**Anchorage Management Working Group hosted by USCG Sector Delaware Bay Waterways Management and the Mariners’ Advisory Committee**

The inaugural meeting of the Delaware Bay and River Anchorage Management Working Group was hosted by Sector Delaware Bay on July 12, 2018 with the intent of convening a forum of Delaware River stakeholders to asses current operational needs and specific challenges that are affecting anchorage space and utilization on the Delaware.

Some of the issues raised include, but are not limited to:

* Arrivals of post-Panamax vessels requiring bailout/turnaround/emergency space at Marcus Hook Anchorage
* Planning for more frequent calls of post-Panamax vessels, as well as vessels exceeding 40ft draft after completion of the main channel deepening project
* requests to keep tank vessels alongside at terminals for COC/bunkers/stores rather than using anchorages
* special consideration of Big Stone Beach Anchorage utilization
* consideration of officially designating Breakwater Anchorage and charting its boundaries
* consideration of the need for offshore anchorage space
* Use of upper end of BSB for lightering/lower end for vessels anchoring for longer periods of time

-Consideration of specific recommendations for Marcus Hook Anchorage including:

* Vessels 650’ LOA and greater shall use MHA, with exceptions for smaller vessels lightering
* 12 hour anchorage restriction at all times, with (2) 12 hour renewals available by USCG Command Center permission for vessels lightering or reverse lightering
* Marcus Hook Anchorage shall not be used for vessels awaiting orders
* Area from “A” buoy extending 1/2nm upriver shall be reserved/kept open for ULCV’s or vessels with drafts exceeding 40’

Identification of critical anchorages in the Bay/River (with current vessel maximum LOA/Draft):

* Marcus Hook-#7 (any LOA/40’), Mantua Creek-#9 (700’ LOA/37’), Wilmington-#6 (700’LOA/35’)
* Tugs/tows to: Kaighn’s Point-#12(600’LOA/34’), Navy Yard-#10, Artificial Island-#2, Pea Patch-#4

Consideration of the creation of new anchorages: Offshore, Breakwater, Upper Deepwater, Bellevue

**The recommendations emerging from this working group will affect all river traffic and operations. Wide port participation is invited and strongly encouraged. To join the working group, please contact Waterways Chief, Lt. Kiley Relf at: Kiley.A.Relf@uscg.mil or**

**The next working group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21st at 1330 at USCG Sector Delaware Bay. Please RSVP with Lt. Kiley Relf.**