



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 49-20 October 26, 2020 Tropical Storm Zeta **SET PORT CONDITION WHISKEY**

The latest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast for Tropical Storm Zeta indicates a 5-10% chance of tropical storm force winds affecting the Lake Charles and eastern portions of the Port Arthur Captain of the Port Zone within 72-hours.

Therefore, in order to ensure appropriate preparedness, effective at 1:00 P.M. CDT, October 26, 2020, the Captain of the Port, Port Arthur (COTP) has **set Port Condition WHISKEY** for the port of Lake Charles, LA and the Mermentau River including all tributaries and connecting waterways. Tropical storm force winds from **Tropical Storm Zeta** could make landfall along the Louisiana coast with **within 72 hours**.

The following guidance applies:

1. Restrictions established in MSIB 47-20 remain in effect.
2. Cargo transfer operations must be completed before sustained winds reach gale force (34 kts / 39 mph).
3. Manned, self-propelled, oceangoing vessels moored or at anchor should be prepared to get underway immediately. The COTP should be notified of all unmanned or “dead ship” vessels within the COTP Zone.
4. Commercial vessels greater than 500 gross tons and all seagoing tugs and barges intending to remain in port should begin considering relevant precautions and be prepared to submit Remaining in Port Checklists if required by the COTP.

The COTP is NOT restricting vessel movements or port operations at this time. All stakeholders are advised to monitor weather conditions closely and be prepared to suspend operations, have deep draft ships depart for sea and/or notify the COTP if remaining in port is desired.

A guide entitled “Hurricane Information for the Maritime Industry” is available to assist in planning for hurricane season. Remaining in Port Checklists are available from the Vessel Traffic Service website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtspportarthur/>, HOMEPORT (<http://homeport.uscg.mil>) or by calling the VTS Watch Supervisor at (409) 719-5070. Email completed forms to msupa-mtsru@uscg.mil.

To ensure the safety of your vessel and crew, now is the time to plan. Vessels are advised to seek safe harbor in the northern reaches of the waterway. Survey places to moor or anchor to safely ride out a tropical storm or hurricane, and make available the necessary heavy weather mooring gear. **Vessels shall not moor in locations that impede the safe transit of vessels in the channel.** By regulation, vessels intending to moor at 33 CFR 105 facilities must have an agreed upon security arrangement with the facility prior to the vessels mooring.

The Coast Guard will issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins updating Port Conditions as needed.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/vtsporthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 723-6500 or MSU Lake Charles at (337) 912-0073.



M. A. WIKE
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port