



# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

April 12, 2025

**From:** U.S. Coast Guard

**To:** Maritime Industry Stakeholders

**Re:** Homeport Decommissioning

The Coast Guard is retiring Homeport as of April 12, 2025. Moving forward, you will need to use alternate approaches for tasks typically performed through the Homeport platform.

We recognize that Homeport has long been a trusted tool for mariners and the broader maritime community. The Coast Guard is establishing temporary workarounds to ensure essential services remain accessible until we can identify the best permanent approach for each function.

The following pages will provide you with guidance on how to conduct activities previously done through Homeport.

### **Why is Homeport being decommissioned?**

The Coast Guard is responsible for maintaining both the physical and cyber security of our country's maritime commerce system. The Homeport system is facing increasing costs and system obsolescence. As a result, it is no longer a viable tool for managing the many functions required to ensure the smooth and safe flow of vessel traffic.

### **What do I need to do?**

Please review the attached list of Homeport functions and the interim procedures and establish new business processes as appropriate.

### **When will the new platform launch?**

Throughout this transition, we're committed to keeping the maritime community fully informed with timely updates and clear guidance.

The new [Homeport Solutions & News](#) website will be our primary tool for keeping you informed as new tools come online. You can also visit [Maritime Commons](#), the Coast Guard's blog for maritime professionals, and subscribe for the Maritime Commons Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed to receive regular e-mail updates.

### **Why is this happening so quickly?**

We recognize that Homeport has been a trusted tool for mariners and the broader maritime community. However, transferring Homeport functionality to more secure information systems is a critical part of securing the nation's Maritime Transportation System.

We realize that decommissioning Homeport is a significant change, and we are committed to making the transition as easy for you as possible. On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, thank you for your important role in building a thriving U.S. economy and your commitment to safe, secure maritime commerce.

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## Interim Stakeholder Procedures for Homeport Functions

*Last updated 12 APRIL 2025*

*For the most current guidance, visit <https://www.uscg.mil/homeport>*

### **Merchant Mariner Application Status**

- To check the status of an application for a Merchant Mariner Credential or medical certificate, please contact the National Maritime Center (NMC) at 1-888-427-5662, [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil), or via [Live Chat](#).
- NMC customer service agents are available Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. EST.
- The NMC experiences its busiest times around mid-day. To avoid longer wait times, we recommend calling early in the morning when phone lines are less busy or using our Live Chat service, which will connect you with our support team during normal hours. Additionally, our Chatbot can assist with many inquiries, providing immediate answers without the need to wait for a representative.

### **Merchant Mariner Credential Verification**

- To verify the authenticity of a Merchant Mariner Credential, please e-mail the National Maritime Center at [IASKNMC@uscg.mil](mailto:IASKNMC@uscg.mil).
- To aid in providing a faster response, please indicate 'Credential Verification' in the subject line of your e-mail. Provide the Mariner name(s) and Mariner reference number(s) in the body of the e-mail.

### **Transportation Worker Identification Card - New Hire Status**

- The Coast Guard Office of Port & Facility Compliance (CG-FAC) will work directly with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to verify newly hired employees.
- To verify the status of a newly hired employee for accompanied access to secure areas, please email CG-FAC at [TWIC.HQ@uscg.mil](mailto:TWIC.HQ@uscg.mil).
- Before submitting your request, confirm that the new hire is (1) not currently engaged in a waiver or appeals process, and (2) has already:
  - Applied for a Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC)
  - Signed a statement affirming that they have completed the TWIC enrollment process
  - Paid the user fee
- Include 'TWIC New Hire' in the subject line of your email.
- The email should contain a password-protected attachment with the following information exactly as it appears on their TWIC application.
  - Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone
  - Vessel and/or Facility
  - Full legal name, including middle name if one exists (use 'NMN' if no middle name)
  - Social Security Number (optional)
  - Employer
  - Submitter 24hr contact information
  - TWIC enrollment date
  - Applicant ID from TWIC pre-enrollment
- **IMPORTANT!** You must send the passwords to access the protected files [in a separate email](#).



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- A request may only be submitted if the new hire has applied for a TWIC, signed a statement affirming that they have completed the TWIC enrollment process, paid the user fee, and is not engaged in a waiver or appeals process.
- The TWIC New Hire Provision may NOT be used for Company or Vessel and Facility Security Officers or any individual hired specifically to perform security duties.
- Please reference 33 [CFR Subchapter H](#) for additional information concerning newly hired employees.

## **Mariner Training and Assessment Data (MTAD)**

- Course curricula and course certificate modification requests should be sent to [NMCCourses@uscg.mil](mailto:NMCCourses@uscg.mil).
- Course and program completion certificates should be documented by certificates issued by training providers. Completion certificate format and content should match the National Maritime Center's (NMC) format and content.
- For questions related to Mariner Training and Assessment, please contact the NMC at 206-815-6893.

## **Vessel Response Plans (VRP)**

- We are working quickly to establish a new technical solution for VRP Express User Upload, Plan Builder, VRP data, approval letters, and vessel status inquiries. Accessibility to Vessel Response Plans (VRPs) Express by credentialed third-party users (username/password) will not be available.
- For now, submit all new VRPs, updates, and amended plans via email to [vrp@uscg.mil](mailto:vrp@uscg.mil).
- Submit all Vessel Status inquiries and approval letter requests via the online [VRP Helpdesk Inquiry Form](#).

## **Incident Command System (ICS) Information**

- All Coast Guard Incident Command System (ICS) information – such as the ICS Handbook, job aids, forms, and Performance Qualification Standards will be moved from Homeport to the new [Homeport Solutions & News](#) page.
- If you need any ICS information that is not yet available on the new website, please reach out to your local Coast Guard Emergency Management Division or email [ICS-ProgramCoordinator@uscg.mil](mailto:ICS-ProgramCoordinator@uscg.mil) and we will be happy to provide it.

## **Maritime Security (MARSEC) Level**

- The Coast Guard [Navigation Center \(NAVCEN\) website](#) will soon host the status board for MARSEC Levels at <https://navcen.uscg.gov/marsec>. Please bookmark the site for future use.
- Status changes, should they occur, will show in the standard MARSEC Icon that was used on the decommissioned Homeport Site.
- In addition to the MARSEC Dashboard, status changes will also be shared through RSS Feeds, when Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNMs) and Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs) are issued for the respective change.

## **Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs), Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM), & Local Notice to Mariners (NTM)**

- Sector and District MSIBs, BNMs and LNMs are now available on the Coast Guard [NAVCEN website](#). LNMs and MSIBs can be viewed in the [Marine Safety Information \(MSI\) App](#), or if desired, each can be viewed singularly as standalone layer by either selecting the “Load all LNMs” or “MSIB Load” layer.



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- To stay aware of regional safety conditions and receive up-to-date MSIB, BNM & LNM information, commercial and recreational boaters are encouraged to subscribe to the appropriate Sector and/or District RSS Feed, found at [Subscribe to Our RSS Feeds | Navigation Center](#). Mariners have the ability to choose the MSI they wish to receive based on location. After subscribing, you will receive e-mails with real-time updates, notifications and messages similar to those previously shared on Homeport.
- National Level MSIBs will continue to be available through the appropriate HQ Offices, or at the [Deputy Commandant for Operations MSIB site](#).

## **Marine Event Permits**

- The Coast Guard NAVCEN is building a new online Marine Event Permit Request Form. The new system should be available in the near future.
- For now, please submit requests for marine event permits directly to your local Coast Guard Sector.
- To locate your Sector contact information, visit the [Port Status and Port Contact Information](#) page, which is still in development. From there, your Waterways Management Division and/or Prevention Department should be able to provide more assistance.

## **Port Status and Port Contact Information**

- In the near future, the Coast Guard NAVCEN will be moving Homeport's port status (e.g., Open, Open with Restrictions, and Closed) function to <https://navcen.uscg.gov/port-status>. Please bookmark this site so that you are prepared when it goes live.
- The site will also contain all the previously related contact information from Homeport for each Sector and Captain of the Port Zone (COTP) Zone.
- Mariners with questions related to the status of a specific port may contact their local Sector Command Center for more information.

## **Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) documents**

- The Coast Guard is building a new, secure site to house AMSC documents, such as Salvage Response Plans and Area Contingency Plans.
- For now, please contact your servicing Port Security Specialist (PSS) or Port Security Specialist/Recovery (PSS/R) if you need any AMSC documentation.
- AMSC documents will be shared based on the requestee's need-to-know, following handling requirements for sharing Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

## **Sector Southeast Alaska High-Site Outage Notifications**

- High-Site Outage Notifications for Sector Southeast Alaska are actively provided both as a physical VHF/FM Broadcast, and in the text form of the Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM) for the loss of a high-site radio signal (scheduled and unscheduled). These notifications are provided only to those subscribers of the [Sector Southeast Alaska COTP Zone and/or District 17 RSS Feed](#) from the Coast Guard NAVCEN Website.
- High-Site Outage Notifications for the Sector Southeast Alaska COTP Zone can also be accessed, viewed and printed from the NAVCEN BNM site within the D17 Section of the [BNM Interactive Map](#). Users can search for outages by selecting "Southeast Alaska" and then selecting a reasonable date range for current and past BNMs.
- As with all BNMs, LNM, MSIBs and other products in the MSI App, users must request to be included in the RSS Feed for Sector Southeast Alaska to receive these real-time updates and notifications, [Subscribe to Our RSS Feeds | Navigation Center](#).



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## U.S. Coast Guard Federal Advisory Committees

- Information about U.S. Coast Guard Federal Advisory Committees will soon be available on [Homeport Solutions & News](#).
- For now, please contact your Committee Designated Federal Officer or Alternate Designated Federal Officer to request any information you might need.

For any additional functions needed that have not been addressed through the above alternate means, inquiries can be sent to [Navigation Center](#).