



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. COAST GUARD

Marine Safety Unit  *Port Arthur, Texas*

Marine Safety Information Bulletin

21-22

June 10, 2022

Sabine Bank Channel Obstruction Pipeline Removal Operations and Impacts to Sabine-Neches Waterway

The lay barge SPEEDY has been contracted to remove a submerged pipeline that crosses Sabine Bank Channel. Removal of this pipeline is necessary to facilitate the deepening project that is underway. The equipment necessary to remove the pipeline will prevent ship traffic from transiting the ship channel while it is in place. The contractor anticipates approximately 48-hours is necessary to remove the pipeline.

In order to facilitate pipeline removal while also minimizing impacts to maritime stakeholders, the following schedule was agreed to:

- Day 1 at 2:00 p.m. Lay barge in position, **channel restricted** until 2:00 p.m. next day.
- Day 2 at 2:00 p.m. Lay barge out of channel, **channel unrestricted**.
- Day 3 at 2:00 p.m. Lay barge in position, **channel restricted** until 2:00 p.m. next day.
- Day 4 at 2:00 p.m. Lay barge out of channel, **channel unrestricted**.
- Day 5 at 2:00 p.m. TBD based on progress of operation.

Estimated start date of this operation (Day 1) is currently June 18, 2022, however, that date may shift due to weather and other contingencies. An MSIB will be sent out 5-days prior to the vessel's projected arrival date and again 3-days prior with a firm start date.

Shallower draft ships may choose to anchor in the Sabine Pass Inshore fairway anchorage in advance of the planned restriction or bypass the affected area by using the Aransas Pass to Calcasieu Pass safety fairway. The Sabine Pilots are available to discuss scheduling concerns.

Concerned traffic may contact Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur for the latest updates. VTS can be reached on VHF-FM 01A or 65A, by email at vtspa-sup@uscg.mil or by phone at (409) 719-5070.

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/vtspportarthur/>. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please call Vessel Traffic Service Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070 (24-hours).


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