U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. COAST GUARD
Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas

Marine Safety Information Bulletin
06-07
March 14, 2007

Channel Closure for Salvage and Survey Operations
ICW MM 279 - Old River Entrance to Bean's East Fleet
Port Arthur, TX
UPDATE, 4:00 P. M. March 14, 2007

The towing vessel KACIE LUHR and two rock barges have been removed from the Sabine-Neches channel in the vicinity of ICWW mile 279.

Recovery operations to remove the rock from the bottom of the ship channel are continuing, but the contractor expects to complete operations by approximately 6:00 P. M. today.

As soon as the rock is removed, Corps of Engineers equipment is standing by to survey the channel. Deep draft vessels with drafts of less than 30 feet have already resumed operations. A total of seven outbound ships are in the process of boarding and sailing. Additional vessels are scheduled to move overnight and tomorrow

Depending on the Corps surveys, full, project depth transits could resume as early as 7:00 or 8:00 this evening. Specific deep draft vessel schedules can be obtained from the Sabine Pilots

After the rock removal operation and survey operations are complete, the Safety Zone in effect for this area will be cancelled. VTS Port Arthur and U. S. Coast Guard boats on scene will continue to coordinate and enforce and/or announce changes in the Safety Zone. Contact VTS Port Arthur at 409-719-5070.

This notice will be posted on the HOMEPORT website http://homeport.uscg.mil. If you have any questions, please call MSU Port Arthur at (409) 723-6500.

T. Sparks
U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port