

# UNITED STATES COAST GUARD SECTOR NEW ORLEANS

## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume XXIV Issue: 066

Time: 0700

Date: August 24, 2024

### LOW WATER SAFETY ADVISORY: MM 0.0 TO MM 303 AHP LMR

This MSIB covers **BOTH Sector New Orleans** and **MSU Baton Rouge** AORs.

The National Weather Service [forecasts low river stages](#) will continue during the next 28 days. Lower Mississippi River (LMR) users should plan for extreme low water conditions. The low water safety precautions outlined below are in effect for all waters of the LMR from Mile Marker 0.0 to Mile Marker 303 Ahead of Passes (AHP).

Mariners are reminded the sailing line – between Mile Markers 0 - 232 – follows a path through naturally deep water connected by twelve marked channels known as “crossings”. Low water conditions have significantly reduced water depths in areas of the river outside the sailing line where mariners in the past had sufficient water depth to navigate. In accordance with 33 CFR 164, mariners are required to conduct proper navigation assessments. **Mariners should pay particular attention to route planning and water levels** and closely review the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Condition Surveys](#) prior to their transit.

1. Industry representatives should coordinate closely and with due consideration for the extreme low water with River Pilot organizations to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vessels.
2. Pilots should maintain safe speeds when transiting in the vicinity of docks, fleeting areas, and other transiting vessels to minimize adverse impacts from the ship’s wake.
3. Ports and facilities are strongly encouraged to monitor water depths, to both their docks and approaches. Adjustments to docking procedures or loading and transit parameters should be closely coordinated with and communicated to vessel operators.
4. All towing vessels in vicinity of College Town Light (MM 225 to MM 228.3) are advised to keep flat on the bank and provide a wide berth to deep-draft vessel traffic.
5. When navigating the Upper Baton Rouge (190) bridge, mariners should refer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Lower Mississippi River Chart No. 73 which states, that the Port Allen span is navigable when the Baton Rouge River gauge is **above** 15’. Current river levels do not support using this span.
6. Aids to Navigation discrepancies should be reported to the Sector New Orleans Command Center.
7. Mariners should pay close attention to Broadcast Notice Mariners for information or specific hazards along their planned route.

#### **Reporting:**

Ports and Facilities are requested to [report impacted operations](#) due to low water conditions (e.g. reduced drafts, interruptions to mid-stream operations, etc.) to [facilitiesnola@uscg.mil](mailto:facilitiesnola@uscg.mil).

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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**CAPTAIN G. A. CALLAGHAN**  
**Captain of the Port New Orleans**

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