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## **Coast Guard Issues NPRM to Charge Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees**

In the March 4, 2013 Federal Register, the Coast Guard issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), entitled "Vessel Documentation Renewal Fees." The Coast Guard proposes to assess a \$26 fee for the renewal of endorsements on a vessel's Certificate of Documentation, which must be renewed annually. Currently, there is no charge for renewals of endorsements. According to the Coast Guard, the proposed fee reflects the Coast Guard's related operating and overhead costs in providing the renewal service:

We estimate that this proposed fee would generate an additional \$6.1 million annually. The additional collections generated through the annual COD renewal fee should offset the costs of providing these services.

Comments must be submitted by May 3, 2013. If you have any questions related to this NPRM or would like our assistance in preparing comments, please contact your Thompson Coburn attorney or one of the maritime attorneys listed below.

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