the COTP's designated representative. The U.S. Coast Guard may be assisted in the patrol and enforcement of the safety zone by Federal, State, and local agencies.

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