U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

United States Coast Guard
Sector Houston-Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service

13411 Hilliard Street
Houston, TX 77034
Staff Symbol: (VTS)
Phone: (281) 464-4837
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3500
29 DEC 2023
Update 01

AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

This is a list of navigation discrepancies reported to VTS for the Houston Ship Channel (HSC), from the Houston Turning Basin to the Galveston Bay Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy "1B", current at the time of posting. In accordance with 33 CFR 161.2, participation in the Vessel Traffic Service is mandatory for every power-driven vessel of 40 meters or more in length, every tow vessel of 8 meters or more in length while engaged in towing, and every vessel certificated to carry 50 or more passengers while engaged in trade. Those not required to participate may receive current information by contacting the VTS.

PRIMARY LIGHT LIST NUMBER	NAME	DISCREPANCY DESCRIPTION
23720	Galveston South Jetty Light 5A	Missing Dayboard / Dim
23975	Lower Galveston Bay Outer Range Rear Light	Extinguished
24025	Houston Ship Channel Light 35	Destroyed
24100	Houston Ship Channel Light 45	TRLB
24180	Houston Ship Channel Light 53	TRLB
24185	Houston Ship Channel Light 54	TRLB
24225	Houston Ship Channel Light 55	TRLB
24230	Houston Ship Channel Light 56	TRLB
24240	Houston Ship Channel Light 58	TRLB
24245	Houston Ship Channel Light 59	TRLB
24250	Houston Ship Channel Light 60	Temp Disestablished
24255	Houston Ship Channel Light 61	TRLB
24260	Houston Ship Channel Light 62	TRLB
24295	Houston Ship Channel Light 63	TRLB
24300	Houston Ship Channel Light 64	TRLB
24305	Houston Ship Channel Light 65	TRLB
24310	Houston Ship Channel Light 66	TRLB
24315	Houston Ship Channel Light 67	TRLB
24320	Houston Ship Channel Light 68	TRLB
24325	Houston Ship Channel Light 69	TRLB
24365	Houston Ship Channel Light 71	TRLB
24370	Houston Ship Channel Light 72	TRLB
24375	Houston Ship Channel Light 73	TRLB
24380	Houston Ship Channel Light 74	TRLB
24382	Houston Ship Channel Light 74A	TRLB
24385	Houston Ship Channel Light 75	TRLB
24390	Houston Ship Channel Light 76	TRLB
24392	Houston Ship Channel Light 76A	TRLB

24450	Bayport Ship Channel Light 1	TRLB
24455	Bayport Ship Channel Junction Light B	TRLB
24480	Bayport Ship Channel Light 4	TRLB
24490	Bayport Ship Channel Light 6	TRLB
24520	Houston Ship Channel Light 78	Temp Disestablished
24530	Houston Ship Channel Light 82	TRLB
24565	Houston Ship Channel Light 89	Destroyed W/O/S
24755	Houston Ship Channel Light 93	TRLB
24790.1	Houston Ship Channel Lighted Buoy 95	Temp Disestablished
24800	Houston Ship Channel Light 97	TRLB
24810	Houston Ship Channel Light 99	TRLB
24815	Houston Ship Channel Light 100	TRLB
25070	Lower Red Light Bend Outbound Range Front Light	Misleading Signal (centerline)
25080	Houston Ship Channel Light 101	TRLB
25090	Houston Ship Channel Light 101A	TRLB
25210	Houston Ship Channel Light 105	Temp Disestablished
26070	Texas City Channel Light 5	TRLB
26075	Texas City Channel Light 7	Destroyed W/O/S
26135	Texas City Channel Light 15	TRLB
35965	Galveston-Freeport Cutoff Channel Light 7	TRLB
23905	Houston Ship Channel Entrance Outer Range Front Light	Extinguished
23910	Houston Ship Channel Entrance Outer Range Rear Light	Extinguished

CHANNEL OBSTRUCTION REQUESTS:

DATE/TIME	CAT	TYPE	LOCATION	STATUS
24 DEC 1100 – 31 DEC 2359		GANTRY CRANES	CITY DOCK 29	ACKNOWLEDGED
26 DEC 0600 – 03JAN 1200		GANTRY CRANES	CITY DOCK 17	ACKNOWLEDGED
31 DEC 0800-1400	II	HEAVY LIFT	INDUSTRIAL TERMINALS SHIP 1 EAST	PENDING
31 DEC / 0700-1100	I	HEAVY LIFT SHIP	SEA TO BARBOUR'S CUT	PENDING
05JAN / 0800-1200	I	RORO	POWELL	PENDING
TBD	I	DREDGE PIPELINE	SAVAGE SULPHUR to NEWPORT	TENTATIVE
TBD	I	DREDGE PIPELINE	SAN JACINTO BAY CANAL and G&H TOWING DOCKS	TENTATIVE

CHANNEL OPERATIONS:

1. **DREDGE MBI-08** is staged at City Dock 23, returning to project at near City Dock 43 this morning. Relocating to Bayport Channel later today. MBI 09 is staged below City Dock 32. MBI-08 228 213-0600. Towboat Grand Ann 228 363-5320. STBY VHF 13/76.

2. **DREDGE GENERAL MACARTHUR** is working near Barbour's Cut Container Dock 3. Floating pipeline extending to HSC LT 93. Requesting 30-minute notice from tows and 2-hour notice for ships bound for and departing Barbour's Cut. VHF 13/68. Cell 409-407-5605.

3. **DREDGE MCCASKILL** is working edge of Houston Ship Channel below Houston Ship Channel Light 81. The outbound barge lane is closed near the dredge. Request 30min notice for all traffic. VTS

Houston Galveston directs no meeting /overtaking and wake/surge considerations within .5 NM of the dredge from ships. VHF 13/11/72 Dredge McCaskill 985-991-9051.

4. **DREDGE AVALON** is working at the edge of the channel near HSC LT 58. The inbound barge lane is closed near the dredge. VTS Houston Galveston directs no meeting / overtaking and wake / surge considerations within .5 NM of the dredge from ships. Tugs Alice C, Karen C, and Mary Emma depositing spoils below the jetties. VHF 13/81. Avalon (562)786-0434.

5. **DREDGE GENERAL PATTON** is staged in Offatts Bayou, awaiting next project. Lighted floating pipeline staged west of Galveston Causeway Bridge near Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. VHF 79/13. Tug MS ALLIE 972-268-5805. GENERAL PATTON 409-750-1059

6. **DREDGE GENERAL EISENHOWER**: has pipe staged at Savage Sulphur T-Head, laying dredge pipeline. Dredge Phone: 409-370-0364

7. **BOMAC SERVICES** has barges staged near Texas Petro Chemical Ship Dock A to perform maintenance on the dock Monday-Saturday. Barges are left unattended after working hours. POC: Todd Smith 713-806-0576, TODD.SMITH@TPCGRP.COM

8. **BOLIVAR DIRECTIVE:** Vessel Traffic Service Houston-Galveston directs no meeting or overtaking between Bolivar Virtual Aid to Navigation 22 and Light 14, recommends confirming Bolivar Virtual Aids to Navigation 21 and 22 prior to making the turn to/from Bolivar and/or into the Alternate Inbound Channel.

9. **COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS:** Mariners should anticipate multiple commercial fishing vessels (CFV) working in the Houston Ship Channel during daylight hours. If erratic movements are noted, or if unable to contact fishing vessels, notify VTS Houston immediately with the name of the CFV. Stand by frequencies Above Red Fish Bar: working channels VHF 13/71. Below Red Fish Bar: VHF 13/88.

NOTES:

1. **Vessels are reminded** to pay due regard to channel depth, vessel speed, and resulting squat while operating in the Vessel Traffic Service Area. Vessels may have recently encountered the bottom due to squat in the Bolivar Roads Inner Bar channel.

   Project depths and latest survey data can be attained at:
   https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d4ba5e6561334e259297f0a50bc47127

2. **GALVESTON HARBOR CHANNEL SHOALING**: Shoaling is reported to reducing depths to approximately 40 feet between Galveston Channel Lighted Buoy 1 and Galveston Light 3. This report has been correlated with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging stations 2+400 to 4+600.

   Vessel Traffic Service Houston-Galveston directs:
   (1) Vessels with 38 feet or greater draft to avoid the green side of the channel in this area.
   (2) No meeting or overtaking of any vessel with draft of 38 feet or greater between Galveston Channel Lighted Buoy 1 and Galveston Light 3.

   Detailed dredging stations and survey data depicting this location can be found at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Portals/26/docs/Navigation/Channel_Survey_Maps/GA/GA_07_BRE.pdf (page 1)

   Updated USACE Operations Dashboard with eHydro ‘xyz’ survey data is located at:

https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Projects-Contracts/

3. **UPPER HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL SHOALING**: Shoaling is reported to reducing depths to approximately 41 feet on the red side to the center line between Beltway 8 and Houston Ship Channel Light 146. This report has been correlated with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging stations 730+000 to 750+000. Deep draft vessels are advised to proceed with caution.

   Vessel Traffic Service Houston-Galveston recommends:
   (1) Vessels with 35 feet or greater draft should avoid the red side of the channel in this area.

   Detailed dredging stations and survey data depicting this location can be found at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Portals/26/docs/Navigation/Channel_Survey_Maps/HS/HS_07_BGB.pdf (page 2)

   Updated USACE Operations Dashboard with eHydro 'xyz' survey data is located at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Projects-Contracts/

4. **GALVESTON HARBOR CHANNEL SHOALING**: Shoaling to approximately 40 feet has been identified on the red side of the Galveston Channel from approximately Martin Midstream (Grasso Marine Dock Light on NOAA ENC) to the Pelican Island Bridge. These reports have been correlated with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging stations 8+055 to 22+571.

   Detailed dredging stations and survey data depicting this location can be found at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Portals/26/docs/Navigation/Channel_Survey_Maps/GA/GA_08_ETS.pdf

   Updated USACE Operations Dashboard with eHydro 'xyz' survey data is located at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Projects-Contracts/

5. **GALVESTON HARBOR CHANNEL SHOALING**: Shoaling to approximately 44 feet has been identified on the green side of the Galveston Channel from approximately Port of Galveston Dock 35 to Gulf Sulfur Services T-Head Ship Dock (Duvall dock on NOAA ENC). These reports have been correlated with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredging stations 8+055 to 22+571.

   Detailed dredging stations and survey data depicting this location can be found at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Portals/26/docs/Navigation/Channel_Survey_Maps/GA/GA_09_TSB.pdf

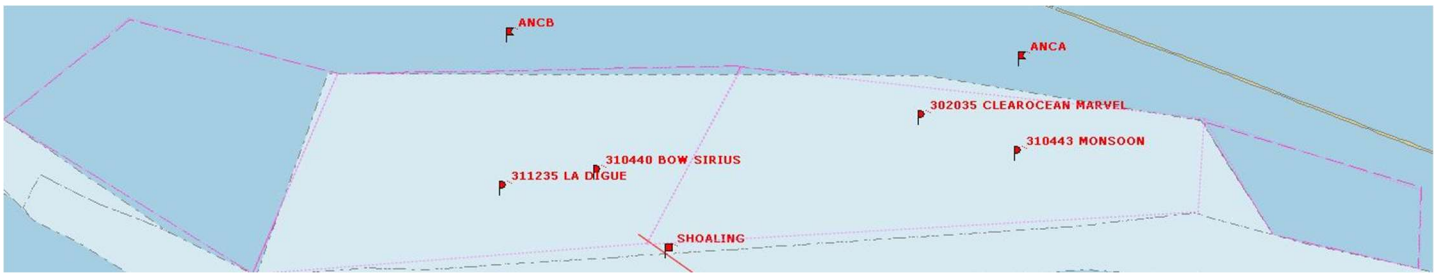
   Updated USACE Operations Dashboard with eHydro 'xyz' survey data is located at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Projects-Contracts/

6. **GALVESTON BAY ENTRANCE CHANNEL SHOALING**: Shoaling near Galveston Bay Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 12 of approximately 43.5 feet has been identified on the red side.

   Vessel Traffic Service Houston-Galveston directs:
   (1) VTS Houston Galveston directs no meeting or overtaking of any vessel with draft of 38 feet or greater within .5NM of this location

   Updated USACE Operations Dashboard with eHydro 'xyz' survey data is located at:
   https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Navigation-Projects-Contracts/

ANCHORAGE MANAGEMENT:



For more information, contact the VTS Watch Supervisor at (281) 464-4837