

# MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN


MSIB 022 - 20

Date: July 6, 2020

## SAFETY ADVISORY: ATCHAFALAYA RIVER

1. This MSIB supersedes all other High Water Safety Advisories for the Atchafalaya River, due to the lowering of the river stage.
2. VTS Berwick Bay remains in High Water Operations.
3. All tows remain subject to the Vessel Traffic Service Berwick Bay High Water towing limitations set forth in 33 CFR 165.811 Atchafalaya River, Berwick Bay, LA Regulated Navigation Area (RNA). As a reminder to mariners, the Regulated Navigation Area are the waters of the Atchafalaya River in Berwick Bay bounded on the Northside from 2,000 yards north of the U.S. 90 Highway Bridge, and on the Southside from 4,000 yards south of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) Bridge. As a result of lowering river stages, the following towing requirements apply:
  - a. Towing on a hawser is not authorized, except that one self-propelled vessel may tow one other vessel without barges upbound;
  - b. A towing vessel and barges must be arranged in tandem, except that one vessel may tow one other vessel alongside;
  - c. Length of tow must not exceed 1,180 feet; and
  - d. Tows with a box end in the lead must not exceed 400 feet in length;
  - e. Tows 3,000 hp or less SHALL report their horsepower when checking into the Vessel Traffic Service Area, and are subject to the horsepower requirements set forth in 33 CFR 165.811(e).
4. Mariners are advised of construction work taking place in the Bayou Chene in the vicinity of mile marker 94.5. All Mariners shall exercise extreme caution when transiting this area and make minimum safe speed. Any concerns regarding this construction should be directed to the St Mary's Levee District.
5. For further information contact:

Marine Safety Unit Houma Officer of the Day:	985-665-2437
Marine Safety Unit Morgan City Officer of the Day:	985-397-3300
Vessel Traffic Center Berwick Bay (24 Hour):	985-380-5370
National Response Center (24 Hour):	800-424-8802

  
J. W. Russell  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port  
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