

Proposed Hudson River Anchorages

Simulation



These floating parking lots jeopardize:

- Great strides communities have made in revitalizing their riverfronts.
- The region's scenic splendor, foundation of its \$5.3-billion tourism economy.
- Drinking water supplies drawn from the Hudson.
- Prime habitats for sturgeon and other imperiled fish species.
- Safe river access for paddlers and other boaters.

Background

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) proposal to establish 10 new sites for 43 commercial vessels to anchor along the Hudson River between Yonkers, Westchester County, and Kingston, Ulster County, was temporarily suspended pending a Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA). This proposal could turn over 2,400 acres of the river into huge "parking lots" for barges—in 42 out of the 43 berths, vessels could sit for 30 days or more, letting companies store flammable crude oil awaiting shipment to East Coast refineries. Allowing these containers to anchor on the Hudson puts our natural resources, aquatic habitats and scenic views at risk. These vessels, which can hold up to 4 million gallons of volatile cargo, would increase the risk of spills, leaks or explosions and jeopardize all of the progress Hudson River communities have made in revitalizing their waterfronts.

The USCG has not demonstrated that new anchorages are needed for navigational safety. And there are other measures that can enhance navigational safety without compromising environmental and community interests.

What has been done?

- In 2016 over 10,000 comments were submitted to the USCG, with over 96% expressing negative concerns over the proposal.
- In 2017 the USCG temporarily suspended the rulemaking pending a PAWSA.
- In November 2017 Scenic Hudson participated in two PAWSA workshops hosted by the USCG where we reiterated our continued opposition to any official designation of new anchorages and offered alternative mitigation measures to improve navigational safety.
- Gov. Cuomo signed Senate Bill 5197b and Assembly Bill 6825 into law, authorizing the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue enforceable regulations that would designate Tanker Avoidance Zones on the Hudson River based on environmental considerations and waterfront communities.

What you can do

- Contact the NY Department of Environmental Conservation and urge it to issue strict regulations that will prohibit new anchorage grounds from being sited where they pose a clear and direct threat to the environment, quality of life and regional economic development goals.

DEC's Bureau of Public Outreach: public@dec.ny.gov or 518 402 8044

- Ask your Representative to support bill number H.R. 2619, which would prevent the Coast Guard from establishing any new anchorage grounds on the Hudson River without submitting a report to Congress detailing their potential impacts on critical habitats and sites listed on the National Priorities List. Also ask your Representative to support the amendment to division E of Rules to bar expenditures for new anchorages sites in the specified area prior to October 1, 2018.

U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202 224 3121



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Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

November 2016

