



COAST GUARD NEWS

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LORAN TERMINATION

The Coast Guard's Long Range Aid to Navigation-A system will be shut down on the West Coast of the United States and Canada, including Alaska, at 4 p.m. December 31.

The system, commonly called LORAN-A, is being replaced by the more accurate LORAN-C system. LORAN-C is accurate to about 50 feet from a ship's true position, versus a two mile accuracy of the old LORAN-A.

The termination was first announced in 1974 when LORAN-C was chosen as the government-provided coastal radio navigation service. The West Coast LORAN-C chain has been operational since the summer of 1977. A 30-month overlap of LORAN-A and LORAN-C service was provided to allow the public a period to convert to new receivers. LORAN-A is being terminated during the winter to minimize impact on users.

The LORAN-A shutdown will mean closure of Coast Guard units at San Mateo Point near San Clemente and at Point Arguello near Lompoc. The Coast Guard operates a LORAN-C station at Searchlight, Nev., a vital part of the West Coast LORAN-C chain.