

SPOKANE STREET DRAWBRIDGE NOTIFICATION

Action items:

- All vessels intending to transit the Duwamish Waterway, particularly during the workday hours between 6:00am and 9:00am or 3:00pm and 6:00pm, are encouraged to give notice to the Spokane Street Bridge drawtender about two hours prior to needing that bridge to be opened.
- Whether or not any vessel gives such notice, the Spokane Street Bridge shall open on signal per the regulations at 33 CFR 117.1041.

Discussion:

Per the regulations as 33 CFR 117.1041(a) “**The draws of each bridge across the Duwamish Waterway shall open on signal**, except as follows: (1) From Monday through Friday, except all Federal holidays but Columbus Day, the draws of the First Avenue South Bridges, mile 2.5, need not be opened for the passage of vessels from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., except: The draws shall open at any time for a vessel of 5000 gross tons and over, a vessel towing a vessel of 5000 gross tons and over, and a vessel proceeding to pick up for towing a vessel of 5000 gross tons and over.” **Thus, the Spokane Street Bridge is to open to all vessels regardless of time of day upon the proper signal as covered in the regulations.**

As the regulations imply, the commuter traffic on these bridges is very heavy at certain hours. This is particularly true of the Spokane Street Bridge. **To best ensure the freedom and safety of navigation in the Duwamish Waterway and to also allow the Washington State and Seattle Departments of Transportation to provide highway users more detailed information to plan their commute, mariners should at all times provide to the Spokane Street bridge drawtender as much advance notice as practicable prior to requiring a drawbridge opening.**

Advance notification to the drawtender should be made by radio on Channel 13 or by phone to 206-684-7443.

Again, whether or not a vessel gives notice, the Spokane Street Bridge shall open on signal per 33 CFR 117.1041.

This standard of care regarding advance notification only supplements the regulations, thus mariners should also be familiar with the referenced regulations as well as the discussion of Duwamish Waterway bridges in Chapter 13 of Coast Pilot 7. Mariners should also note information in the Puget Sound Pilots Guidelines to Vessels at <http://pspilots.org/dispatch-information/general-guidelines-for-vessels/>. Useful information may also be found on the City of Seattle Department of Transportation website at: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bridgeopenings.htm>.