

(1) The officer is acting in the performance of his or her official duties; and

(2) The activity is being conducted to directly protect any manatees, to enhance the propagation or survival of manatees, or is reasonably required to enforce the other provisions of this subpart.

(c) Any person may engage in any activity otherwise prohibited by this subpart if such activity is reasonably necessary to prevent the loss of life or property due to weather conditions or other reasonably unforeseen circumstances, or to render necessary assistance to persons or property.

(d) Any waterborne activity which would otherwise be prohibited by this subpart may be engaged in if it is conducted by or under a contract with a Federal agency and if the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with section 7(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(j)) makes a finding that such activity is necessary for reasons of national security. Such a finding must be made prior to the beginning of the activity or the designation of the protection area, whichever occurs later; except that in the case of an emergency establishment of a protection area under §17.106, the finding must be made within 10 days after the beginning of the activity or the designation of the protection area, whichever occurs later.

§17.106 Emergency establishment of protection areas.

(a) The Director may establish a manatee protection area under the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section at any time he determines there is substantial evidence that there is imminent danger of a taking of one or more manatees, and that such establishment is necessary to prevent such a taking.

(b) The establishment of a manatee protection area under this section shall become effective immediately upon completion of the following requirements:

(1) Publication of a notice containing the information required by §17.103 of this section in a newspaper of general circulation in each county, if any, in which the protection area lies; and

(2) Posting of the protection area with signs clearly marking its boundaries.

(c) Simultaneously with the publication required by paragraph (b) of this section, the Director shall publish the same notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If simultaneous publication is impractical, because of the time involved or the nature of a particular emergency situation, failure to publish notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER simultaneously shall not delay the effective date of the emergency establishment. In such a case, notice shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as possible.

(d) No emergency establishment of a protection area shall be effective for more than 120 days. Termination of an emergency establishment of a protection area shall be accomplished by publishing notice of the termination in the FEDERAL REGISTER and in a newspaper of general circulation in each county, if any, in which the protection area lies.

(e) Within 10 days after establishing a protection area in accordance with this section, the Director shall commence proceedings to establish the area in accordance with §17.103.

§ 17.107 Facilitating enforcement.

Water vehicles operating in manatee sanctuary or refuge waters are subject to boarding and inspection for the purpose of enforcing the Acts and these regulations.

(a) The operator of a water vehicle shall immediately comply with instructions issued by authorized officers to facilitate boarding and inspection of the water vehicle.

(b) Upon being approached by an authorized officer, the operator of a water vehicle shall be alert for signals conveying enforcement instructions.

(c) A water vehicle signaled for boarding shall:

(1) Guard channel 16, VHF-FM, if equipped with a VHF-FM radio;

(2) Stop immediately and lay to or maneuver in such a manner as to facilitate boarding by the authorized officer and his or her party;

(3) When necessary to facilitate the boarding, provide a safe ladder, manrope, safety line and illumination of the ladder; and