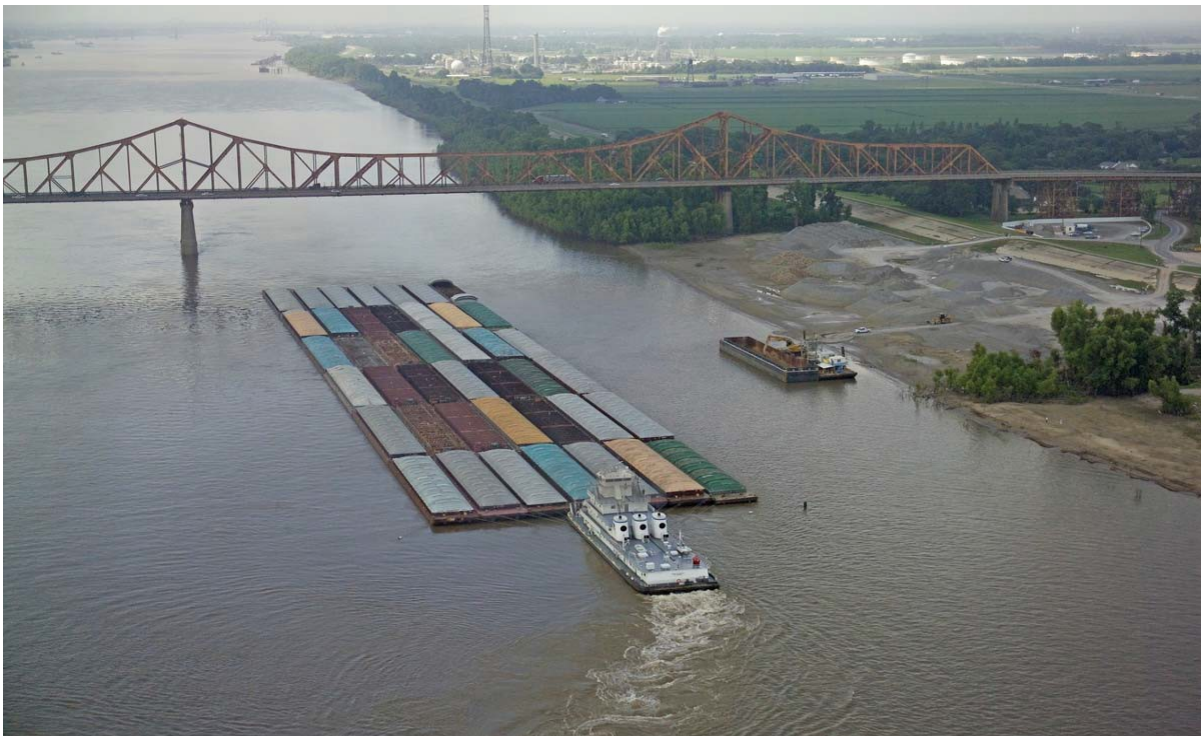


Waterways Action Plan
Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge Annex

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES WATERWAYS ACTION PLAN

**MSU Baton Rouge Annex
(2016 Version)**



Rev. 05/18/2017

1. Geographic Description

USCG Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge - Lower Mississippi River (MM 167-303)

(a) Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Baton Rouge’s Area Of Responsibility (AOR) is comprised of the following Parishes: Avoyelles, Evangeline, St Landry, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St Helena, West Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Iberville and Ascension and includes the Lower Mississippi River from MM 167 - 303. This section of the Waterways Action Plan applies to the Lower Mississippi River beginning in Baton Rouge (MM 167) and ending at the Old River Lock (MM 303).

(b) The Mississippi River Basin or Watershed drains 41% of continental United States. Thirty-one states and 2 Canadian provinces are included in the watershed. The total area drained by the watershed is between 1.2 and 1.8 million square miles. Historically during the spring months, when the snow and ice melts in the Northern states, the Mississippi River experiences a sharp increase in river levels, flow rates and floating debris, which degrade the navigation channels and increase the potential for river industry related accidents. During low water, restrictions on the navigable widths of the rivers and the maximum safe drafts of barges can impede commerce.

(c) The Port of Baton Rouge has recently been expanded and upgraded with extensive storage facilities. It ranks ninth in the nation in waterborne commerce and is the farthest inland deep-water port on the Mississippi River. Petroleum products, iron, steel, grain, rubber, paper, wood, coffee, coal, chemicals and edible oils are shipped through the port.

(d) There are six fleets that have been used “historically” in the past to fleet regulated and unregulated cargo. There are five repair facilities (located in Baton Rouge) that have floating dry docks. There are 18 towing companies with towing and fleeting capabilities.

CG Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge – Area of Responsibility	
Lower Mississippi River	MM 167 – MM 303

2. Parties and Roles

2. A. General

The successful management of any river crisis is dependent on the cooperation of the waterway system participants. This includes agencies of the federal, state, and local governments, industry groups, and the general public. This chapter identifies the key organizations in these areas, outlines their authority and responsibilities, and explains their roles during a river crisis. Industry groups for the MSU Baton Rouge AOR serve a vital role, serving as a liaison between industry and federal agencies and addressing waterways conditions encompassing the Lower Mississippi River.

This plan shall not replace other existing plans. The purpose of this plan is to be used in conjunction with existing plans, incorporating pertinent information to identify critical problem areas based on federal agency and industry experience and through statistical analysis. This plan will be reviewed annually to determine if revisions need to be made. If no annual revisions are made, the current existing version will remain in effect.

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2. A.1 Industry Groups & Representatives (LOMRC, GICA, MRMA, GSMA, GNOBFA, LMRWSAC & NOBRA)

Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMRC)- LOMRC is a committee of the Lower Mississippi River towing companies, associated with the River Industry Executive Task Force (RIETF), formed to address navigation problems during significant changes in river conditions such as extreme low water and high water events. The committee has evolved to address all issues concerning the Lower Mississippi River navigation and is the major liaison between the towing industry, the Coast Guard, and the Army Corps of Engineers for river conditions between New Orleans, LA and Cairo, IL. LOMRC is coordinated by a volunteer chairman from industry.

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA)- The mission of GICA is to ensure the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is maintained, operated and improved to provide the safest, most efficient, economical and environmentally-sound water transportation route in our nation, serving petrochemical facilities, refineries, farms, mines, ports, commercial fisheries, recreation and more.

Louisiana Maritime Association (LAMA) - LAMA provides state-of-the-art information and management tools to shipping agents and associate members. Now the industry leader, LAMA members represent over 75% of all Ocean Going vessels entering the Lower Mississippi River (per the New Orleans Board of Trade arrival statistics.) LAMA provides liaison/representation with all federal, state, and local regulatory officials and agencies. Additionally, they offer custom productivity tools including Automatic Information System (AIS), Vessel Tracking System (C-View), a pilotage calculator, and a Terminal Database.

Gulf States Maritime Association (GSMA) - GSMA provides its member agencies liaison services with federal agencies such as Customs, U. S. Coast Guard, U.S.D.A, Army Corps of Engineers and Immigration. Also, the Association is concerned with matters at the source of regulation - Congress and the State Legislature. The Association deals with such diverse matters as adequate deep-draft anchorage areas and channels in the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet(decommissioned), and the Calcasieu River.

Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association (GNOBFA) - GNOBFA is a non-profit association of companies engaged in the operation of barge fleets and towboats in the New Orleans -- Baton Rouge corridor. The purpose of the Association is to promote a closer professional relationship between members, to disseminate information pertaining to fleeting and the river industry, to support member companies when consistent with the interests of the organization as a whole, and to improve relations with communities, regulating government bodies, and other professional organizations.

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC) - LMRWSAC provides advice and makes recommendations to the Coast Guard on matters relating to the safe navigation of vessels to and from ports on the Lower Mississippi River.

New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA)- NOBRA works closely with the local Coast Guard MSU, providing information on casualties and vessel deficiencies.

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AREAS ADRESSED	COMPANY	MAIN POC	INDUSTRY GROUP	MAIN POC
Lower Mississippi River (LMR)	Ingram	LOMRC Chairman Frank Johnson	Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMRC)	Frank Johnson Co-Chairman LOMRC 270-441-1649 office 270-210-5912 cell frank.johnson@ingrambarge.com
LMR	Florida Marine	LOMRC Vice Chairman David Goin	Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMRC)	David Goin Co-Chairman LOMRC 985-237-0795 office 985-237-0795 cell david.goin@fmtdry.com
LMR/ Intracoastal	GICA	GICA Executive Director James Stark	Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA)	James Stark 901-490-3312 office jstark@gicaonline.com
LMR/ Intracoastal	Channel Shipyard Companies	LMRWSAC Chairman Cherrie Felder	The Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee(LMRWSAC)	Cherrie Felder Ph: 504.371.5964 office cfelder@csa.nocoxmail.com
LMR	LAMA	LAMA Ron Branch	Louisiana Maritime Association (LAMA)	Ron Branch (504)899-5535 office (504)919-0732 cell rwbranch@earthlink.net
LMR	GSMA	Sean Duffy, Sr.	Gulf States Maritime Association (GSMA)	Sean Duffy, Sr. (504)833-4190 office (504)338-3165 cell sduffy@gsma.us
LMR	Gulf South Marine	GNOBFA Karl Gonzales	Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association (GNOBFA)	Karl Gonzales (504)-737-6993 office Karl@gulfsouthmarine.com
LMR	NOBRA	NOBRA Capt Steve Hathorn	New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA)	Capt Steve Hathorn (504) 219-2600 office hathornsh@nobrapilots.com

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2. B. Federal Agencies

The United States Code (USC) provides regulatory authority for establishing and authorizing work or structures constructed within the navigable waterways and maintaining navigation throughout U.S. territorial waters. Included as part of a national waterway system are numerous rivers, lakes and streams that comprise the inland waterway system. Navigation on these “navigable waters of the United States” is regulated primarily by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provides technical advice to the USCG to enable them to properly evaluate and make decisions on navigation safety matters. The USACE is also responsible for authorizing waterway projects, evaluating and maintaining navigable channels, and directing emergency flood control operations (such as activation of spillways).

2. B.1 United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Title 14, USC, defines USCG roles and responsibilities in establishing and maintaining the safety of ports and waterways. 33 CFR Part 165.20 gives COTP’s and USCG District Commanders the authority to impose safety zones, security zones, and other restrictions to ensure the safe flow of navigation. Activities of the COTP’s are overseen by the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, in New Orleans, LA. Activities of the Unit Commanding Officers are overseen by the Sector Commander, Sector New Orleans, in New Orleans, LA.

CG Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge – Area of Responsibility	
Lower Mississippi River	MM 167 – MM 303.0

2. B.1.a. Safety Advisory

Navigation Safety Advisories are the simplest form of intervention and rely on the voluntary compliance of industry to limit risk and prevent vessel casualties. USCG advisories are usually issued after consultation with the USACE and industry-user groups. They can be originated by the USCG or self imposed by industry, and disseminated as a Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM), USACE bulletin board, River Industry Bulletin Board (RIBB), over the industry facsimile, or any combination of these methods. The purpose is to advise the marine industry of hazardous conditions and provide recommendations for safe navigation. Advisories can also be used to notify the marine industry of the Captain of the Port’s (COTP) intention to take action with respect to developing hazardous navigation conditions. Advisories are important tools that provide marine interests time to adjust their operations to avoid future problems.

B.1.b. Safety Zone

During extreme high or low water conditions, commercial vessel navigation can become increasingly hazardous. Extreme river conditions may require the establishment of a safety zone by the COTP, imposing vessel-operating restrictions. Consultation and deliberation with the USACE and industry-user groups usually precede implementation of a safety zone by the USCG. A safety zone entails the control of a portion of the waterway, enabling the USCG to control access and/or prescribe operating restrictions on vessels seeking to navigate in the area. Safety zones can be applied to limited or large geographical areas and may involve simple or complex restrictions including, but not limited to:

- Towing vessel horsepower requirements (per barge ratio) & assist towing vessel requirements

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- Specific tow configuration, tow size limits, length/breadth limits & draft limits
- Safe speed zones, no-passing zones, no-meeting zones or traffic separation schemes
- Tank barge prohibitions or the exclusion of all vessels from the safety zone
- Reporting requirements

The establishment of a safety zone may include active control of vessel traffic through an area or it may be conducted passively, relying on voluntary compliance to limit risk. Safety zones using passive control have been imposed on other waterways during periods of high or abnormally low water and when local construction or pollution response cleanup operations are impacted by passing traffic.

2. B.1.c. Security Zone

In some cases a security zone may be implemented to protect persons, property and the environment from actual or potential threats related to terrorism or destruction. These extreme cases may require the establishment of a security zone by the COTP to impose restrictions on a vessel or a specific waterway. Consultation and deliberation with the USACE, and industry-user groups usually precede implementation of a security zone by the USCG. A waterborne security zone entails the control of a portion of the waterway, enabling the USCG to control access and/or prescribe restrictions on vessels and/or persons entering through the area. Security zones can be applied to limited or large geographical areas and may involve simple or complex restrictions.

2. B.1.d. Captain of the Port (COTP) Order

Captain of the Port Orders are specific directions provided to an individual, facility or vessel and are detailed and exact in scope. Issued under the authority of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, compliance with COTP Orders is required, and failure may result in civil or criminal penalty action. In general, COTP Orders will only be used when a terminal or vessel appears to be operating in an unsafe manner or to reduce a potential hazard or mitigate damage to the environment or property.

2.B.1.e. Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Measure

In accordance with 33 CFR 161.11, “a VTS may issue measures or directions to enhance navigation and vessel safety and to protect the marine environment, such as, but not limited to:

- (1) Designating temporary reporting points and procedures;
- (2) Imposing vessel operating requirements; or
- (3) Establishing vessel traffic routing schemes.

During conditions of vessel congestion, restricted visibility, adverse weather, or other hazardous circumstances, a VTS may control, supervise, or otherwise manage traffic, by specifying times of entry, movement, or departure to, from or within a VTS area.”

2. B.2 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Title 33 U.S.C., defines the USACE roles and responsibilities regarding development of, or change to, waterfront facilities, weirs, dams or dikes. Specifically, the USACE is authorized to review and approve all changes to hydrodynamic structures for the purposes of maintaining a navigable channel. In addition, the USACE is charged with conducting operations to maintain the physical nature of a navigable channel on particular waterways. Generally, the USACE has the responsibility to maintain a 9 foot congressionally authorized project depth within the

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navigable channel on the Ohio River System. The USACE is also responsible for directing emergency flood control operations and collecting information on flood stages and damage.

USACE POSITION	DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES	EQUALS	USCG POSITION	DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES
			Chief, Prevention Department, MSU Baton Rouge	Manages daily waterway management and casualty operations & supervises operational response issues
REPORTS TO:				
Lockmaster for Port Allen, Bayou Sorrell Lock	Supervise and maintain locks		Commanding Officer MSU Baton Rouge	Senior USCG Officer in Baton Rouge AOR
REPORTS TO:				
District Engineer, New Orleans	Supervise Corps activities in New Orleans District		Sector New Orleans Commander	Senior USCG officer in area

3. Communications

3. B. Mississippi River Communications Plan

3. B.2. Lower Mississippi River

Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMRC) - Is a committee of the Lower Mississippi River towing companies, formed to address navigation problems during significant changes in river conditions such as extreme low water and high water events. The committee has evolved to address all issues concerning the Lower Mississippi River navigation and is the major liaison between the towing industry, the Coast Guard, and the Army Corps of Engineers for river conditions between from MM 954 to the mouth. LOMRC is coordinated by a volunteer chairman from industry. LOMRC will provide a member to stand watch on the Towing Assist Vessel (TAV) at Wilkinson Point or Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River in New Orleans to monitor and advise traffic transiting Wilkinson Point when required due to High Water conditions above 35 feet on the Baton Rouge gauge.

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA) - Is a committee of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway consortium of companies, formed to address navigation problems during significant changes in waterway conditions such as extreme low water and high water events. The committee has evolved to address all issues concerning the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway navigation and is the major liaison between the marine industry, the Coast Guard, and the Army Corps of Engineers for canal conditions from the Port Allen Lock in Baton Rouge, LA to the mouth in Morgan City, LA. GICA is coordinated by a volunteer chairman from industry. GICA will provide one watch stander to Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River in New Orleans to monitor and advise traffic transiting the Port Allen Lock when required, due to High Water conditions above 35- feet on the Baton Rouge gauge.

3.B.2.a. Lower Mississippi River Towing Industry Communications Plan (LOMRC)

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
AEP MEMCO	Jeff Keifer VP of Operations	636-530-2148 office	JAKeifer@aepriverops.com	All Situations
	Kenny Underhill: Port Captain	270-564-6782 office	KLUnderhill@aepriverops.com	
	Mike Morris Port Captain	270-441-2937 office 314-602-1504 cell	mlmorris@aepriverops.com	
ADM/ARTCO	Bruce Hussell: Port Captain	314-481-8828 office 314-803-4643 cell	bruce.hussell@admworld.com	All Situations
	Ben Ainsworth: Port Captain	314-481-8828 office 314-724-6083 cell	benny.ainsworth@adm.com	
	Bernie Heroff: Port Captain	314-481-8828 office 314-803-4644 cell	bernard.heroff@adm.com	
Ingram Barge Co.	Frank Johnson: LOMRC Chairman General Manager Vessel Operations	270-441-1649 office 270-210-5912 cell	frank.johnson@ingrambarge.com	All Situations
	Tom More Sr. Manager Vessel Operations	270-441-1612 office 618-638-3150 cell	tom.more@ingrambarge.com	
	Bob Taylor Sr. Manager Vessel Operations	270-441-1652 office 270-217-7714 cell	bob.taylor@ingrambarge.com	
	John Operle: Vice President Vessel Operations	270-441-1606 office 270-210-6183 cell	john.operle@ingrambarge.com	
Marquette Transportation	Quent Harris: Sr. Port Captain	270-744-3071 office 270-519-9015 cell	qharris@marquettettrans.com	All Situations
	Steve Bryan: VP of Vessel Operations	270-744-4314 office 314-422-9260 cell	sbryan@marquettettrans.com	
Kirby Inland Marine	Lester Parker: VP River Vessel Operations	225-201-3113 office 225-931-4143 cell	lester.parker@kirbycorp.com	All Situations
	Jay McDaniel: Navigation Port Captain - River Operations	Cell-225-978-2984 Desk-225-201-3006	jay.mcdaniel@kirbycorp.com	
Luhr Brothers, Inc.	Steven Glenn: Port Operations	573-335-7033 office 573-979-0475 cell Fax:573-335-7158	sglenn@luhr.com	All Situations

3.B.2.a. Lower Mississippi River Towing Industry Communications Plan (LOMRC) Cont.

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
Canal Barge Line	Paul Barnes:	504-585-4623 office	pbarnes@canalbarge.com	All Situations
	Port Captain	504-908-0828 cell		
Magnolia Marine Transport Company`	Roger Harris:	800-629-5921 office	Roger.harris@ergon.com	All Situations
	VP of Operations	601-831-2079 cell		
	Lester Cruse:	800-696-5921 office	lester.cruse@ergon.com	
	Port Captain	601- 831-1406 cell		
Ergon Marine	Mike Carpenter:	800-696-5921 office		All Situations
	Port Captain	601-618-6071 cell		
	Danny Koestler:	601-636-6552 office	danny.koestler@ergon.com	
	VP EMIS	601-831-4711 cell		
		Fax: 601-636-6173		
	Doug Hasty:	601 636 6552 office	doug.hasty@ergon.com	
	Fleeting Supervisor	601 218 0774 cell		
Johnny Gerache:	Marine Operation Manager	601-631-3404 office 601-831-4709 cell	johnny.gerache@ergon.com	
	Butch Cummings:	901-774-7463 office	butch.cummings@ergon.com	
	Marine Operation Manager	901-849-5746 cell		
Western KY Navigation, Inncc.				All Situations
	Dave Dewey: President	270-832-1866 office	Dave.D@wkynav.com	
LaFarge				All Situations
	Jeff Hammond Operation Manager	(225) 268-9302 office	Jeffery.Hammond@lafrage.com	
Florida Marine Transporters				All Situations
	Jerry Wiltz:	(985)629-2170 office	jerryw@flmarine.com	
	Senior Port Captain	(985)264-6679 cell		
	David Goin: LOMRC Vice Chairman	985-237-0795 office	david.goin@fmtdry.com	
	Port Captain	985-237-0795 cell		
	Terry Wiltz:	985-502-1641 office	terryw@flmarine.com	
Port Captain	Fax 985-629-2110			
Troy Hotard	Port Captain	(985)629-2170 office (337)344-2959 cell	thotard@flmarine.com	
Jantran				All Situations
	John Janoush: Vice President	662-759-6841 office 662-846-7301 cell	john@jantran.com	

3.B.2.a. Lower Mississippi River Towing Industry Communications Plan (LOMRC) Cont.

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
Capital Fleet Acadian Marine				All Situations
	Captain Thomas Grantham	225-343-2226 office 225-383-5859 Fax	thomas.grantham@ingrambarge.com	
SCF/Waxler Marine				All Situations
	Mark Hazzard:	662-378-8694 office	mwhazzard@ckor.com	
	Marine Superintendent	662-394-1590 cell		

Additional Industry Contacts

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
McKinney Towing`				All Situations
	Aaron McKinney	225-387-0461 office 225-268-5648 cell	aaron@mckinneyweb.com	
	Andy McKinney	225-387-0461 office 225-445-5230 cell	andy@mckinneyweb.com	
Bear Industries				All Situations
	Darren Moore	225-383-0843 office 225-405-8142 cell	bear@bear-ind.com	
	Coy Badeaux (Operations)	225-405-8141 cell		
Gulf States Maritime Association (GSMA)`				All Situations
	Sean Duffy, Sr.	504-833-4190 office 504-338-3165 cell	sduffy@gsma.us	
Western Rivers Boat Management				All Situations
	Ronnie Griffin	270-444-4772 office	rgriffin@westernriversboat.com	
	Port Captain	270-519-0285 cell		

3. B.2.b. Lower Mississippi River Government Agency Communications Plan

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
U.S. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Sector Command				All Situations
	CAPT Wayne Arguin	504-365-2215	Wayne.R.Arguin@uscg.mil	
	CAPT Kristi Luttrell (Deputy)	504-365-2214	Kristi.M.Luttrell@uscg.mil	
U.S. Coast Guard MSU Baton Rouge				All Situations
	Commanding Officer:	225-298-5400 x238	Matthew.J.Meskun@uscg.mil	
	LCDR Matt Meskun	225-281-4678		
	Executive Officer:	225-298-5400 x231	Shehu.Bello@uscg.mil	
	LT Shehu Bello	225-252-6578		
	Chief, Prevention:	225-298-5400 X230	Raymond.W.Wagner@uscg.mil	
	LT Ray Wagner	225-281-2875		

3. B.2.b. Lower Mississippi River Government Agency Communications Plan Cont.

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Michelle Kornick:	504-862-1842 office	michelle.s.kornick@usace.mil	Lower Miss. River Low / High Water
	Operations Manager	504-756-7402 cell		
	Heather Jennings	504-862-1253 office	heather.l.jennings@usace.army.mil	
		504- 812-9757 cell		
	Operations Manager	504-756-7402 cell		
	Heather Jennings	504-862-1253 office	heather.l.jennings@usace.army.mil	
	504- 812-9757 cell			

3. B.2.c Lower Mississippi River Miscellaneous Contacts

AGENCY	DESIGNATED CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	WHEN CONTACTED
Lower Mississippi River Committee (LOMRC)	Frank Johnson	270-441-1649 office	frank.johnson@ingrambarge.com	All Situations
		270-210-5912 cell		
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association (GICA)	James Stark	901-490-3312 office	jstark@gicaonline.com	All Situations
New Orleans Baton Rouge Pilots Association (NOBRA)	Steve Hathorn	504-219-2600 office	hathornsh@nobrapilots.com	All Situations
		504-915-0195 cell		
		Fax: 504-456-6456		
Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association	Karl Gonzales	504-737-6993 office	Karl@gulfsouthmarine.com	All Situations

3.B.2.d. Lower Mississippi River Internet Information Communications Plan

Internet Site Purpose	Web Address
U.S Coast Guard- MSU Baton Rouge	http://www.uscg.mil/d8/msuBatonRouge/
River Industry Bulletin Board (R.I.B.B.)	http://www.ribb.com/index.php
Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association (GNOBFA)	http://www.gn12141987obfa.com/
National Response Center (NRC) – Report Pollution / Terrorist Activity	http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html
Ohio River Lock & Dam Vessel Queues	http://www.ribb.com/riverstatus/river_locks.php
River Gauges	www.rivergages.com
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center	http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=lmrfc-mississippiandohioriverforecast
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – River Gauges	http://www.lrd-wc.usace.army.mil/text/navrpti.txt
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Real Time River Gauges	http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/edhd/Wcontrol/miss.htm
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers –Lock information	http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/od/lockupdates/statusindex.asp
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – River Navigation Charts	http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/
The River School – River Training & Orientation	http://www.riverschool.com/
U.S. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	http://www.uscg.mil/d8/sectNOLA/
U.S. Coast Guard – Sector Lower Mississippi River – Memphis, TN	http://www.uscg.mil/d8/sectlmr/
Gulf States Maritime Association (GSMA)-	http://www.gsma.us/
Ohio River Lock & Dam Vessel Queues	http://www.ribb.com/riverstatus/river_locks.php
Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River User’s Manual	https://homeport.uscg.mil/mycg/portal/ep/browse.do?channelId=-19444&channelPage=%2Fep%2Fchannel%2Fdefault.jsp&pageTypeId=13489&BV_SessionID=@ @ @ @1409974491.1490796772@ @ @ @&BV_EngineID=ccccadgmdjfkllkcfngcfkmdfhdfgo.0

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4. Action Plan

During a waterways crisis a wide range of controls and actions are initiated from various involved parties including industry and federal government agencies. In general, industry will take action to reduce potential marine casualties during low & high water situations. For example, during low water conditions (10 feet and below on Baton Rouge gauge), industry will reduce loads on vessels and/or barges, which reduces their draft, enabling them to navigate through trouble areas. During high water conditions (25-feet and above Baton Rouge gauge), industry may reduce tow sizes to allow more control over the tow and to more effectively utilize towboat horsepower. The Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers are also required to take specific and timely actions to aid in preventing marine casualties while facilitating commerce. Some of these actions include the USCG's issuance of Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNM) regarding potential hazardous areas and the establishment of Safety Zones. Dredging operations by the USACE is a typical mission to reduce the risk in hazardous locations on the river.

On the following pages, various safety controls are outlined per specific high and low water trigger points. Some of these controls are industry initiated, while others are initiated at the federal level. The phases were based on the existing River Crisis Action Plan and modification made during the 2005 high water season. As before circumstances will dictate which, if not all, controls are to be employed.

A. Watch: This phase incorporates both the Port Allen Locks and the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) between MM 219 and MM 240. It is initiated for both when the Baton Rouge gage measures 25-feet and rising.

B. Action: This phase is initiated when the Baton Rouge gage measures 30-feet for the Port Allen Lock and when the gage measures 35-feet for the LMR between MM 219 and MM 240.

C. Recovery: This phase is initiated as soon as the LMR begins to fall and all predictions indicate a steady fall. During this phase the COTP, with industry participation, will determine when and what restrictions to lift as conditions begin to improve.

D. Regulated Navigation Area and Limited Access areas (RNA): is a water area within a defined boundary for which regulations for vessels navigating within the area have been established by the District Commander. The regulation may include:

1. Specifying times of vessel entry, movement, or departure to, from, with-in, or through ports, harbors, or other waters.
2. Establishing vessel size, speed, draft limitations, and operating conditions.
3. Restricting vessel operation, in a hazardous area or under hazardous conditions, to vessels which have particular operation characteristics or capabilities which are considered necessary for safe operation under the circumstances.

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River and Water Level Gages used and their Locations:

Baton Rouge Gage- (Mississippi River at Baton Rouge)

RiverGages.com (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Site:

<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=01160&fid=BTRL1&dt=S>

This gage is located on the fore bay wall of Port Allen Lock at river **Mile Marker 228.4**, LMR

National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (NOAA)

(Same Gage, Different Site)

Site: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=lix&gage=btrl1>

Bayou Sorrel Gage- Is located at the Bayou Sorrel Lock.

Courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Site:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/od/lockupdates/lockstatus.asp?lockid=2>

Carrollton Gage - (Mississippi River at New Orleans)

RiverGages.com (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Site:

<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=01300&fid=NORL1&dt=S>

This gage is located at the Corps of Engineer's dock at river **Mile Marker 102.8**.

National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (NOAA)

Site: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=lix&gage=norl1&view=1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1&toggles=10,7,8,2,9,15,6>

Waterways Action Plan
Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge Annex

Barge Fleeting Operations (Baton Rouge Gauge)

33 CFR 165.803 describes barge mooring rules for the Lower Mississippi River between miles 88 and 240 (Above Head of Passes) to minimize fleeting hazards. Subsection (m) has additional rules for High Water periods.

Baton Rouge Gauge	Required Actions
<p>30 feet or more or, 28 feet and rising when designated by the Coast Guard District Commander</p> <p><i>(Note: This RNA is based on Carrollton Gage readings of 12ft or more than 10 ft and rising. For convenience we have listed the equivalent on the Baton Rouge gauge)</i></p>	<p>Fleet PIC must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attend fleet with tug(s)2. Radar surveillance of fleet in low visibility3. Do not assemble or disassemble tows during low visibility4. Ensure fleets w/8 or more barges are equipped w/1 radar equipped towboat for each 100 barges or less5. Ensure 2 or more towboats are in attendance when barges are withdrawn, moved or added & 8 or more barges in fleet

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Canal Tows Port Allen Locks Mississippi River Mile 219 – 229 AHP	BR Gauge 25'	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Advisory issued recommending all tows >600' (excluding towboat) employ an assist vessel 1200 hp when entering and exiting locks. * Evaluate the need for a VTS Measure. * Advisory issued: All tows exiting the Port Allen lock and turning north are recommended to use an assist vessel, all other tows should head South (down river) and top around at or below MM 221 prior to heading north. * Tows should use their most experienced crews. * Tows shall catch a headline when entering the locks. * Vessels will be put on queue for lock turn when their tow is built and may remain in the area which their tow was built until it is time for lock turn.
	BR Gauge 300"	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Evaluate the need for a VTS Measure.
	BR Gauge 330"	Rising		High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss impending attainment of 35'. * When a VTS Measure is in effect, all vessels entering the RNA from Wilkinson Point, Port Allen Lock, or Mile 221 LMR will contact and receive Direction from VTS New Orleans prior to entering the RNA. * Implement a VTS measure: 1. Require tows >600' (excluding towboat) to employ an assist vessel (1200 HP min) entering or exiting the locks. 2. All North Bound tows exiting the lock shall head South (down river) and top around at or below MM 221 prior to heading North. Unless using an assist vessel, of at least 1200 HP. * Issue a Broadcast Notice to Mariners as needed. and Marine Safety Bulletin. * Issue VTS Measure to Canal Tow operators recommending tonnage restriction of 1 horse power per 5 ton or 280 HP per regulation barge restriction. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. * Discuss need for LOMRC and GICA traffic representatives.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Canal Tows Port Allen Locks Mississippi River Mile 219 – 229 AHP	BR Gauge 35'0"	Rising projected to 40'0"		High Water/Flood Stage	Action	<p>* Require 1 horsepower per 5 tons or 280 HP per regulation loaded barge restriction on canal tows entering/exiting the Locks. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement.</p> <p>1. Unless using an assist vessel, All North Bound tows exiting the lock shall head South (down river) and top around at or below MM 221 prior to heading North.</p> <p>2. Any Tow having a destination in the Baton Rouge Harbor Below the Hwy 190 Bridge, MAY Turn North Bound exiting out of Port Allen Lock, if making use of an assist Vessel of at least 1200 HP and meet minimum HP Requirements, and MUST receive approval from VTS</p> <p>* All tows >600' (excluding towboat) exiting the lock must use an assist vessel with a min of 1200 HP and when topping around between MM 226-221.</p> <p>* All tows >600 feet in length entering and exiting the locks (excluding towboat) must use an assist vessel with a minimum of 1200 HP.</p> <p>* All tows >600' (excluding towboat) planning to top around without the use of an assist vessel must proceed southbound to the safest point below MM 221.</p> <p>* If unable to meet the HP to Ton requirement and permission obtained to enter RNA from VTC LMR, then Assist Vessel is mandatory for entering or exiting</p> <p>* GICA may provide one watch stander to VTS LMR in New Orleans to monitor and advise and monitor traffic transiting the Port Allen Lock when required due to the High Water conditions above 35 feet on the Baton Rouge gauge.</p> <p>Note: VTS LMR has authority to grant individual waivers for alternate assist vessels within 200 HP of requirement based on conditions.</p>

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Canal Tows Port Allen Locks Mississippi River Mile 219 – 229 AHP	BR Gauge 40'0"	Rising		Extreme High Water/Max Locking Ability	Action	* Conference call to discuss additional HP, Length, and Anchorage restrictions, operations of the spillways, and possible closure of the Port Allen locks. * Require 5 HP per ton or 300 HP per regulation barge restriction on canal tows entering/exiting the Locks. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. * All tows >600 feet in length entering and exiting the locks (excluding towboat) must use an assist vessel with minimum of 1200 HP. * The use of an assist vessel is mandatory for all tows entering or exiting Locks. The assist vessel shall remain with the tow to assist with topping around between MM 226-221. * All tows planning to top around without the use of an assist vessel must proceed southbound to the safest point below MM 221.
	BR Gauge 40'0"	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls implemented.
	BR Gauge 35'0"	Falling		High Water /Flood Stage	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
	BR Gauge 28'0"	Falling		Normal Operations	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
Line Tows Wilkinson Point Mississippi River Mile 232 – 237 AHP	BR Gauge 23'0"	Rising				* Ensure Bear Industries (MM 234 RDB) removed their dredge at 23 Feet and rising.
	BR Gauge 28'0"	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Buoys that will prevent tows from taking a proper line around points and bends should be adjusted to not hinder flanking operations. * Advisory issued for tows to use most experienced crews.
	BR Gauge 30'0"	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Advisory issued to all line tow operators and towing companies recommending a ratio of 240 horsepower per barge for southbound transit of this area. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. * Maximum tow size of 36 barges. * Allow 8000 HP tug to push 35 barge tow makeup. (400 hp less than requirement). *Tows should use their most experienced crews

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Line Tows Wilkinson Point Mississippi River Mile 232 – 237 AHP (Continued)	BR Gauge 33'0"	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss impending attainment of 35'. VTS to begin scheduling for manning of the VTS Wilkinson Point watch. * Discuss river stage forecasts, current velocities/flow rate, and predictions of crest. * Issue Broadcast Notice to Mariners and Marine Safety Information Bulletins, as needed. * Discuss when to establish a VTS Measure and assess the need for the LOMRC and GICA representatives at VTS. * Asses the need for mandating the Towing Assist Vessel (TAV).
	BR Gauge 35'0"	Rising projected to 38'0"		High Water/Flood Stage	Action	* Conference call to discuss 35' attainment and 38' impending attainment. Discussions should occur to determine whether to utilize the TAV, implement daylight only restrictions, and manage the vessel queue at this stage giving due consideration to projected crest, projected timeline the River stages will be above 35', daily rate of rising river level, and river velocity. VTS to implement the VTS Wilkinson Point watch. * If a VTS Measure is established for the area, the following will be implemented based on input from LOMRC, GICA and the CG: 1. Max tow size is limited to 30 barges with 280 HP per barge for Southbound transits within the VTS regulated area. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. Vessels unable to meet the HP requirements must make adjustments to meet the requirements prior to transiting Wilkinson Point. 2. Allow 8000 HP towing vessel to push 30 barge tow makeup. (400 hp less than requirement).
	BR Gauge 38'0"	Rising projected to 40'0"		High Water/Moderate Flood Stage	Action	1. Conference call to discuss additional HP, length, and size restrictions. Previous 35' restrictions still apply. 2. All South Bound traffic will utilize the TAV (min 5000 HP). The TAV must meet the southbound vessel no lower than 2000 feet above Wilkinson Point. The TAV will position itself alongside the most appropriate agreed upon location on the barge tow after consultation with the vessel's captain. 3. The TAV will then confirm information of current reaction above, around and below Wilkinson Point. 4. The assist vessel will discuss what the last vessel that transited Wilkinson Point found and continually brief southbound vessels of present position in correlation with the last vessel that transited. 5. The assist vessel will make corrections to the southbound vessel's positioning if necessary. 6. No more than two southbound vessels will be allowed below Thomas Point at any time regardless of tow size.

					<p>7. There will be a LOMRC representative onboard the assist vessel with pilots on scene to ensure safe navigation. The TAV captain/pilot may satisfy this requirement provided they are familiar with this Waterway's Action Plan and the current MSIB.</p> <p>8. VTS LMR will carry out their mission IAW the Waterways Action Plan which will include managing the vessel queue at Wilkinson Point, resources permitting. VTS will establish "check in/reporting procedures" for downbound tows at MM255 (Port Hudson Light) and MM240 (Thomas Point), as well as upbound vessels at MM219 (Sardine Crossing) and MM226 (Bottom of Baton Rouge Anchorage). All tows operating between MM 255 to MM219 will be required to provide a sail plan to the VTS with the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name of Vessel Current location Vessel Type and Horsepower Number of loaded barges & number of empty barges Number of red flag barges in the tow. <p>9. All South Bound traffic will transit Wilkinson point during daylight hours only.</p> <p>10. Northbound vessels unable to make 3 MPH under the Highway 190 Bridge and around Wilkinson Point must use a Private Assist Vessel (PAV).</p> <p>11. Establish a VTS Measure implementing a "no meeting or overtaking zone" for MM 232 AHOP to MM 237 AHOP (Note: VTS LMR may allow a deviation from this restriction).</p> <p>12. GICA traffic representatives may be established.</p> <p>13. Tank barges shall be placed in most protected position in tow makeup.</p> <p>14. Advisory that all tows shall be squared off. No spiked barges shall extend greater than 50;' beyond the head of the tow. Advisory issued for tows to use their most experienced crews.</p> <p>15. Fleet boats transiting Wilkinson Pt. pushing one loaded standard barge or two empty standard barges are exempt from the TAV queue, but are still required to check-in with VTS LMR and the TAV prior to getting underway.</p>
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CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Line Tows Wilkinson Point Mississippi River Mile 232 – 237 AHP (Continued)	BR Gauge 400"	Rising		Extreme High Water/Major Flood Stage	Action	<p>* Conference call to discuss additional HP, Length, and size restrictions. Previous 38' restrictions still apply, as appropriate.</p> <p>* Assess the need for max tow size limited to 25 barges with 300 HP per barge for Southbound transits within the existing VTS regulate area. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. Vessels unable to meet the HP requirements must make adjustments to meet the requirements prior to transiting Wilkinson Point.</p>
	BR Gauge 430"	Rising		Extreme High Water/Major Flood Stage	Action	<p>* Conference call to discuss 43' attainment and 45' impending attainment and operations of the spillways. Consider waterway shutdown based on projected crest, projected timeline the River stages will be above 43', daily rate of rising river level, and river velocity.</p> <p>* Establish a VTS Measure for the area, with one or all of the following to be implemented based on input from LOMRC, GICA and CG:</p> <p>* Max tow size is limited to 25 barges with 320 HP per barge for southbound transits within the existing RNA. Empty barges may be calculated at ½ the horsepower requirements to that of a loaded barge when computing the overall horsepower requirement. Vessels unable to meet the HP requirements must make adjustments to meet the requirements prior to transiting Wilkinson Point.</p> <p>* All South Bound traffic will utilize both the TAV (min 5000 HP) and the Secondary Towing Assist Vessel (STAV) (min 2000 HP).</p> <p>* The TAV must meet the southbound vessel no lower than 2,000 feet above Wilkinson Point (TT237 Barge Cleaning Plant).</p> <p>* All South Bound traffic will utilize the TAV (min 5000 HP). The TAV must meet the southbound vessel no lower than 2000 feet above Wilkinson Point. The TAV will position itself alongside the most appropriate agreed upon location on the barge tow after consultation with the vessel's captain.</p>

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Line Tows Wilkinson Point Mississippi River Mile 232 – 237 AHP (Continued)	BR Gauge 43'0"	Rising		Extreme High Water/Major Flood Stage	Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The TAV will then confirm information of current reaction above, around and below Wilkinson Point. * The TAV will discuss what the last vessel that transited Wilkinson Point found and continually brief southbound vessels of present position in correlation with the last vessel that transited. * The TAV will make corrections to the southbound vessel's positioning if necessary. * There will be a STAV stationed 500' above the Hwy 190 Bridge. It should shadow the barge through the bridge until it is clear of the Hwy 190 Bridge. * The STAV will communicate with the southbound vessel and the TAV above Wilkinson Point through the Hwy 190 Bridge and convey present attitude of southbound vessel. * The STAV standby zone will overlap with the TAV zone during the most critical times above the bridge. * No more than two southbound vessels will be allowed below Thomas Point at any time regardless of tow size. * There will be a LOMRC representative onboard the assist vessel with pilots on scene to ensure safe navigation. The TAV captain/pilot will satisfy this requirement provided they are familiar with this Waterway's Action Plan and the current MSIB. * VTS LMR will still carry out their mission IAW Waterways Action Plan. * All South Bound traffic will transit Wilkinson point during daylight hours only. * Northbound vessels unable to make 3 MPH under the Highway 190 Bridge and around Wilkinson Point must use a PAV. * Establish a "no meeting or passing zone" for MM 232 AHOP to MM 237 AHOP. (Note: VTS LMR may allow a deviation from this restriction). * GICA traffic representatives maybe established. 1. Tank barges shall be placed in most protected position in tow makeup. 2. Advisory issued for tows to use: experienced crews and Squared off tows; 3. No spiked barges that extend 50' beyond the head of the tow.
	BR Gauge 43'0"	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls in place.
	BR Gauge 40'0"	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
	BR Gauge 35'0"	Falling		High Water/Flood Stage	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
	BR Gauge 30'0"	Falling		Normal Operations	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Tows Topping Around Baton Rouge Harbor Between the I-10 and Hwy 190 Bridges and harbor fleet tows.	BR Gauge 35'0"	Rising projected to 40'0"		High Water/Flood Stage	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Assess the need for tows >600' in length to use 1000 hp assist vessel when topping around. * Advisory issued for tows >300' to 600' in length to use 1000 hp assist vessel when topping around. * Advisory issued for tows <300' in length to use 800 hp assist vessel when topping around.
						* Harbor Fleet Tows of one load or two empties are exempt from daylight only restrictions, but must coordinate transits with the VTS.
						Note: Tows desiring to top around with less than required HP for assist vessel must contact VTS LMR for approval. VTS LMR may approve based on conditions.
	BR Gauge 40'0"	Rising		Extreme High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Discuss additional restrictions. * Tows >600' in length are required to use 1800 hp assist vessel when topping around. * Tows >300' to <600' in length are required to use 1000 hp assist vessel when topping around. * Tows <300' in length are required to use 800 hp assist vessel when topping around. Note: VTS LMR has authority to grant exceptions to these requirements based on conditions.
BR Gauge 40'0"	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls implementation.	
BR Gauge 35'0"	Falling		Normal Operations	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.	
Deep Draft Ships Baton Rouge Harbor Mississippi River Mile 225- 234 AHP	BR Gauge 35'0"	Rising projected to 40'0"		High Water/Flood Stage	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest * Ocean Going vessels must use tug escorts (w/adequate hp) alongside while transiting above the I-10 Bridge to the dock, as well as departing the dock and transiting southbound past the I-10 Bridge. * Pilot Association shall notify VTS LMR prior to any Ocean Going vessels transiting the RNA. * Only one Ocean Going vessel at a time will be allowed to be underway between the I-10 Bridge and the US-190 Bridge. * Ocean Going vessels not to anchor in the upper ½ mile of Baton Rouge General Anchorage. Pilot to notify VTS LMR if necessary to anchor any vessel in the remainder of the anchorage. * Consider additional anchorage restrictions.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Deep Draft Ships Baton Rouge Harbor Mississippi River Mile 225- 234 AHP	BR Gauge 350" (Continued)	Rising projected to 40'0"		High Water/Flood Stage	Action	* Ocean Going vessels must contact the VTS LMR Baton Rouge Watch on VHF FM Ch. 12 with ETA to Richard Powell range light (MM 218.4) and check in again once at MM 219. * Ocean Going vessels departing this area must contact the VTS LMR prior to getting U/W.
	BR Gauge 400"	Rising projected to 43'0"		Extreme High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest.
	BR Gauge 400"	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls implementation.
	BR Gauge 350"	Falling		High Water /Flood Stage	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
	BR Gauge 280"	Falling		Normal Operations	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
All Vessels 81- Mile Point Mississippi River Mile 170-182 AHP	BR Gauge 350"	Rising		High Water/Flood Stage	Watch	* Conference with Ocean Going and Towing stakeholders to call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Discuss the need for a VTS measure based on conditions to include one-way traffic. * Issue advisory that all vessels should stay 300-400 feet off the LDB within ½ mile of 81-mile point to avoid dangerous eddies.
	BR Gauge 400"	Rising		Extreme High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. *Establish a VTS measure from mile 170-182. * Ocean Going vessels shall navigate through MM 170-182 during daylight hours only. * Towing vessels must be able to maintain a minimum of 3 mph through the VTS regulated area. * No holding up within ¾ of a mile of 81 Mile Point on the LDB. * Issue advisory that all vessels should stay 300-400 feet off the LDB within ½ mile of 81-mile point to avoid dangerous eddies. * Vessels transiting the area should avoid passing or overtaking situations at or near; Philadelphia Point, 81 mile Point, Bringier Point, and Point Houmas.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER READING CANAL/LANDSIDE	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
Port Allen- Morgan City Alternate Route Bayou Sorrel Lock & Bayou Pigeon Mile 37.6 to MM 65	BS Gauge 5.5'	Rising		High Water	Watch	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Issue a Marine Information Broadcast to advise mariners to transit area at slow speed with no discernible wake.
	BS Gauge 6.0'	Rising		High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Issue a Safety Advisory from Mile 37.6 (Bayou Sorrel Locks) to Mile 45 and the Lower Grand River (Bayou Pigeon) from intersection with Port Allen Alternate Route to Iberville Parish line Establish a no wake zone Update Marine Information Broadcast to inform mariners of Safety Advisory.
	BS Gauge 6.5'	Rising		High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss current flow rate and prediction of rise/crest. * Update Safety Advisory Asses the need for one-way traffic though Bayou Sorrel Waterway Mile 37.6 to Mile 45. Close Lower Grand River Waterway to all commercial traffic.
	BS Gauge 6.9'	Rising		High Water	Action	* Conference call to discuss closing the system to vessels entering the system, but allowing vessels to exit. * Bayou Sorrel Lock to begin clearing out waterway and will not allow vessels to enter
	BS Gauge 7.3'	Rising		High Water	Action	* Army Corps will close Bayou Sorrel Locks to all navigation. * Coast Guard will close the waterway to all power driven vessels. Consider allowing local facility traffic (MM 60 to 65, including the Sun Plus canal) to utilize the Port Allen lock on a limited basis.
	BS Gauge 6.9'	Falling		Extreme High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls implementation.
	BS Gauge 6.5'	Falling		High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place.
	BS Gauge 6.0'	Falling		High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place. * Cancel Safety Zone.
	BS Gauge 5.5'	Falling		High Water	Recovery	* Conference call to discuss phase down of restrictions and controls still in place. * Cancel Marine Safety Broadcast.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION <i>LOW WATER</i>	TRIGGER READING CANAL/LANDSIDE	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
MSU Baton Rouge <i>Entire Area of Responsibility</i> Mississippi River 167-303 AHP	BR Gauge 12.0'	Falling		Low Water	Watch	* Issue Safety Advisory including the following recommendations: Towing Vessels reduce loads and/or barges, to enable them to navigate through trouble areas; Consider draft restrictions for oceangoing vessels; Pilots and Masters of Oceangoing vessels should review the facility's docking procedures prior to arriving at the facility; All vessels should consider staffing vessels with their most experienced crews. Remind mariners to report missing Aids to navigation in report.
	BR Gauge 12.0'	Falling		Low Water	Watch	* Issue Safety Advisory including the following recommendations: In accordance with 33 CFR 161.65(e), all vessels moving or intending to move in this area must complete the appropriate check-in procedures with VTS LMR prior to transiting; Mariners are also advised of the increased possibility of shoaling in this area and should use extreme caution while transiting. Remind mariners to report missing aids to navigation in report.
MSU Baton Rouge <i>Entire Area of Responsibility</i> Mississippi River 167-303 AHP (* Includes 81 Mile Point)	BR Gauge 10.0'	Falling		Low Water	Action	* Safety Advisory in effect. * Consider issuing tow size and oceangoing vessel draft recommendations. * Check with USACE about survey and dredging plans. * Discuss Navigational Aids with surrounding CG ATON units. * Consider conference call to discuss VTS Measures and/or necessary safety measures above the VTS area.
	BR Gauge 9.0'	Falling		Low Water	Action	* Safety Advisory in effect. * Consider issuing tow size and oceangoing vessel draft recommendations. * Check with USACE about survey and dredging plans. * Consider one-way traffic in trouble areas. * Consider conference call to discuss VTS Measures.
	BR Gauge 8.0'	Falling		Low Water	Action	* Safety Advisory in effect. * Consider issuing tow size and oceangoing vessel draft recommendations. * Check with USACE about survey and dredging plans. * Identify specific critical low water areas. * Consider conference call to discuss VTS Measures.

CRITICAL AREA DESCRIPTION <i>LOW WATER</i>	TRIGGER READING CANAL/LANDSIDE	TREND	TRIGGER CURRENT OR FLOW RATE	DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ACTIONS
MSU Baton Rouge <i>Entire Area of Responsibility</i> Mississippi River 167-303 AHP <u>(* Includes 81 Mile Point)</u>	BR Gauge 7.0'	Falling		Low Water	Action	* Safety Advisory in effect. * Consider issuing tow size and oceangoing vessel draft recommendations. * Check with USACE about survey/dredging plans. * Contact local CG ATON units to discuss Navigation Aids * Weekly conference calls to identify specific critical low water areas and river forecast. * Implement a one-way traffic pattern at Tunica Bend MM 293
	BR Gauge 4.0'	Falling		Low Water	Action	* Safety Advisory in effect. * Consider issuing tow size and oceangoing vessel draft recommendations. * Check with USACE about survey/dredging plans. * Identify specific critical low water areas. * Consider conference call to discuss VTS Measures.

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5. Risk Assessment

5. A. Low Water (Baton Rouge Gauge = 10 Feet and below)

LOCATION	Factors to Increase Likelihood of Casualty				Casualty History	Risk Score	High	Score
	Obs to Nav	Channel Width	Bend Radius	Congestion				
MM225-233 (Port Allen Locks-I-10 Bridge)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	222	Medium	10
MM233-238 (Wilkinson Point -190 Bridge)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low	222		
MM238-246 (Thomas Pt- Springfield Bend)	Low	High	High	Medium	Low	213	Acceptable Risk Threshold	480
MM246-260 (Profit Island -Fancy Point)	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Low	123		
MM260-275 (Pointe Coupee)	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Low	123		
MM275-282 (Morganza Bend)	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Low	123		
MM282-295 (Tunica Bend)	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low	114		
MM295-302 (Hog Point)	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low	114		
MM302-306 (Old River Lock)	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low	114		
MM306-320 (Old River Control Structure)	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low	114		

MM	Description	Casualties
225-233	Port Allen Locks - I-10 Bridge	2
233-238	Wilkinson Point - 190 Bridge	2
238-246	Thomas Point - Springfield Bend	1
246-260	Profit Island - Fancy Point	3
260-275	Pointe Coupee	0
275-282	Morganza Bend	0
282-295	Tunica Bend	0
295-302	Hog Point	3
302-306	Old River Lock	1
306-320	Old River Control Structure	0

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5. B. Normal water (Baton Rouge Gauge = 10 - 28 Feet)

LOCATION	Factors to Increase Likelihood of Casualty				Casualty History	Risk Score	High	Score
	Obs to Nav	Channel Width	Bend Radius	Congestion				
MM225-233 (Port Allen Locks-10 Bridge)	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	420	Medium	10
MM233-238 (Wilkinson Point -190 Bridge)	High	Medium	Medium	High	High	420		
MM238-246 (Thomas Pt- Springfield Bend)	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Low	123	Acceptable Risk Threshold	480
MM246-260 (Profit Island-Fancy Point)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Low	132		
MM260-275 (Pointe Coupee)	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	33		
MM275-282 (Morganza Bend)	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	33		
MM282-295 (Tunica Bend)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		
MM295-302 (Hog Point)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		
MM302-306 (Old River Lock)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		

MM	Description	Casualties
225-233	Port Allen Locks - I-10 Bridge	19
233-238	Wilkinson Point - 190 Bridge	12
238-246	Thomas Point - Springfield Bend	2
246-260	Profit Island - Fancy Point	4
260-275	Pointe Coupee	2
275-282	Morganza Bend	0
282-295	Tunica Bend	1
295-302	Hog Point	2
302-306	Old River Lock	1

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5. C. High Water (Baton Rouge Gauge = 28 feet and higher. Note: the casualty history and scoring of Port Allen Locks and Wilkinson Point were completed assuming continuation of the existing River Crisis Action Plan in place.)

LOCATION	Factors to Increase Likelihood of Casualty				Casualty History	Risk Score	High	Score
	Obs to Nav	Channel Width	Bend Radius	Congestion				
MM225-233 (Port Allen Locks-I-10 Bridge)	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	240	Medium	10
MM233-238 (Wilkinson Point -190 Bridge)	High	High	Medium	High	Low	312		
MM238-246 (Thomas Pt- Springfield Bend)	Low	High	High	Medium	Low	213	Acceptable Risk Threshold	480
MM246-260 (Profit Island - Fancy Point)	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Low	123		
MM260-275 (Pointe Coupee)	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	33		
MM275-282 (Morganza Bend)	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	33		
MM282-295 (Tunica Bend)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		
MM295-302 (Hog Point)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		
MM302-306 (Old River Lock)	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	24		

MM	Description	Casualties
225-233	Port Allen Locks - I-10 Bridge	9
233-238	Wilkinson Point - 190 Bridge	2
238-246	Thomas Point - Springfield Bend	2
246-260	Profit Island - Fancy Point	2
260-275	Pointe Coupee	1
275-282	Morganza Bend	0
282-295	Tunica Bend	0
295-302	Hog Point	0
302-306	Old River Lock	1

Waterways Action Plan
Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge Annex

5. D. Risk Legend

Risk Factors					
Need for Precise Control	Navigational Complexity			Congestion	Casualty History (7 yr period)
	Obstructions to Navigation	Channel Width (Full Banks)	Bend Radius		
High	Multiple Obstructions	Narrow - single passage	sharp bend: >180 deg	traffic always present	>10
Medium	Single Obstruction	Medium - dual passage is possible/likely	gradual bend: between 90 and 180 deg	traffic sometimes present	6>x>10
Low	No Obstructions	Wide - more than 2 vessel passage possible	no bend: >90 deg or no river crossing	traffic rarely present	>6

BAYOU SORREL LOCKING PROTOCOL

These procedures/protocol has been developed by shallow draft industry reps, GICA and USACE and are intended to help relieve congestion and improve safety for mariners and residents near the Bayou Sorrel Locks during this period of increased traffic due to Algiers Lock closures. They will remain in effect until modified or rescinded by GICA and USACE.

ALL VESSELS - NORTH AND SOUTH BOUND

1. When a vessel approaches the “End of the Line” for Bayou Sorrel, it shall make contact with the lock to get on turn, by any means available.

KEEP YOUR AIS SYSTEM ON

1. Once on turn, it will be up to the vessel to monitor the radio, and/or utilize all other means to determine their on turn status as it changes. Continuous phone calls to the lock from the same vessel is not an acceptable means of communication and simply distracts lock personnel from focusing on timely locking.
2. A “Bayou Sorrel Lock Queue List” will be sent out by GICA email blast in the morning and evening. Contact your office to get a copy of the Queue List.
3. The Queue List will also be broadcast at or about 0600, 1200, 1800 and 2400 daily by USACE Lock personnel.
4. Vessels not responding to calls from the Lock to move up or down toward the Lock, ***will be placed at the end of the Lock Queue***. It is the vessels’ responsibility to maintain a method of monitoring their Lock Queue Status, including working with vessels which are within radio range of the lock and can hear calls made by the lock.
5. Vessels not cooperating with this protocol will, at the discretion of the Lock Master, be moved to the end of the line.

SOUTH BOUND VESSELS

1. Only south bound vessels with an on turn number of 15 or lower will be allowed in the staging area between Mile 42 and Mile 39, which will be referred to as the “Bayou Sorrel Land Cut”.
2. South bound vessels with an on turn number of above 15 will find a stand by location above Grosse Tete Bridge.
3. As the vessels on turn with numbers below 15 are removed from the staging area, it will be the vessel operators’ duty to contact the Lock to determine a time when they should be moving down to the Bayou Sorrel Land Cut for standby.

NORTH BOUND VESSELS

1. Vessels should move as close to the area from Pigeon Bend to Bayou Sorrel Lock as possible.
2. Vessels who must tie off below Mile 25 and cannot make radio contact, should contact the lock with any means available to establish their lock turn.
3. Vessels that are lower than number 10 in the Lock Queue should move to an area above Pigeon Bend and be prepared for locking when called.

POC: Bayou Sorrel Lock Wall: 225-659-7773 GICA: 901-490-3312