

Benefiting commercial aquaculture,  
Conserving natural resources

# Navigational Marking of Off-Bottom Oyster Culture Leases

Off-bottom oyster culture that involve surface or subsurface oyster culture equipment may present a navigation hazard to boaters and a significant liability risk to leaseholders. This liability can be reduced if the leaseholder applies for and receives approval from the U.S. Coast Guard to appropriately mark lease boundaries as a navigation hazard. The U.S. Coast Guard communicates the potential hazard to the boating public via a notice to mariners and coastal navigation charts are amended to depict the hazard.

The navigational markers approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for use by leaseholders that utilize the water column for oyster culture do not replace the lease markings required by the State of Florida for aquaculture leases. Contact the Division of Aquaculture for clarification as to how to mark leases.

## Private Aids to Navigation

Private Aids to Navigation may consist of buoys, signage or lights established and maintained by a private party after configuration and installation is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Each marking situation warrants individual and specific review by the U.S. Coast Guard. They will consider the individual merits of each project or scenario. Obstruction or hazard considerations may include, but not be limited to, the type of obstruction, location, water depth, vessel traffic and

density, types of vessels, or marine life considerations. These issues are just some of the many variables which the U.S. Coast Guard will consider and/or which may affect a Private Aids to Navigation marking determination.

## U.S. Coast Guard

Florida is split into two U.S. Coast Guard districts. The Eighth District is headquartered in New Orleans and their eastern boundary ends at the Econfina River in Taylor County. The Seventh District is headquartered in Miami and covers the rest of Florida from the Econfina River south along the Gulf Coast and all of the Atlantic Coast.

District contact information is:

[Eighth U.S. Coast Guard District](#)  
Private Aids to Navigation Section  
500 Poydras St., Suite 1230  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Office: (504) 671-2328  
Fax: (504) 671-2137  
Email: [d8OANpaton@uscg.mil](mailto:d8OANpaton@uscg.mil)

[Seventh U.S. Coast Guard District](#)  
Aids to Navigation and Waterways  
Management Branch  
909 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 406  
Miami, FL 33131  
Office: (305) 415-6755  
Fax: (305) 415-6757  
Email: [Andrew.M.Engle@uscg.mil](mailto:Andrew.M.Engle@uscg.mil)

## Division of Aquaculture

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Website: [www.FreshfromFlorida.com](http://www.FreshfromFlorida.com)

## Application

The U.S. Coast Guard offers a Private Aids to Navigation Application form (CG-2554). Information required for the form includes the contact information for the responsible party, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permit that approves structures in navigable waters of the United States, location in latitude and longitude for each proposed marker, and a description of the proposed special mark and marine lantern.

Prior planning to receive approval is important as the U.S. Coast Guard requires that approval must be received from them 30 days prior to installation of the potential hazard in navigable waters of the United States.

Form CG-2554 and additional information about Private Aids to Navigation can be accessed at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/waterways/PATON.Home.asp>.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services holds a programmatic general permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Live Rock and Marine Bivalve Culture in Florida, except for those leases that occur within an area designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service as being Endangered Species Act listed species critical habitat. Marine aquaculture leaseholders

(cont'd on back page)





that intend to apply for Private Aids to Navigation should contact the Division of Aquaculture for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit information to include with their application or to determine whether their lease is located within listed species critical habitat.

### **Private Aids to Navigation Equipment Suppliers**

The U.S. Coast Guard will provide specifications for the special mark and its installation. This special mark can be produced by sign makers using reflective materials mounted on 3/8-inch or 1/2-inch medium density overlay (single-sided) plywood or 1/8-inch commercial grade aluminum.

Marine lanterns, if required, must be U.S. Coast Guard approved and vendors include, but are not limited to:

Essi Corporation  
200 Cummings Road  
Broussard, LA 70518  
Telephone: 337-837-3774  
Fax: 337-837-3712  
Website: [www.essicorp.com](http://www.essicorp.com)

Go Deep International  
10 Watertower Road  
Saint John, New Brunswick  
Canada, E2M 7K2  
Phone: 506-633-7850 x204  
Fax: 506-633-7859  
Website: [www.buoysandlights.com](http://www.buoysandlights.com)

McDermott Corporation  
1639 Stephen Road  
Ridgewood, NY 11385  
Phone: 718-456-3606  
Fax: 718-381-0229  
Website: [www.mcdermottlight.com](http://www.mcdermottlight.com)

Sealite USA, LLC  
172 Lilypond Road  
Gilford, NH 03249  
Phone: 603-737-1311  
Fax: 603-737-1320  
Website: [www.sealite.com](http://www.sealite.com)

Tideland Signal Corporation  
4310 Directors Row  
Houston, TX 77092  
Phone: 713-681-6101  
Fax: 713-681-6233  
Website: [www.tidelandsignal.com](http://www.tidelandsignal.com)

Vendor information does not imply directly or indirectly an endorsement by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Vendors not listed are welcome to contact the Division of Aquaculture with their information and this fact sheet will be updated.

Information provided in this fact sheet courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard but it is subject change. For current information, contact the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard District.