



Homeland
Security

U.S. COAST GUARD
Sector Upper
Mississippi River



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 03-08

This bulletin is used purely for informational purposes to assist the maritime community within the Sector Upper Mississippi area of responsibility. Its purpose is to advise relevant parties of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System as well as facilitates cooperation among the involved parties regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security.

Western Rivers Shoaling Advisory

August 15, 2008

In recent months, U. S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River, River Industry, and Army Corps of Engineers have diligently worked together to ensure the safe navigation of commercial and recreational traffic on the Upper Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers during the recent record breaking flood season. As a result of the flooding, the Marine Transportation System must be monitored and maintained as the water recedes. Unfortunately, the river has receded quicker than expected, creating many shoaling areas throughout the Western rivers.

The Captain of the Port, Upper Mississippi River advises all mariners to take the following precautions. Due to wide spread shoaling, all commercial barge companies should restrict drafts to a maximum of 9 foot. In addition, there may be areas of concern where drafts of vessels and barges may be restricted further or river closures may occur. Mariners must adhere to the advisories and restrictions set forth to facilitate the safe navigation of all vessels upon the Western rivers. Please note that all restrictions will be strictly enforced. Updated information concerning river conditions and safe navigation can be found on marine radio channel 22A at 3:00 am, 8:00 am, 3:00 pm, and 9:00 pm. In addition, it is imperative that any discrepancies, such as missing buoys, discrepant shore aids, and shoal waters be reported immediately and with accuracy to U. S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River via marine radio channel 16, or by phone at 314-269-2332.

I appreciate all of the cooperation that has taken place to date and request all involved mariners, agencies and companies to continue to communicate and work closely together to keep the Western Rivers System navigable.

S. L. HUDSON
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Sector Upper Mississippi River