

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SAFETY ADVISORY: ATCHAFALAYA RIVER

1. Based on current conditions on the Atchafalaya River, the Captain of the Port Houma will enforce a minimum speed restriction for all Northbound vessels entering the VTS Berwick Bay traffic zone. Any vessel unable to maintain 3 mph (2.6 knots) shall require an assist vessel.
2. Northbound and Southbound tows transiting the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges and tows intending west at Mile Marker 98.5" are limited to 600ft.
3. Northbound tows greater than 600ft transiting through the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges will be required to break down their tow.
4. Southbound tows transiting through the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges are limited to day light operations only and shall require an assist vessel if greater than 400ft.
5. Southbound and Northbound Tows 400ft or greater transiting Westbound at Mile Marker 98.5 shall require a shadow assist.
6. All tows remain subject to the Vessel Traffic Service Berwick Bay High Water towing limitations and any additional Emergency Vessel Movement Controls. This MSIB supersedes all previous High Water MSIB's released by the Captain of the Port Houma in this 2018/2019 High Water Event.
7. All Mariners are advised of shoaling extending from the Morgan City, City Pier to the center of the channel in the vicinity of the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges, some areas in this location have less than 2 ft of water. The U.S. Coast Guard has marked this shoaling with four Red buoys. In addition, shoaling exist at 20 Grand, Mile Marker 99' on the right ascending bank, Stouts Pass, and at the south entrance of the Bayou Chene. All Mariners are to use extreme caution while transiting these areas and are encouraged to contact VTS Berwick Bay for any amplifying information or to make further reports of shoaling.
8. For further information, contact;

Coast Guard Morgan City Waterways Management: (985) 380-5334

Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Berwick Bay (24hrs): (985) 380-5370



CAPTAIN B. E. Welborn
Captain of the Port Houma

For a current list of MSIBs within the COTP Houma Zone visit: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/houma> and look under "Safety and Security"