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

Marine Safety Information Bulletin
1-10
5:30 P. M., Saturday, January 23, 2010

Channel Closure (Safety Zone)
Vessel Collision and Oil Spill
Sabine-Neches Waterway

A collision between a tanker and inland tow and accompanying oil spill in the Sabine-Neches Water has necessitated the closing of the Sabine-Neches Canal between the North Forty at latitude 29°56.4'N and the Texaco Island Marine Gate at latitude 29°49.9'N. The possibility exists that the safety zone will need to be expanded as conditions change.

No vessel may enter the safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port or his designee.

Currently, this channel closure has not affected vessels transiting the Neches-River or the Texaco Island Intersections. Inbound ships waiting to transit to/from Texaco Island docks are able to do so. Specific scheduling information can be obtained from the Sabine Pilots at (409) 722-1141 or from the Sabine Pilot's web site at http://www.sabinepilots.com.

Salvage and oil spill recovery resources have responded and are on scene. The Coast Guard continues to monitor this situation and will keep the port community up to date of any changes through the Port Coordination Team (PCT) and Marine Safety Information Bulletins.

This notice will be posted on the HOMEPORT website http://homeport.uscg.mil and the VTS Website http://www.uscg.mil/d8/vtsportarthur/msib.asp

J. J. PLUNKETT
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port