

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume XXIV Issue 064

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Date: August 13, 2024

Low Water Safety Advisory: **MM 167 to MM 303 AHP LMR (12' and Falling)**

1. As a result of the Baton Rouge gauge expected to read **12 feet and continue to fall**, the COTP New Orleans has issued a low water safety advisory for all waters of the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) from Mile 167 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 303 AHP. This safety advisory is effective immediately with the following provisions in accordance with the Waterways Action Plan Baton Rouge Annex:

2. **LMR MM 167-303:**

- A. Commercial vessel operators shall be aware of falling river-level conditions and monitor Coast Guard safety broadcasts announcing known navigation hazards. Tow sizes and vessel drafts from cargo loading should be adjusted as necessary to meet decreasing channel depths.
- B. Pilots and Masters of oceangoing vessels should review facility docking procedures prior to arrival in port.
- C. All vessels should transit in the charted navigational channel to the greatest extent possible.
- D. All vessels should consider staffing vessels with their most experienced crews.
- E. Report missing aids to navigation to the Sector New Orleans Command Center.

3. **81 Mile Point, LMR MM 177-179:**

- A. In accordance with 33 CFR 161.65(e), all vessels moving or intending to move in the 81 Mile Point VTS Special area shall comply with the reporting requirements detailed in the VTS Lower Mississippi River User Manual or in 33 CFR 161.65 by contacting "New Orleans Traffic" on VHF FM Channel 05A.
- B. Mariners are also advised of the increased possibility of shoaling in this area and should use extreme caution while transiting.

4. **College Town Light, LMR MM 225-228.3:**

- A. All towing vessels are advised to keep flat on the bank and provide a wide berth to deep-draft vessel traffic.

5. This Marine Safety Information Bulletin **supersedes** Volume XXIV, Issue 062 Low Water Safety Advisory: LMR MM 167 to MM 303 (16' And Falling)

For further information, contact the following:

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center: (504) 365-2200

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Waterways Management: (504) 365-2280

Coast Guard MSU Baton Rouge Waterways Management: (225) 298-5400 x230

Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River: (504) 365-2230, VHF FM Ch. 05A, 12, 67



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