



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

35-22

September 26, 2022

Aids to Navigation Discrepancy Reporting

The purpose of this Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) is to remind all waterway users of the notification requirements for Aid to Navigation (ATON) strikes within the Port Arthur Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone.

A notable increase in unreported ATON strikes & knockdowns are occurring. It is a violation of Federal Law to hit ATON and not report it. 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4.05-20 requires that: "Whenever a vessel collides with a buoy, or other aid to navigation...or is connected with any such collision, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of such vessel to report the accident..." Further, 33 CFR 161.12 requires Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Users to notify the VTS of any "defect or discrepancy in an aid to navigation."

Failure to report such occurrences may result in a civil penalty against the owner, operator, or person in charge of the vessel. ATON that is inoperable, missing, or damaged creates risks of serious injuries, environmental impact, and waterway closures. For the safety of all waterway users, it is critical to give accurate and timely reports.

Reports of damaged ATONs can be made through any of the following means:

When in the Port Arthur VTS Monitoring Area:

- VHF Channel 16, 01A, or 65A or by phone, (409) 719-5070.

Any Location:

- VHF: Channel 16
- Phone: Sector Houston-Galveston Command Center: (281) 464-4855

E-Mail:

- MSU Lake Charles Waterways Management Division: msulcwwm@uscg.mil
- MSU Port Arthur Vessel Traffic Service Division: vtspa-sup@uscg.mil

ATON Discrepancy Report Form: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=atonOutageReport>

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 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