

# MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume XVIII Issue: 027-19

Date: July 28th, 2019

## **SAFETY ADVISORY:** **ATCHAFALAYA RIVER**

1. Based on current conditions on the Atchafalaya River, the Captain of the Port Houma has lifted the requirement for all tows to have an assist vessel at the Wax Lake Outlet and lifted the restriction for Southbound transits at nighttime through the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges. The following restrictions remain in place.
2. Northbound and Southbound tows transiting the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges and tows turning 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 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 over 400ft transiting the Bayou Beouf Locks, near the 20 Grand intersection, are required to have an assist vessel.
7. 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.
8. 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. The U.S. Coast Guard has marked this shoaling with four Red buoys. Per the Army Corps of Engineers Survey, there are isolated areas with less than 2 feet of water near the Triple Span Bridges. In addition, extensive shoaling exist at 20 Grand, Mile Marker 99’ on the right ascending bank, Stouts Pass, and at the entrance and throughout the Bayou Chene. All Mariners are to use extreme caution while transiting these areas and are encourage to contact VTS Berwick Bay for any amplifying information or to make further reports of shoaling.

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9. For further information, contact;

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

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



**Kevin J. McCormack**  
**Commander, U.S. Coast Guard**  
**Acting Captain of the Port**  
**Houma, Louisiana**

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