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Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

[MSIB #01-10]

January 8th, 2010

TERMINATION OF LORAN-C

The U.S. Coast Guard will terminate U.S. LORAN-C signals on February 8th, 2010.

As a result of technological advancements during the last 20 years and the emergence of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS), LORAN-C is no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector or the nation's security interests, and is used by only a small segment of the population.

President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2010 budget supported the termination of outdated systems and specifically cited the terrestrial-based North American LORAN-C system as such an example. The president did not seek funding for the LORAN-C system in fiscal year 2010. Termination was also supported through the enactment of the 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

The decision to terminate LORAN-C reflects the President's pledge to eliminate unnecessary federal programs.

The Coast Guard strongly urges mariners currently using LORAN-C for navigation to shift to a GPS navigation system and become familiar with its operation as soon as possible. Mariners will not be able to rely upon LORAN-C for navigation as of February 8th, 2010.

LORAN-C was not established as, nor was it intended to be, a viable systemic backup for GPS. If a single, domestic national system to back up GPS is identified as being necessary, the Department of Homeland Security will complete an analysis of potential backups to GPS. The continued active operation of LORAN-C is not necessary to advance this evaluation.

The official Coast Guard Notice announcing termination of LORAN-C may be viewed online at www.regulations.gov, docket number: USCG-2009-0299. For more information on terminations, reductions and savings contained in the fiscal year 2010 budget, including LORAN-C, visit www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/TRS/.

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