



**Marine Safety Information Bulletin
01-14
January 14, 2014**

Channel Limitations – Sabine-Neches Canal

At approximately 3:30 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2014, construction scaffolding used to make repairs to a bridge protection cell at the Highway 82 and Martin Luther King (Gulfgate) bridges in Port Arthur, TX collapsed into the waters of the Sabine-Neches Canal. The scaffolding debris constitutes a potential hazard to transiting vessels. Divers are expected to assess the situation early on Tuesday, January 14th.

Until the debris can be removed, the Coast Guard is implementing Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Measures, including: 1) limiting vessel drafts to a maximum of 30 feet; 2) prohibiting vessels from meeting or overtaking within 1,000 feet of the bridges; and 3) requiring passing vessels to favor the red (east) side of the canal.

Vessel traffic restrictions will be rescinded as soon as practicable, and information regarding changing traffic restrictions will be disseminated as quickly as possible.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS website at www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspartarthur. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please call VTS Port Arthur at (409) 719-5086.

G. J. PAITL
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port