



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

04-10

9:00 A. M., Saturday, January 30, 2010

****UPDATE****

Sabine-Neches Waterway

The safety zone established in the Sabine-Neches Waterway from the North Forty at latitude 29°56.4'N to Texas Point at latitude 29°40.8'N remains in place. No vessel may enter the safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port or his designee; however, ship and inland vessel traffic is currently moving with minimal restrictions. Mariners must continue to be vigilant and exercise due caution as numerous small oil spill response vessels and clean-up crews are working along the channel.

As of this morning, VTS has counted 80 westbound tows, 69 eastbound tows and 9 deep draft ships moved through the Port Arthur area since yesterday. That's approximately 4 times the normal volume, with temporary one-way traffic schemes, very high winds, rain, fast falling tides, and mostly (75%) nighttime transits - AND a no-wake zone in effect. There have been no reported incidents - a real tribute to the skill and professionalism to the mariners.

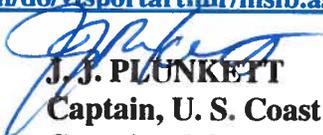
THE PORTS CURRENT METER LOCATED AT THE WEST PORT ARTHUR BRIDGE IS PRESENTLY SHOWING A 4.0 KNOT EBB (EASTBOUND) CURRENT.

Tow traffic intermingled with wide body tanker traffic, is presently moving westbound only in the Port Arthur canal. When the last wide body outbound tanker clears the Texaco Island Intersection at approximately 1300 today, VTS will run eastbound traffic only for a few hours to clear out the relatively small eastbound queue at the West Port Arthur bridge, and then all one-way traffic control measures will be discontinued.

Any further questions about waterway traffic in the Port Arthur traffic should be directed to the VTS Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070 or VHF-FM Channels 01A or 65A.

Thanks to all for your patience.

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


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