



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

*Marine Safety Unit*

*Port Arthur, Texas*

## **Marine Safety Information Bulletin 16-23**

### **Riverfest 2023 Scheduled Channel Closure Neches River, Port Neches, TX**

RIVERFEST, an annual event sponsored by the Port Neches Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled to be held on **Friday, May 5th through Sunday, May 7th, 2023**. Some RIVERFEST events will take place on the Neches River in the vicinity of Port Neches Park, including boat races and a fireworks display.

As a result, the Coast Guard will enforce Special Local Regulations adjacent to Port Neches Park in Port Neches, Texas, during the event. Specifically, **vessels MAY NOT enter or remain in** the portion of the Neches River, bound on the west by 30°00'08" N (near unused refinery dock) and on the east by 93°56'00" W (near FINA upper anchorage), during the boat races. Additionally, the Coast Guard will enforce a 500-yard safety zone around the launch barge during the scheduled fireworks display on Saturday, May 6th, 2023 (rain date is Sunday, May 7th).

The Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies will enforce these regulations during the following times:

|               |                                                                              |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 5, 2023:  | 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.                                                    |
| May 6, 2023 : | 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.<br>8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. (Fireworks Display)   |
| May 7, 2023:  | 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.<br>8:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. (Fireworks Rain Date) |

Breaks during race events have been scheduled to allow shallow draft traffic to pass. Vessels desiring to transit through this area may contact Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Port Arthur on channel 65A or 13 VHF-FM or the on-scene Coast Guard vessel on channel 13 or 16 VHF-FM.

**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 (24-hours) Vessel Traffic Service Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070 or email [vtspa-sup@uscg.mil](mailto:vtspa-sup@uscg.mil).**

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