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U.S. COAST GUARD DELIVERS U.S. WATERWAY HARMONIZED GEOSPATIAL DATASET TO FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System’s (CMTS) Future of Navigation Integrated Action Team (IAT), delivered a harmonized geospatial dataset of national waterways to Federal agency members of the CMTS. The new “Harmonized Waterway”:

- Revolutionizes the delivery of critical Marine Safety Information (MSI) to the mariner by deconflicting and synchronizing names and abbreviations for rivers, bays, and landmarks, which can differ between local, state, and Federal agencies;
- Improves interagency coordination for enhanced waterways management;
- Provides online access to navigational information for U.S. waters; and
- Provides a tool for waterways managers/planners, industry leaders, and researchers to study and monitor our national waterways with implications for marine transportation system (MTS) supply chain, resilience, and safety.

This project, from conception to establishment of the dataset took approximately 10 years and is the brainchild of navigation visionaries and technical experts from USCG, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USCG will host and maintain the dataset.

“The Harmonized Waterway program is a major leap forward for the U.S. MTS and its ability to provide all mariners – domestic and foreign – with the best information for navigating our waterways more safely and efficiently. The entire world will speak the same language in referencing points in U.S. waterways,” said Executive Director of the CMTS Helen Brohl.

“The impact of this project to advancing the U.S. as ‘one navigational system’ cannot be underestimated,” noted CMTS Coordinating Board Chair Major General William “Butch” Graham. “It also highlights the importance of our interagency collaboration and partnerships through the CMTS.

Additionally, this new Harmonized Waterways will allow USCG to transition its delivery of MSI from referencing the NOAA paper chart identification name/number to the harmonized waterway name. The USCG is coordinating the release of their revised Local Notice to Mariner reports with NOAA and anticipates the transition will begin in 2023.

The CMTS Future of Navigation IAT [<https://www.cmts.gov/topic-future/>] was established in 2006 and is co-led by the USCG, NOAA, and the USACE. The work of this IAT is focused on implementation of the CMTS' [U.S. Navigation Information Strategic Action Plan: 2021-2026](#).

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