Chart Coverage in Coast Pilot 5—Chapter 9
NOAA's Online Interactive Chart Catalog has complete chart coverage
http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml
LOUISIANA
MISS.
GULF OF MEXICO
New Orleans
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
Baton Rouge
Plaquemine
Thibodaux
Houma
Morgan City
New Iberia
Lafayette
Lake Arthur
Lake Charles
BARATARIA BAY
ATCHAFALAYA BAY
VERMILLION BAY
CALCASIEU LAKE
SABINE LAKE
SABINE PASS
11367
11358
11355
11354
11351
11350
94°W
93°30'W
93°W
92°30'W
92°W
91°30'W
91°W
90°30'W
90°W
89°30'W
30°30'N
30°N
29°30'N
29°N
28°30'N
28°N

Mississippi River to Sabine Pass

(1) This chapter describes the coast of Louisiana from the delta of the Mississippi River to Sabine Pass, TX. Also discussed are Barataria, Timbale, Terrebonne, Atchafalaya, East and West Cote Blanche and Vermilion Bays and the interconnecting rivers and bayous that form a network of waterways in this section of Louisiana. The deepwater port of Lake Charles as well as many smaller ports and cities are described.

(2)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(3) The lines established for this part of the coast are described in **33 CFR 80.830** and **80.835**, chapter 2.

(4)

ENCs - US3GC02M, US3GC03M
Charts - 11330, 11340

(5) From the delta of the Mississippi River to Sabine Pass, a distance of 250 miles, the coast has a general west trend with several deep indentations or bays somewhat separated from the Gulf by chains of long narrow islands. It is characterized by a fringe of low sandy beaches backed for many miles by vast stretches of marshy ground.

(6) The off-lying water is shoal for long distances from the beach and, except for the first 50 miles west of Southwest Pass, the 10-fathom curve is 25 to 40 miles offshore. Numerous shallow areas, irregular in outline and well out of sight of land, are serious menaces to navigation of vessels of even moderate draft.

(7) With the exception of Barataria Pass, the numerous shallow passes east of Atchafalaya Bay are dangerous to enter except during fair weather. The channels change frequently because of storms, and local knowledge is generally necessary.

(8) Calcasieu Pass is the only deep-draft channel from the Mississippi River west to Sabine Pass. An extensive network of bayous and canals with depths of 2 to 9 feet covers the country up to about 75 miles back from the coast. The waterways from Empire and Venice to the Gulf are the only canals entering the Mississippi between New Orleans and Southwest Pass.

(9) The low swampy coastal country is sparsely settled and is frequented principally by fishermen and muskrat trappers. Through the canals and bayous the bottom is deep mud, usually so soft that it is often possible to push through with drafts of about 1 foot in excess of the depths.

(10) Between Atchafalaya Bay and Vermilion River are several mounds, or islands, from which commercial salt is produced.

(11) Extensive oil exploration has occurred along the coast, inland in the lakes and swamps as well as to seaward. The offshore derricks and structures are required to be well marked and lighted, however, mariners should exercise caution as some structures may be unlit. They extend up to 125 miles offshore.

(12) Inside the 100-fathom curve from Southwest Pass to Sabine Pass the currents set west with an average velocity of about 0.2 knot. A clockwise eddy having a velocity of about 0.2 knot covers most of the bay formed by the curving coastline between Southwest Pass and Timbale Bay.

(13)

Weather

(14) The climate along this stretch of coast is a mixture of tropical and temperate zone conditions. The area receives abundant rainfall and moderate temperatures, with only a few short periods where temperatures fall to freezing or below. The Gulf of Mexico helps modify the relative humidity and temperature conditions, decreasing the range between extremes. When south winds prevail these marine effects are increased. However, continental heat and cold waves penetrate the area at times. Port Arthur has recorded temperature extremes of 11°F and 107°F. This range narrows rapidly to seaward. During summer, prevailing southeasterlies help cool the air and produce showers.

(15) Navigation is hampered at times by extratropical or winter systems, fog, thunderstorms, and tropical cyclones. This area is located south of the mean track of continental extratropical cyclones. During winter, this track reaches its south limit, and some 15 to 20 associated fronts reach the Gulf of Mexico. These “northers” are common from October through February. The mixing of cold and warm air may also trigger the formation of an extratropical cyclone in the Gulf. The cold fronts and winter storms result in gale-force winds blowing 1 percent of the time and winds of 22 knots or more occurring 7 to 12 percent of the time. Waves of 10 feet or more are common, while 20-foot seas have been encountered. Tropical cyclones are a threat to navigation from late May into early November. On average, a tropical cyclone (winds 34 knots or more) will move through the region every 1 to 2 years, while a hurricane (winds 64 knots or more) can be expected every 4 to 5 years. Winds can be expected to reach 100 knots about every 25 years. These systems can also generate rough seas. Carla and Audrey produced 28- to 30-foot seas. On average, maximum significant wave heights of about 40 feet can be expected once every 25 years

(17)

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE – COASTAL AREA OFF NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Between 27°N to 31°N and 89°W to 92°W

WEATHER ELEMENTS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEARS OF RECORD
Wind > 33 knots [1]	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.6
Wave Height > 9 feet [1]	4.9	4.8	3.5	1.9	0.8	0.7	0.3	1.0	2.5	2.9	3.3	3.9	2.4
Visibility < 2 nautical miles [1]	1.3	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.7
Precipitation [1]	4.1	4.6	3.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	3.2	3.5	4.3	3.0	3.6	3.9	3.3
Temperature > 69° F	26.6	28.0	40.4	70.0	96.2	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.7	90.6	62.1	38.1	72.6
Mean Temperature (°F)	64.3	65.7	68.2	72.5	77.5	82.0	83.9	83.9	82.3	77.2	71.2	66.8	75.1
Temperature < 33° F [1]	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mean RH (%)	78	78	79	80	80	79	77	76	78	74	75	77	78
Overcast or Obscured [1]	28.5	27.6	24.0	18.5	12.1	8.4	9.1	10.4	14.7	12.9	19.6	24.0	17.1
Mean Cloud Cover (8ths)	4.8	4.7	4.4	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.3	4.7	4.2
Mean SLP (mbs)	1020	1018	1017	1016	1015	1016	1017	1016	1015	1017	1019	1020	1017
Ext. Max. SLP (mbs)	1039	1041	1035	1033	1030	1032	1032	1031	1029	1036	1037	1044	1044
Ext. Min. SLP (mbs)	992	990	993	998	996	999	1002	1001	994	994	998	996	990
Prevailing Wind Direction	N	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	SE	E	E	E	N	SE
Thunder and Lightning [1]	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	2.0	2.9	3.2	2.4	1.2	1.0	0.8	1.6

[1] Percentage Frequency

in deep waters. Storm season lasts from June 1 through November 30 of each year. In the event of major storm or hurricane, Port Fourchon has developed a detailed set of protocols and restrictions. Visit: //portfourchon.com/news-events/weather-storm-info/ .

(16) While fog occurs throughout the year, it is much more likely in winter and early spring; February is often the foggiest month. Port Arthur averages 42 days annually when visibilities fall below 0.4 mile. These monthly averages range from less than 1 day in the summer months to 8 days in January. Offshore visibilities fall below 2 miles about 2 to 3 percent of the time from December through April. On average, sound signals operate more than 100 hours per month in December and January. Visibilities may also be restricted by precipitation and smoke.

(18)

ENC - US4LA32M
Chart - 11358

(19) From Southwest Pass to Barataria Pass, at the entrance of Barataria Bay, the shoreline is broken by numerous small passes and shallow bays, frequented only by small craft and shallow-draft vessels, and never approached by seagoing vessels.

(20) **Grand Pass**, 10 miles north of Southwest Pass, permits craft drawing up to 4 feet to proceed from West Bay via The Jump (see chapter 8) and Ostrica Canal (see chapter 7) to Quarantine Bay and Breton Sound.

(21) **Buras**, a town on the Mississippi River 21.5 miles above Head of Passes, has a boat harbor at the north end of **Bay Pomme d'Or** where open and covered berths, water, gasoline, diesel fuel and a launching ramp are available. Ice and some marine supplies are available in the town. Numerous fishing boats operate in the waters to the west of the river. Rail, highway and bus communications extend to New Orleans.

(22) **Scofield Bayou**, about 23 miles north of Southwest Pass, provides an entrance from the Gulf to the lakes and bayous to the south of and through the Fasterling Canal to Buras. An entrance channel was dredged in 1957. A schooner wreck is just west of the channel. Local knowledge is required.

(23) **Empire** is a small town on Doullut Canal and Empire Waterway, about 3.5 miles northwest of Buras and 25.6 miles above Head of Passes. There are a number of bases for the offshore oil wells in the vicinity. A church spire north of the lock and a microwave tower south of it are prominent. Empire has several marinas. Berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, marine supplies and launching ramps are available. A 60-ton mobile hoist is available to handle vessels for hull and engine repairs.

(24) The state-owned Empire Waterway Lock through the Mississippi River levee at Empire is 197 feet long and 40 feet wide and has a depth of 10 feet over the sill. Red and green traffic lights at each end of the lock should be obeyed by all vessels waiting to enter the lock. The lock foreman can be contacted on VHF-FM channel 16 and uses channel 10 as a working frequency. Overhead power cables at either end of the lock have reported clearances of about 80 feet.

(25) The **Empire Waterway** provides for a passage from the Gulf of Mexico to the Mississippi River via Doullut Canal at Empire. The waterway leads north from the Gulf through a cut in Pelican Island and through the east side of **Adams Bay** to Empire. A floodgate is across the north part of the waterway near Empire. The Gulf entrance is marked by lights off the ends of the jetties and a lighted buoy about 1.5 miles south of the jetties. The channel is not well defined due to erosion and local knowledge is advised.

(26) **Vessels should approach the Empire Waterway from the Gulf through the Empire Safety Fairway.** (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(27)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(28) The lines established for the Empire Waterway are described in **33 CFR 80.830**, chapter 2.

(29) **Doullut Canal** is crossed by a highway swing bridge with a clearance of 3 feet about 0.2 mile west of its east entrance. A fixed highway bridge with a clearance of 53 feet (55 feet for a midwidth of 100 feet) crosses the canal about 0.4 mile southwest of the swing bridge.

(30) Considerable commerce in seafood, shell, petroleum products, oil well supplies, clay, drilling mud and industrial chemicals moves on the waterway between the Gulf and Mississippi River.

(31) The waterway, in conjunction with the Ostrica Canal, offers a water route for craft across the Mississippi River Delta between Barataria Bay and Breton Sound.

(32) Another route to the Gulf from Doullut Canal with depths of about 3 feet is across Adams Bay, marked by private lights, thence through **Meyers Canal** and**Grand Bayou**. Somewhat less draft can be carried via Bayou Cook and Bastian Bay. Barataria Bay, west of Adams Bay, can also be reached from Doullut Canal by following Grand Bayou north to its junction with the Freeport Sulphur Company Canal, which connects with Lake Grande Ecaille, and then with Barataria Bay. Depths of about 3 feet can be carried to Barataria Bay.

(33) **Port Sulphur** is a small town about 11 miles above Buras on the west bank of the river. **Freeport Sulphur Company Canal** extends from the river levee to **Lake Grande Ecaille**, a distance of about 8 miles. Craft drawing up to 3 feet can pass through the lake into Barataria Bay and adjacent waters, but there is no connection with the Mississippi River. The canal is marked by private buoys. In 1979, several unlighted pile clusters were reported in the canal near the junction with Rattlesnake Bayou, in about 29°24.0'N., 89°46.3'W.

(34) Several other canals, having depths of about 3 feet, lead from behind the levees to adjacent waters and to the canneries and the highway on each side of the river, but do not connect with the river. **Socola Canal** at Fosters Canal leads to Grand Bayou, and thence either to the Gulf or to Barataria Bay. **Wilkinson Canal** at Myrtle Grove leads to Barataria Bay.

(35) **Vessels should approach Bastian Bay and Grand Bayou from the Gulf through Grand Bayou Pass Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(36)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(37) The lines established for Grand Bayou Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.830**, chapter 2.

(38) **Bastian Bay**, 26 miles northwest of Southwest Pass, is 1 to 3 feet deep. The bay is separated from the Gulf by **Bastian Island. Bastian Pass**, east of the island, is not navigable. **Grand Bayou Pass**, west of the island, is the main entrance to Bastian Bay and also to Grand Bayou. Controlling depth in the dredged channel over the bar in the pass was 6 feet in 1961.

(39) **Grand Bayou**, is used considerably by local fishing boats. On a favorable tide, about 3 feet can be carried through Grand Bayou and Meyers Canal and thence across Adams Bay to the Doullut Canal connecting with the Mississippi River at Empire, a distance of 9 miles. A depth of 3 feet can be carried to the canals along the east side of Adams Bay northwest of Empire that lead to the river levee and the New Orleans-Buras Highway. This depth likewise can be taken to Barataria Bay via the Freeport Sulphur Company Canal and Lake Grande Ecaille.

(40) **Bayou Cook**, emptying into the north end of Bastian Bay, leads to Adams Bay and thence through Doullut Canal, which connects with the Mississippi River. The shallow depths across the south portion of Bastian Bay limit this route to about 2 feet on a favorable tide.

(41) **Chaland Pass** is a shallow, unfrequented pass 3 miles west of Bastian Bay.

(42) **Quatre Bayou Pass**, 5.5 miles east of Barataria Bay Light, is the approach to **Bay Ronquille, Cat Bay**, and **Lake Grande Ecaille**. This pass, Grand Bayou Pass to Grand Bayou and the pass to the Empire Waterway are the only passes east of Barataria Bay used extensively by local fishermen. Bay Ronquille is separated from Cat Bay by a group of islands through which is a pass known as **Four Bayous Cutoff** about 1.3 miles northwest of the light at the entrance. Bay Ronquille and Cat Bay are shallow. On a favorable tide, a depth of about 3 feet can be carried to Barataria Bay through Four Bayous Cutoff and Cat Bay. This same depth can also be taken across Bay Ronquille to Lake Grande Ecaille and thence to the Freeport Sulphur Company Canal, which leads to the Mississippi River via the Doullut Canal.

(43) Quatre Bayou Pass is unmarked entering from the southeast; caution is advised. Barataria Bay is entered following the southwest shore of Bay Ronquille for 1.3 miles to Four Bayous Cutoff. Go through this cutoff into Cat Bay, leaving some small reefs to the west. The passage from Cat Bay into Barataria Bay is about 1.1 miles northwest of the cutoff.

(44)

Currents

(45) The **tidal currents** in Quatre Bayou Pass average 1.3 knots and in Pass Abel average 0.9 knot on the flood and 1.6 knots on the ebb. See the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov* for specific information about times, directions, and velocities of the current at numerous locations throughout the area. Links to a user guide for this service can be found in chapter 1 of this book.

(46) **Barataria Bay** is a large marsh-fringed, shallow lake, separated from the Gulf by two low, narrow sand islands known as **Grand Terre Islands**. The bay has

general depths of 4 to 6 feet and is frequented chiefly by oilmen, fishermen and oystermen, who use launches of 3 to 4 feet in draft. Except for fishing camps, the only settlement on the bay is Grand Isle.

(47)

ENCs - US4LA32M, US3LA02M, US6LA36M, US5LA36M
Charts - 11358, 11352, 11367

(48) **Barataria Waterway**, extends in a north direction from the Gulf for about 34 miles through Barataria Bay to an intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at the towns of Barataria and Lafitte.

(49) **Vessels should approach Barataria Waterway and Bay through Barataria Pass Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(50)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(51) The lines established for Barataria Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.830**, chapter 2.

(52)

Channels

(53) A dredged channel leads across the bar at Barataria Pass into Barataria Bay, thence in landcuts through Beauregard, Mendicant and other islands on the west side of Barataria Bay, thence through **Mud Lake**,**Bayou St. Denis**and **Bayou Cutler**, thence through a landcut known as **Dupre Cut**, and thence through **Bayou Barataria** to the Intracoastal Waterway.

(54) **Barataria Pass** is the main entrance to Barataria Bay. A jetty, marked off its outer end by a private light, extends southeast from the east tip of **Grand Isle** on the west side of the pass.

(55) Oil derricks are conspicuous in the general vicinity of Barataria Pass, in 5 to 10 fathoms of water. A lighted whistle buoy, about 3 miles southeast of the end of the jetty, marks the approach to the dredged channel across the bar.

(56) Hard sandbars with from 2 to 5 feet over them extend for about 1 mile offshore on each side of the channel. The bar off the entrance channel shows in extremely heavy winds. Inside the bar, depths up to 12 feet extend north as far as **Queen Bess Island**. The tidal currents in Barataria Pass average about 1.4 knots. See the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov* for specific information about times, directions, and velocities of the current at numerous locations throughout the area. Links to a user guide for this service can be found in chapter 1 of this book.

(57) **Bayou Rigaud**, on the north side of Grand Isle, is the approach to the town of Grand Isle, 4 miles west of Barataria Pass. A dredged channel leads southwest from just inside the pass for about 3.7 miles through Bayou Rigaud to the town of Grand Isle. It is reported that the entrance is subject to shoaling; caution is advised. The channel is marked by lights, buoys and daybeacons.

(58) A privately marked channel leads north through Barataria Bay, east of Queen Bess Island and the daybeacon marking Shell Reef to a point southwest of Big Island, thence east to Rattlesnake Bayou and the Freeport Sulphur Company Canal. About 3 feet can be carried in the channel.

(59) Former routes north through **Grand Bayou, Little Lake, Turtle Bay, Harvey Cutoff** and **Bayou Rigolettes** are little used as shoaling has occurred. Both Grand Bayou and Bayou St. Denis lead into Little Lake with depths of about 5 feet reported in 1982. This depth reportedly can also be carried across the lake.

(60) Passage to the east is possible from the junction of Dupre Cut with Bayou Cutler across **Round Lake** and **Lake Laurier** into **Lake Judge Perez**. Local knowledge is advised.

(61) **Wilkinson Canal** enters Barataria Bay about 1.5 miles east of Bayou St. Denis. The canal, 11 miles long, leads to Myrtle Grove on the Mississippi River but does not enter the river. The canal depth is about 3 feet. Other similar canals north of Port Sulphur can be reached via Grand Bayou.

(62) From Barataria Bay the islands separating the bays from the Gulf, as well as the entrance channels between the islands, are undergoing continual changes. There are few aids to navigation, and local knowledge is necessary.

(63) Considerable commerce moves on Barataria Waterway in seafood, shell, lumber and piles, clays and drilling mud, liquid sulfur, oil well pipe and supplies, petroleum products, cement, sand and gravel and machinery.

(64) **Grand Isle**, the only town on Barataria Bay, is in the center of a long, narrow island of the same name. Its residents, most of whom speak French, either work for the oil industry or engage in fishing. **Grand Isle Coast Guard Station** is on the northeast corner of the island. Several oil companies have marine repair bases at which oil well structures and barges are built or repaired, a shipyard, and several service wharves. Many shrimp, oil well supply, and crewboats operate from Grand Isle. There is a 20-ton mobile hoist at the shipyard that can handle craft to 55 feet for hull repairs. Berths, electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, pump-out station, wet and dry storage, marine supplies, launching ramps and a 5-ton hoist are available at marinas near the bridge. Hull, engine and electronic repairs can be made.

(65) A paved highway connects Grand Isle with the main coastal road and New Orleans via Bayou Lafourche. The local heliport is owned by an oil company. Passengers are transported to New Orleans, the offshore oil wells or nearby oil company bases.

(66)

Pilots

(67) There are no licensed pilots at Grand Isle, but local fishermen may be engaged as guides for fishing and hunting parties. Charter boat captains act as pilots on request.

(68)

Note

(69) In the Barataria Bay area the name Grand Bayou appears on two bodies of water. The first is to the west of Bastian Bay, and the second is off the northwest side of Barataria Bay.

(70) **Lafitte**, along the east bank of the waterway about 29 miles above the entrance at the junction of Bayous Rigolettes, Dupont, and Barataria, is a small settlement that borders the waterway for about 6 miles. Several small marinas and an oil company supply base and wharf are at Lafitte. Berths, gasoline and diesel fuel are available. A paved highway along the east bank of the waterway connects with Lafitte, Crown Point and New Orleans.

(71) **Bayou des Oies**, locally known as **Goose Bayou**, enters Barataria Waterway about 3.5 miles south of Lafitte. State Route 45 highway bridge crosses the entrance to Bayou des Oies and has a 40-foot fixed span with a clearance of 10 feet. A large marina at the bridge and in a slip close east of the bridge has a marine lift that can handle craft to 10 tons for hull and engine repairs or storage. Berths, electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, launching ramp and marine supplies are available at the marina.

(72) Oil and gas terminals, shrimp docks and service wharves are on both banks of the waterways between Lafitte Village and the head of the waterway at its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway and Bayou Villars.

(73) There are several shipyards that build commercial vessels and repair commercial and pleasure craft along the east bank of the waterway at Lafitte. Boats up to about 70 feet are hauled out using marine railways or a marine lift for general repairs. Machine, wood and metal shops and welding equipment are available.

(74) **Barataria**, on the west bank, and **Lafitte**, on the east bank, are fishing and agricultural communities at the head of Barataria Waterway. A highway bridge crossing the waterway between Lafitte and Barataria has a swing span with a clearance of 7 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) There are shrimp and oil company docks and service wharves. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, marine supplies and berthage are available at the shipyard and at the service wharves.

(75) **Bay des Ilettes, Bay Joyeux, Bay Tambour** and **Caminada Bay** are on the west side of Barataria Bay from which they are partially separated by low, marshy islands. These are shallow bodies of water 2 to 4 feet in depth and of the same characteristics as Barataria Bay. These bays provide approaches to the Southwestern Louisiana Canal, which connects Barataria Bay with Bayou Lafourche and Timbale Bay. The channel through the bays is marked by privately maintained buoys.

(76) **Caminada Pass**, about 7 miles southwest of Barataria Bay, connects Caminada Bay with the Gulf. The pass is little used, as every storm shifts the entrance channel. Usually a depth of 4 to 5 feet can be taken into the pass, but only 2 or 3 feet into the bay. A private light marks the jetty on the north side of the entrance. Just inside the pass, an old highway bridge with its midsection removed is used as fishing piers. The southeast fishing pier is in ruins and partially submerged with debris; extreme caution is advised. A fixed highway bridge on the northeast side of the fishing piers has a clearance of 47 feet. An overhead power cable crossing at the bridge has a clearance of 23 feet.

(77)

Currents

(78) The tidal current in Caminada Pass averages 1.5 knots with higher speeds reported. See the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov* for specific information about times, directions, and velocities of the current at numerous locations throughout the area. Links to a user guide for this service can be found in chapter 1 of this book.

(79) Several wrecks are in the vicinity of the pass. The pass is not recommended for strangers. In May 1986, a sunken wreck was reported close north of the fixed bridge in about 29°12'30"N., 90°02'42"W.

(80)

ENCs - US3GC03M, US4LA32M
Charts - 11340, 11358

(81) The **Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP)** is a deepwater marine terminal in the Gulf of Mexico about 19 miles south of Caminada Pass. The terminal comprises an offshore pumping platform complex (PPC) and three single-point moorings (SPMs) about 1.3 miles east, southeast, and south of the pumping platform complex. The pumping platform complex, marked by private lights and equipped with two sound signals, consists of a control platform connected by a walkway bridge to a pumping platform. A racon is at the pumping platform.

(82) The LOOP site is within a **deepwater port safety zone** approached through a 78-mile-long **safety fairway**. The entrance to the safety zone from the safety fairway is marked by private lighted buoys. The PPC and each SPM is within an **area to be avoided**. An anchorage area, marked by private lighted buoys, is in the northeast part of the safety zone east of the PPC and SPMs. (See **33 CFR 150.301** through **150.345** and **150.900** through **150.940**, chapter 2, for limits and regulations.) The LOOP Vessel Traffic Supervisor, in addition to VHF-FM channels 10 and 74, monitors channel 16; voice call LOOP RADAR.

(83)

Caution

(84) Heavy runoff from the Mississippi River may cause strong west currents, often in excess of 2 knots, in the vicinity of LOOP. These currents may sometimes be recognized by the difference in color caused by the sediment in the runoff water.

(87)

Belle Pass and Port Fourchon, Louisiana
Image courtesy of Port Fourchon (2009)

(85)

ENC - US3LA02M
Chart - 11352

(86) **Belle Pass** (29°05.1'N., 90°13.5'W.), about 12 miles southwest of Caminada Pass, is the entrance from the Gulf of Mexico to Bayou Lafourche and Pass Fourchon. The dredged channel through the pass is marked by a **011.1°** lighted range, buoys and lights and the approach by a lighted bell buoy. The old entrance channel between the jetties close east of the dredged channel is closed by a dam.

(88) **Vessels should approach Bayou Lafourche and Pass Fourchon through the Belle Pass Safety Fairway.** (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(89)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(90) The lines established for Belle Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.830**, chapter 2.

(91) **Pass Fourchon** empties into the east side of Bayou Lafourche about 2 miles above the entrance to Belle Pass.

(92) **Port Fourchon** encompasses Pass Fourchon, Belle Pass and Bayou Lafourche for about 4 miles above its entrance. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission administers Port Fourchon. Visit: www.portfourchon.com. The port is the base of a large fishing fleet, offshore energy service and support companies, the LOOP operations and some shipping interests. Public facilities at the port include a commercial fishermen's marina and recreational boats launching ramps. Other facilities available are restaurants, stores, numerous fuel docks with crane and other services, charter fishing services, seafood and ice plants, oilfield service companies and a large repair yard. The entrance to the E-Slip, which has three legs and resembles the letter E, is about 0.6 mile north of Pass Fourchon on the southeast side of Port Fourchon and has charted depths of 18 to 27 feet. The port extends to the **Flotation Canal** on the east side of Bayou Lafourche, about 4 miles above the entrance. This canal has a reported depth of 25 to 27 feet and is the entryway to Port Fourchon's Northern Expansion area. The Northern Expansion includes Slips A, B, C, and D which are developed port waterways to the north of the E-Slip. A federal project provides for an improved channel in the entrance and through Belle Pass to Port Fourchon. For detailed channel information and minimum depths as reported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), use NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts. Surveys and channel condition reports are available through a USACE hydrographic survey website listed in Appendix A. In the event of major storm or hurricane, Port Fourchon has developed a detailed set of protocols and restrictions. Visit: //portfourchon.com/news-events/weather-storm-info/.

(93)

(94) **Bayou Lafourche**, formerly an outlet of the Mississippi River at Donaldsonville, 70 miles above Canal Street, New Orleans, is blocked off from the river by a levee. The bayou extends from Donaldsonville in a southeast direction for 93 miles and empties into the Gulf at Belle Pass, 19 miles southwest of Barataria Bay Light. The Intracoastal Waterway crosses the bayou at Larose. The bayou is navigable to Thibodaux, about 63 miles above the entrance at Belle Pass; above this point it is closed by a dam.

(95) A floodgate is about 2.5 miles south of Golden Meadow; horizontal clearance is 56 feet with 9 feet over the sill. Another floodgate with clearances of 56 feet horizontally and 10 feet over the sill is just below the intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at Larose.

(96) Numerous shrimp boats base at **Leeville**, **Golden Meadow, Galliano**, and **Larose**. Crew boats based at Leeville operate out of the bayou to the offshore oil wells. There are seafood canneries and shipyards along the bayou and oil company terminals and wharves at Leeville. There is considerable commerce on the bayou in seafood products, sugar, petroleum products, cement, lumber and piles, clays and drilling mud, liquid sulfur, sand and gravel, oil well pipe, machinery and supplies, caustic soda, chemicals and general cargo.

(97) There are numerous private warehouses, wharves and marine railways along the bayou. The banks of Bayou Lafourche are thickly settled throughout the greater part of its length. **Lockport**, **Raceland** and **Thibodaux** are principally agricultural towns. On the lower part of the bayou there is considerable commerce in oil barges.

(98) Many bridges and overhead power cables cross Bayou Lafourche and are described in order of ascension. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(99) At **Leeville**, on the west side of the bayou about 11 miles above the entrance, a fixed highway bridge crosses the bayou with a clearance of 73 feet. Severe tidal rips have been reported under the bridge. **Extreme caution is advised:** Water and current conditions at the Leeville Bridge may represent a hazard to navigation. Tide and other high water exchanges that may occur in the channel under the bridge pose the potential to create conditions that could cause vessels to lose adequate navigational control and impact the bridge or associated structures. Vessels traveling this waterway must be alert for high current conditions, the influence it may have on their vessel and the ability of the vessel to transit the waterway and under the bridge with power and steerage capable of responding to possible high current conditions. The vessel operator must also report any incidents involving the vessel and any contact with the bridge or associated structures. Also at Leeville, there are shrimp docks, seafood packing plants, and oil company terminals and bases. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, launching ramps and limited marine supplies are available. The

Southwestern Louisiana Canal crosses the bayou at Leeville.

(100) An overhead power cable with unknown clearance crosses the bayou about 3.3 miles north of Leeville.

(101) **Golden Meadow**, 20 miles above the entrance, is the principal fishing settlement on Bayou Lafourche. A highway vertical lift bridge with a clearance of 73 feet up and 2 feet down crosses the bayou at Golden Meadow. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465a**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) A boatyard, on the west side about 0.6 mile below the bridge, has marine railways that can handle craft up to 35 feet for general repairs. A shipyard, on the west side about 2 miles below the bridge, has a marine railway that can handle craft to 145 feet for hull repairs. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available at Golden Meadow.

(102) Two overhead power cables cross the bayou between Golden Meadow and Galliano; minimum clearance is 65 feet. In 1982, the cables were reported to have been removed.

(103) At **Galliano**, about 23.5 miles above the entrance, a highway pontoon bridge crosses the bayou. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465a**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Gasoline, diesel fuel and supplies are available at Galliano. Galliano is a **customs station**.

(104) A highway vertical lift bridge with a clearance of 73 feet up and 3 feet down and a pontoon bridge cross the bayou about 3 miles and 5.5 miles, respectively, above the pontoon bridge at Galliano. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465a**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(105) At **Cut Off**, about 30.8 miles above the entrance, a highway vertical lift bridge with a clearance of 73 feet up and 4 feet down crosses the bayou. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465a**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) On the west side of the bayou at Cut Off are several shipyards with marine railways that can handle craft up to 60 feet for repairs. An overhead power cable with a clearance of 91 feet crosses the bayou just above the pontoon bridge.

(106) At **Larose**, about 34 miles above the entrance to Bayou Lafourche, the Intracoastal Waterway crosses the bayou. A vertical lift bridge is about 0.5 mile southeast of the waterway with a clearance of 2 feet in the closed position and 73 feet in the open position. A lift bridge about 1.0 mile west of the waterway junction has a clearance of 2 feet in the closed position and 73 feet in the open position. There are two wharves on the southwest side of the intersection. Larose has several shipyards and boatyards. One shipyard with a 1,500-ton floating drydock is on the Intracoastal Waterway just southwest of its junction with Bayou Lafourche; general repairs can be made. Marine railways that can handle craft up to 60 feet for general repairs are available at the boatyards. Machine shops and radio repair facilities are also available. Fuel, water, ice and marine supplies can be obtained. A shipyard builds barges on the north side of the bayou just above the intersection.

(107) Mooring to the bulkheads in the vicinity of the intersection of Bayou Lafourche and the Intracoastal Waterway is **prohibited**.

(108) Two overhead power cables cross the bayou between Larose and Valentine; minimum clearance is 68 feet.

(109) At **Valentine**, about 39 miles above the entrance, a highway pontoon bridge crosses the bayou. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465b**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Valentine has a large sugar mill and paper mill. A shipyard that builds commercial vessels to 180 feet is on the east side of the bayou about 2 miles above Valentine. Marine railways at the yard can handle vessels to 170 feet for hull and engine repairs.

(110)

Pontoon bridges

(111) The pontoon bridges that cross Bayou Lafourche at Galliano, 5.5 miles above Galliano, and at Valentine are operated by cables that are suspended just above the water when the bridges are being opened or closed. The cables are dropped to the bottom when the bridges are in the fully opened or closed position. The pontoon bridge at Larose just east of the junction with the Intracoastal Waterway is operated by cables that are suspended just above or below the water when the bridge is being opened or closed. The cables are dropped to the bottom when the bridge is in the fully open position, but remain suspended while the bridge is fully closed. Extreme caution is advised in the area of these bridges. **Do not attempt to pass through the bridges until they are fully opened and the cables are dropped to the bottom**.

(112) State Route 3220 highway swing bridge with a clearance of 6 feet, connecting State Routes 1 and 308, crosses Bayou Lafourche about 1.5 miles below Company Canal. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465c**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(113) **Lockport**, about 44 miles above the entrance, is a town at the intersection of Company Canal with Bayou Lafourche. State Route 655 highway swing bridge with a clearance of 6 feet crosses the bayou just below the intersection. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465c**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable with a clearance of 90 feet crosses the bayou just below the swing bridge.

(114) Lockport has a large shipyard and a boatyard. The shipyard builds boats, tugs and barges to 176 feet. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available. A Class II railroad connects Lockport with Valentine and New Orleans.

(115) Several overhead power cables cross the bayou between Lockport and Mathews; minimum clearance is 60 feet. Twin fixed highway bridges with clearances of 42 feet cross the bayou about 1.6 miles above the vertical lift bridge at Mathews.

(116) At **Mathews**, about 47 miles above the entrance, State Route 654 vertical lift bridge crosses the bayou with

a clearance of 50 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465d**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Several overhead power cables cross Bayou Lafourche between Mathews and Raceland; minimum clearance is 60 feet. Twin fixed highway bridges with clearances of 42 feet cross the bayou about 1.6 miles above the vertical lift bridge at Mathews.

(117) At **Raceland**, about 51 miles above the entrance, Bayou Lafourche is crossed by two vertical lift bridges about 0.5 mile apart. The more southerly bridge (SR 3199) has a clearance of 59 feet up and 7 feet down, and the northerly bridge (SR 3198) has a clearance of 50 feet up and 7 feet down. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465e**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(118) Several overhead power cables cross the bayou between Raceland and Lafourche; minimum clearance is 60 feet.

(119) At **Lafourche**, State Route 649 highway swing bridge with a clearance of 10 feet and a railroad swing bridge with a clearance of 19 feet cross the bayou about 57.4 and 59.9 miles, respectively, above the mouth. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.465f** and **117.465g**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) In 1993, a replacement State Route 649 highway bridge with a fixed span and design clearances of 18 feet-horizontal and 8 feet-vertical was under construction just above the existing highway bridge. Several overhead power cables cross the bayou between Lafourche and Thibodaux; minimum clearance is 33 feet.

(120) At **Thibodaux**, about 63 miles above the entrance, State Route 20 vertical lift bridge, kept in a closed position and with a clearance of 11 feet, crosses the bayou. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(121)

ENCs - US4LA32M, US3LA02M
Charts - 11358, 11352

(122) **Southwestern Louisiana Canal** connects Barataria Bay with Timbalier Bay and affords a protected inside passage for small boats. The canal crosses Bayou Lafourche at Leeville, about 11 miles above the bayou mouth. In 1982, it was reported that with a favorable tide about 6 feet could be carried through both Caminada Bay, the east approach, and Little Lake, the west approach. In 1992, the controlling depth was 2½ feet from Caminada Bay to Leeville, thence in 1982, 6 feet was reported from Leeville to Little Lake, except for shoaling at the west entrance. The east entrance to the canal is marked by a light.

(123) A privately marked channel leads across **Little Lake** to **Bayou Rosa**, thence through **Rosa Bay** to Lake Raccourci. **Deep Bayou** and **Bayou Blue** also connect Little Lake with **Lake Raccourci**. These approaches sometimes are staked but generally are difficult for a stranger. The main route to the canal from Barataria Bay is through **Bayou Fifi**, **Bay des Ilettes**,**Bayou Andre**or **Bay Joyeux** and **Caminada Bay**. The channel is marked by lights and daybeacons. Another route is through **East Champagne Bay**, Bay des Ilettes and **Bay Tambour** via a cut between the last named bays. Because this channel is not marked, strangers should hire fishermen as pilots.

(124) State Route 1 fixed highway bridge crosses the middle of the Southwest Louisiana Canal, making it necessary to enter the canal from Bayou Lafourche through a short cutoff.

(125)

Greys Canal to Cat Island Pass

(126) **Greys Canal**, 3 miles south of Leeville, with a connecting channel through Bayou Blue, offers the deepest and most used route from Bayou Lafourche to Lake Raccourci and Timbalier Bay. On a favorable tide, about 8 feet can be taken through the channel; the best water is reportedly found in midchannel. Bayou Blue also joins Little Lake.

(127) **Havoline Canal**, 6 miles south of Leeville, is a privately dredged canal that extends from Bayou Lafourche into Timbalier Bay. In 1982, the canal had a reported controlling depth of 7 feet. The approach channel leading through Timbalier Bay to the canal is marked by lights and private buoys that reportedly should be followed closely. Havoline Canal is open to the public without charge.

(128) **Timbalier Bay** and **Terrebonne Bay** are large shoal-water bays separated from the Gulf by a chain of low sand islands. These waters are accessible from the Gulf through several passes having depths of 4 to 14 feet; however, the depths in Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays range from 4 to 9 feet. There are no settlements of importance in the area, but the bays are frequented by large numbers of fishing and oystering craft which carry their catch through the inside passages to New Orleans and Houma. This area has numerous oil well structures.

(129) **Lake Barre**, north of Terrebonne Bay, has general depths of 4 to 6 feet. **Seabreeze (Lake Barre) Pass** provides a passage marked by a light into Bayou Terrebonne and to **Lake la Graisse** at the northwest end of Terrebonne Bay. **Pass Barre** connects with Terrebonne Bay, and several passages at the northeast corner of the bay lead to Lake Felicity.

(130) **Old Lady Lake** is a shoal body of water between Lake Raccourci and Lake Barre and south of Lake Felicity. Numerous passages connect with these lakes and with Timbalier Bay. The lake has depths of 3 to 4 feet, but the passes are very shallow and restrict entry to boats drawing 1 or 2 feet.

(131) **Lake Felicity**, with depths of 5 to 6 feet, is north of Old Lady Lake. Many bayous and passes connect with adjacent bays and lakes. Most of the bayous to the east and north of Lake Felicity are used as oyster bedding grounds and, accordingly, contain numerous oyster reefs. The water in the bayous shoals rapidly where the bayous widen, and the channels are difficult to follow

without local knowledge. An inside route between Bayou Terrebonne and Bayou Lafourche passes through Lake Felicity; thence through Bayou Jean Lacroix, Cutoff Canal, Grand Bayou Canal and Canal Blue. The entrance to Lake Felicity is marked by a light.

(132) **Lake Raccourci** is a shoal body of water lying north of Timbalier Bay. The general depths are 4 to 5 feet. The area around **Philo Brice Islands** and **Jacko Camp Bay** contains many oyster beds and fish traps. The oyster beds are marked by iron or brush stakes. Deep Bayou and Bayou Blue lead to Little Lake, and **Grand Pass Felicity** leads to Lake Felicity.

(133)

Dangers

(134) There are numerous oil well structures in and about Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays. Privately marked channels lead from Cat Island Pass to Bayou Terrebonne and Bayou Lafourche. Drilling operations are in progress near Caillou Island, **Brush Island** and East Timbalier Island. Mariners should use the waters in this area only with local knowledge.

(135)

Secondary channels in Timbalier Bay and Terrebonne Bay

(136) An unmarked channel leads west across Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays to Troiscent Piquets Bay and into Bayou Petit Caillou, south to Cat Island Pass or west into Lake Pelto.

(137) From the east and west channel crossing Terrebonne and Timbalier Bays, a channel extends northeast into Lake Raccourci passing through Philo Brice Islands northwest of the light and thence continuing east to the entrance to Bayou Blue leading to Bayou Lafourche. On a favorable tide a depth of about 5 feet can be carried into Lake Raccourci and about 4 feet into Bayou Blue.

(138) From inside Cat Island Pass, a channel extends north across the central portion of Terrebonne Bay to **Pass Barre**, which connects with Lake Barre. Depths of 7 feet can be carried into Lake Barre. A group of small low islands exists about 2.5 miles south of Pass Barre with shoaling to 5 feet close west.

(139) The route to Bayou Terrebonne is through the south entrance to Lake la Graisse. The channel through the lake is marked by lights, and a depth of about 3 feet can be carried into the bayou. A second route to Bayou Terrebonne from Lake Barre through Seabreeze Pass is good for 3 feet.

(140) A route leads from Seabreeze Pass across Lake Barre into Lake Felicity, thence to Grand Pass Felicity and across Lake Raccourci to Bayou Blue or Deep Bayou, and thence through either Southwestern Louisiana Canal or Greys Canal to Bayou Lafourche. An unmarked channel leads through Lake Chien, north of Lake Felicity, to Bayou Jean Lacroix. A light marks the east side of the entrance to Lake Chien.

(141) **Timbalier Island** and **East Timbalier Island** are the two largest islands in the chain separating Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays from the Gulf. In recent times the east end of Timbalier Island has been washed away and the west end built up to the west a like amount. East Timbalier Island has built up especially to the west, all but closing Grand Pass Timbalier. Several fish camps are reported on Timbalier Island and East Timbalier Island.

(142) **Grand Pass Timbalier**, at the west end of East Timbalier Island, has been filling up and is little used. The channel is narrow, winding and difficult to navigate; with local knowledge about 4 feet can be taken through the pass into Timbalier Bay.

(143) The structures of two abandoned lighthouses are off the southwest end of East Timbalier Island.

(144) **Little Pass Timbalier**, 2 miles west from Grand Pass Timbalier, is a wider and straighter channel used to enter Timbalier Bay. The pass has a depth of 6 feet on the outer bar and 4 feet on the inner bar. The channel branches at the inner end, the west branch being considered the safer and more generally used. It is reported that this pass is working west.

(145) **Caillou Pass** is a shallow passage between the north side of Timbalier Island and Caillou Island; local knowledge is advised.

(146) **Vessels should enter Terrebonne Bay through Cat Island Pass Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(147)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(148) The lines established for Cat Island Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.830**, chapter 2.

(149) **Cat Island Pass**, 60 miles west of Southwest Pass, connects the deepest part of Terrebonne Bay with the Gulf and is the principal entrance into Terrebonne Bay. The pass is marked by several lighted and unlighted buoys. In 2010, the controlling depth through the pass was 17 feet. The current in Cat Island Pass averages about 1.1 knots on the flood and 1.5 knots on the ebb; however, greater velocities have been reported.

(150)

ENCs - US3LA02M, US5LA27M, US5LA23M
Charts - 11352, 11355

(151) **Houma Navigation Canal** extends in a northwest direction from Cat Island Pass for about 8 miles across Terrebonne Bay, thence in a landcut in a north direction for about 23 miles to an intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway about 1 mile below Houma. The canal is maintained by the Corps of Engineers. The entrance and the section through Terrebonne Bay is marked by lights, lighted ranges and lighted and unlighted buoys.

(152) Bayou Petit Caillou crosses the canal about 9.8 miles above the entrance, and Bayou Grand Caillou crosses about 17.5 miles above the entrance. No other major waterways cross the canal. A pontoon bridge crosses the canal about 20 miles above the entrance. The bridge is operated by cables that are suspended just above the water when the bridge is being opened or closed. The cables are dropped

to the bottom when the bridge is in the fully open position but remain suspended while the bridge is fully closed. Extreme caution is advised in the area of the bridge. **Do not attempt to pass through the bridge until it is fully opened and the cables are dropped to the bottom**. The bridgetender monitors VHF-FM channel 13. State Route 661 highway bridge crossing the canal about 0.2 mile below the Intracoastal Waterway has a swing span with a clearance of 1 foot. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.455**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) The bridgetender monitors VHF-FM channel 13; call sign, WDT-573.

(153) There is considerable commerce on the navigation canal in seafood products, shell, lumber and piles, oil well drilling equipment, machinery and supplies, petroleum products, cement, sand and gravel and chemicals.

(154) **Bayou Pelton** joins the canal about 5.5 miles below Houma and extends southeast to Bayou Grand Caillou, described later in this chapter. In 1982, the controlling depth through Bayou Pelton and Bayou Grand Caillou to Dulac was 5 feet. Overhead power cables crossing Bayou Pelton about 0.2 mile southeast of its junction with Houma Navigation Canal have a least clearance of 62 feet.

(155) A highway bridge crossing the bayou about 0.5 mile south of the Intracoastal Waterway has a vertical lift span with clearances of 3 feet down and 73 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.460**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable about 0.3 mile south of the bridge has a clearance of 60 feet. There is considerable commerce on the bayou in petroleum products, shell, clay, shellfish and seafood, oil well pipe and building cement. The bayou has a large shipyard.

(156) **Houma**, the parish seat of Terrebonne Parish, is at the head of the Navigation Canal, about 32 miles above the entrance. The principal industries are seafood, petroleum, natural gas, sulphur and sugar and molasses. The area is important in agriculture and cattle raising. The area has numerous offshore oil company supply bases and shipyards. A large shipyard on Bayou la Carpe builds steel vessels and barges to 300 feet. A 4,000-ton floating drydock at the yard can handle vessels to 200 feet long, 92 feet wide and 16-foot draft. A 1,000-ton marine lift can haul out craft to 310 feet long. Marine railways at the yard can handle craft to 225 feet for hull and engine repairs; a 150-ton crawler crane is available. The city has seafood canneries, a sugar mill and cold storage facilities.

(157) U.S. Route 90, the main coastal highway, passes through the town, and a Class II railroad offers railway freight service. Southern Pacific Railroad bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway at the junction with Bayou la Carpe has a vertical lift span with clearances of 70 feet up and 4 feet down. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable with a clearance of 90 feet is close south of the bridge. The Houma airport and an industrial park are southeast of the city. Berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies of all kinds are available.

(158) **Bayou Terrebonne** is navigable to the town of Houma, 33 miles above its south mouth. For the lower 4 miles of its course, the bayou flows through a long, narrow delta separating Lake Barre and **Lake Jean Pierre** and **Lake Saint Jean Baptiste**. At its south end, Bayou Terrebonne empties into Pass Barre. From each of these are several entrances into the bayou. **Seabreeze (Lake Barre) Pass**, connecting Lake Barre and Lake la Graisse, crosses the north end of the delta and provides the main entrance into the bayou from both Lake Barre and Terrebonne Bay. A dredged channel in the bayou leads from Bush Canal to Houma. In 1986–1992, the controlling depth was 3½ feet from Lake Barre through Seabreeze Pass to the bayou; thence in 2006 shoaling to less than 2 feet was reported across the entire channel about 1 mile north of Light 7; thence in 1992, 5½ feet to the junction with Bush Canal; thence in 1996, 4½ feet to bayou Petit Caillou; thence in 1986, 2 feet to the junction with the Intracoastal Waterway at Houma, thence in 1979, 6 feet for about 0.4 mile to the Barrow Street bridge at Houma.

(159) In 1986–1992, the controlling depth was 3½ feet through Seabreeze Pass and Lake la Graisse to Terrebonne Bay. Between Seabreeze Pass and Pass Barre, **Bayou Jose** and another opening form a connection between Lake Barre and Lake Jean Pierre which can be used by boats drawing up to 2½ feet. In 1988, a submerged obstruction was reported in Bayou Terrebonne close northwest of Light 7.

(160) Lights mark the entrances to the bayou from Lake la Graisse and from Lake Barre.

(161) Bayou Terrebonne has considerable barge traffic in shell, seafood, sugar, petroleum products, building cement, clays and drilling mud, oil well pipe, machinery and supplies and general cargo.

(162) The banks of Bayou Terrebonne are thickly settled throughout the upper half, in which section mariners may find numerous settlements selling gasoline, oil and provisions. State highway 55 extends along the east bank of the bayou for 6 miles below Montegut to Lapeyrouse.

(163) Bayou Terrebonne crosses the Intracoastal Waterway at Houma and is joined by Bayou Petit Caillou 3 miles below Houma. At Bourg, 7 miles below Houma, a section of the **Company Canal**, knownas **Bourg Canal**, furnishes a cutoff between the bayou and the Intracoastal Waterway. In 1986, the controlling depth in Bourg Canal was 3 feet. State Route 24 vertical lift bridge crosses Bourg Canal just north of its intersection with Bayou Terrebonne and has clearances of 50 feet up and 5 feet down. In 2015, the bridge is unable to lift to the published clearance of 50 feet and can provide a reduced clearance of 25 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.438**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power cables crossing the canal have a least clearance of 80 feet. Another section of Company Canal extends north from the Intracoastal waterway and connects with Bayou

Lafourche at Lockport; in 1995, the controlling depth was 4½ feet.

(164) State Route 1 vertical lift highway bridge with clearances of 50 feet up and 5 feet down crosses Company Canal about 0.2 mile southwest of the canal's intersection with Bayou Lafourche. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.438**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Several other canals enter Bayou Terrebonne and are used by small boats. **Bush Canal**, witha reported controlling depth of 4 feet in 1982, connects Bayou Terrebonne with Bayou Petit Caillou about 12 miles above the entrance.

(165) Bayou Terrebonne is crossed by several highway bridges with swing and lift spans with ample openings and by numerous overhead cables with minimum clearance of 57 feet.

(166) **Lapeyrouse**, about 14 miles above the entrance, has a fish wharf with a service wharf at which diesel fuel, gasoline and ice are available, and a grocery store with a service wharf at which gasoline is available.

(167) **Point Barre**, about 16 miles above the entrance, has facilities for launching outboard motor boats and a commercial fish wharf.

(168) **Montegut**, about 20 miles above the entrance, has a boatyard with marine railways capable of handling craft to 50 feet for general repairs; the yard has a machine shop. Diesel fuel, water and limited marine supplies are available. A highway bridge at Montegut has a 45-foot vertical lift span with clearances of 3 feet down and 48 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49** and **117.505**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) A road connects Montegut with Bayou Petit Caillou.

(169) A highway bridge crossing the bayou at **Klondyke**, about 1 mile below Bourg, has a vertical lift span with a channel width of 45 feet and clearances of 3½ feet down and 47 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Gasoline in cans and some groceries can be obtained just above the bridge.

(170) A highway bridge with a 40-foot swing span and a clearance of 5 feet crosses Bayou Terrebonne at **Bourg**, about 25 miles above the entrance and just above the Bourg (Company) Canal. In 2012, a replacement swing bridge was under construction close east. Bourg Canal is crossed at Bourg by a highway vertical lift bridge with clearances of 5 feet down and 50 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Several overhead power cables cross Bourg Canal in the vicinity of this bridge; least clearance is 80 feet.

(171) Several overhead power cables with a least clearance of 50 feet cross Bayou Terrebonne between Bourg and Presquille.

(172) At **Presquille**, about 27 miles above the entrance to Bayou Terrebonne, State Route 24 highway bridge with a 45-foot fixed span and a clearance of 3 feet. A least clearance of 60 feet is available for the overhead power cables crossing the bayou between Presquille and Houma.

(173) At **Mechanicville**, about 29 miles above the entrance, State Route 3087 highway bridge with a 40-foot vertical lift span and clearances of 5 feet down and 50 feet up crosses Terrebonne Bayou. The highway bridge just east of Houma has a 40-foot swing span and a clearance of 3 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.505**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(174) **Bayou Petit Caillou** empties into **Troiscent Piquents Bay** on the west side of Terrebonne Bay, about 5 miles north of Wine Island Pass. A private light marks the south side of the passage between Terrebonne and Troiscent Piquets Bays.

(175) Bayou Petit Caillou is 29 miles long to its junction with Bayou Terrebonne 4 miles east of Houma. Several canals enter the bayou: Bush Canal leading to Bayou Terrebonne, and Boudreaux Canal and **Robinson Canal** connecting with Bayou Grand Caillou. Two miles above Cocodrie is a connecting route to Bayou Terrebonne through **Sevin Canal**, **Bay Negresse** and Lake la Graisse, good for 3 feet on a favorable tide. About 5 miles above the entrance the bayou crosses the Houma Navigation Canal. In 1996, the controlling depth in Bayou Petit Caillou was 5½ feet from its junction with Houma Navigational Canal to Boudreaux Canal; thence in 1986, 1 foot to Bayou Terrebonne.

(176) The lower portion of Bayou Petit Caillou is used considerably by local oystermen and fishermen. The bayou has considerable commerce in petroleum products and oil well pipe casing, machinery and supplies.

(177) A highway extends south along the west shore to **Cocodrie**, 6 miles above the mouth of the bayou. There are several oil company bases and fish wharves. Gasoline, diesel fuel and ice are available. A marina on a bayou about 0.2 mile west of Bayou Petit Caillou, at Cocodrie, has open and covered berths, gasoline, diesel fuel, a paved launching ramp, a 6½-ton fixed lift for handling boats up to 30 feet, ice, water and marine supplies. The marina is accessible with Bayou Petit Caillou through a channel with a reported controlling depth of 10 feet in 1982.

(178) Robinson Canal enters the bayou from west about 11 miles above the entrance. There is a shipyard on the bayou here and an oil refinery about 0.5 mile above it. **Bush Canal** enters the bayou from east about 3 miles above Robinson Canal. At **Boudreaux Canal**, 15 miles above the mouth, is a shrimp and oyster cannery.

(179) Several boatyards near **Chauvin** have marine railways that can haul out craft to 60 feet for general repairs; one has a machine shop. Gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricants, water, ice and marine supplies can be obtained at several places along the bayou.

(180) Six drawbridges cross Bayou Petit Caillou between its mouth and the junction with Bayou Terrebonne. The bridges with swing spans have a minimum width of 40 feet and a minimum clearance of 3 feet, and the limiting clearances at the lift bridges are 3 feet down and 47 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.475**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power

cables crossing the waterway have a minimum clearance of 50 feet.

(181) A channel from Bayou Petit Caillou through Boudreaux Canal, **Lake Boudreaux** and **Bayou Dulac** to Bayou Grand Caillou is marked with lights, buoys and daybeacons. In 1975, controlling depths were 8 feet in Boudreaux Canal and 5 feet through Lake Boudreaux; thence in 2009, 2 feet was reported through Bayou Dulac.

(182) **Wine Island Pass** is 3.5 miles west of Cat Island Pass and forms a passage between Wine Island and Isles Dernieres from the Gulf to Lake Pelto and Terrebonne Bay. The pass has depths of 5 to 9 feet over the bar and 7 to 8 feet inside where good anchorage is available. The channel lies close to Isles Dernieres, and, when any sea is running, breakers clearly outline the edges of the channel. The pass is unmarked.

(183)

Currents

(184) At Wine Island Pass, the tidal current at strength averages 1.7 knots on the flood and 1.9 knots on the ebb. At **Caillou Boca** at the west end of Lake Pelto the tidal current strength averages 1.3 knots on the flood and 0.7 knot on the ebb. The flood flows east and the ebb west. See the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov* for specific information about times, directions, and velocities of the current at numerous locations throughout the area. Links to a user guide for this service can be found in chapter 1 of this book.

(185) **Whiskey Pass** forms another passage from the Gulf to Lake Pelto through Isles Dernieres. The depths are 4 to 5 feet at the north end of the unmarked pass. In 2005, severe shoaling was reported in the pass; extreme caution is advised.

(186) The main passage from Terrebonne Bay to Lake Pelto, marked by buoys, lies between **Wine Island** and **Point Mast** and has a general depth of 6 to 7 feet. Another passage through Pass la Poule, which is good for a draft of 3 to 4 feet, is marked by private buoys.

(187) **Lake Pelto**, west of Terrebonne Bay and north of **Isles Dernieres**, has general depths of 5 to 7 feet. A protected inside route is afforded small craft drawing 4 to 5 feet from Timbalier and Terrebonne Bays west through Lake Pelto and **Caillou Boca** to Caillou Bay. The channel is marked by lights, buoys and a daybeacon.

(188)

ENC - US3LA02M
Chart - 11352

(189) An extensive network of lakes, bayous and canals extends inland between Terrebonne Bay and Atchafalaya Bay. Though sparsely populated, this area is frequented by local fishermen, trappers and oil development personnel. The principal entrances from the Gulf are described as follows:

(190) **Caillou Bay**, a large bight with general depths of 5 feet, is north and east of **Raccoon Point** at the west end of Isles Dernieres. An anchorage site with a depth of 7 to 8 feet is close inside Raccoon Point.

(191) **Coupe Colin**, 3 miles east of Raccoon Point, is shallow, changeable and difficult to follow and is not used even by local fishermen.

(192) **Vessels should approach Bayou Grand Caillou through the Bayou Grand Caillou Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(193) **Bayou Grand Caillou** empties into Caillou Bay 6.5 miles north of Raccoon Point. The entrance is marked by lights. In 1995, the controlling depth in the bayou was 5 feet from the entrance to **Dulac**, about 20 miles above the mouth. The bayou channels are marked by daybeacons and buoys for about 15 miles above the mouth.

(194) Bayou Grand Caillou crosses Houma Navigation Canal about 2.3 miles below Dulac and is joined by Bayou Dulac at Dulac.

(195) A dredged channel in Bayou Grand Caillou leads from Dulac to Bayou Pelton, thence through Bayou Pelton to Houma Navigation Canal.

(196) State Route 57 extends south along the east bank of Bayou Grand Caillou to below Dulac and connects with State Route 56 along Bayou Petit Caillou about 1.7 miles below Robinson Canal. A vertical lift highway bridge with clearances of 10 feet down and 73 feet up crosses the bayou at Dulac. A vertical lift highway bridge at Boudreaux has clearances of 3 feet down and 73 feet up.

(197) An overhead cable, 3 miles above the highway bridge at Boudreaux, has a clearance of 60 feet. Another overhead cable, 6 miles above the bridge and about 0.3 mile above the crossing with Ashland Canal, has a clearance of 25 feet.

(198) The highway bridge over Bayou Dulac, at Dulac, has a swing span with a clearance of 7 feet. Fixed bridges crossing Bayou Grand Caillou above the highway bridge have a minimum horizontal clearance of 15 feet and a vertical clearance of 1 foot.

(199) Bayou Grand Caillou has considerable commerce in seafood products, shell, petroleum products, clays and drilling mud, oil well pipe casing, machinery and industrial chemicals.

(200) Dulac has several oil company bases and wharves. A boatyard has marine railways, one of which is capable of handling craft up to 70 feet for hull repairs. On the bayou between Dulac and Boudreaux are numerous shrimp docks, seafood packing plants and ice plants. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and some marine supplies are available at the docks. A boatyard at **Boudreaux**, about 23 miles above the mouth, has four marine railways that can handle craft up to 50 feet for hull repairs. A machine shop is close by.

(201) **Grand Bayou du Large** extends between **Caillou Lake** and Caillou Bay. Depths of 5 to 6 feet are off the south entrance and 3 to 4 feet through a buoyed channel across Caillou Lake to **Grand Pass** connecting with **Bayou du Large** and with **Lake Mechant**. In 1992, a visible wreck was reported in the intersection of Grand Pass and

Bayou du Large in about 29°15'54"N., 90°56'10"W. A draft of 3 to 4 feet can be carried up Bayou du Large to **Falgout Canal** andthence into **Lake de Cade**. Lesser drafts can go to **Theriot** and thence to **Lake Theriot** through **Marmande Canal.**

(202) Bayou du Large is not navigable north of the public ramp at Theriot. Several overhead power cables cross the bayou south of Theriot; the clearance is 35 feet. Any of the cables can be removed, upon advance notice of 24 hours, for vessels requiring greater clearance. State Route 315 extends south along the east side of the bayou for several miles below Falgout Canal. This section of the bayou is heavily populated, and at several places gasoline and provisions are available. A boatyard on Bayou du Large, about 5 miles below Falgout Canal, has marine railways that can haul out craft to 65 feet for hull and engine repairs. A marina on the north side of Falgout Canal just west of its junction with Bayou du Large has gasoline, diesel fuel, open and covered berths, ice, launching ramps and marine supplies.

(203) The highway drawbridges in the Theriot area have a minimum channel width of 27 feet and a minimum clearance of 3 feet. Above Theriot, the bayou narrows and is crossed by fixed bridges with little or no clearance. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.443**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(204) Bayou du Large empties into **Taylors Bayou**, which flows into the Gulf 4 miles west of Bayou Grand Caillou entrance. A daybeacon marks the mouth of Taylors Bayou.

(205) **Oyster Bayou**, 13 miles northwest of Raccoon Point, connects the Gulf with Fourleague Bay, an arm of Atchafalaya Bay. This bayou affords a protected route for craft 3 to 3½ feet in draft going to Atchafalaya Bay from Caillou Bay or waters to the east. The bayou has several oyster reefs, which are usually marked by poles.

(206) The route across the south end of Fourleague Bay is marked by lights and daybeacons. Boats follow close along the east side of the daybeacons in a channel slightly deeper than the general bay depths. A light off Halters Island Point marks the entrance to Fourleague Bay from Atchafalaya Bay. **Blue Hammock Bayou** on the east side of Fourleague Bay is another entrance to the network of shallow inside waters in this vicinity. Boats drawing 3 to 4 feet can reach the Intracoastal Waterway on a favorable tide by way of **Lost Lake**, **Bayou de Cade**, Lake de Cade and **Minors Canal**. Blue Hammock Bayou also connects with Lake Mechant.

(207)

Ship Shoal

(208) **Ship Shoal**, lying about 9 miles south of Raccoon Point, is about 7 miles long in a general east-west direction and about 1.5 miles wide at the west end and has depths ranging from 9 to 12 feet. Depths of 13 to 30 feet and wrecks with a least depth of 5 feet over them extend about 23.5 miles east of the east end of Ship Shoal. In stormy weather the shoal may be distinguished at some distance off by a choppy or breaking sea. In calm weather its position is not indicated by natural phenomena and can best be avoided by using the lead or fathometer. Heavy rips have been reported about 15 miles southwest of Ship Shoal.

(209) Oil drilling structures, marked by lights, are located on all sides of Ship Shoal and up to 60 miles offshore as well as throughout the delta section. Wrecks and other obstructions, covered and unmarked, may exist on the shoal and in the surrounding areas; mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution.

(210) **Ship Shoal Obstruction Light** (28°54'52"N., 91°04'16"W.), a brown skeleton structure (an abandoned light house) on piles, is in 10 feet of water on the northwest part of Ship Shoal and about 86 miles west of Southwest Pass. The structure is marked by two quick flashing white obstruction lights, displayed at a height of 17 feet above water from the perimeter of the lower platform.

(211)

Currents

(212) Current predictions for four passes into Barataria Bay, two passes into Terrebonne Bay and several inside stations may be obtained from the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov*. Weather conditions often modify considerably the tidal currents in these passes.

(213)

ENCs - US4LA21M, US3LA02M, US4LA20M, US4LA22M
Charts - 11351, 11352, 11354

(214) **Atchafalaya Bay** is a large indentation in the coast of Louisiana 112 miles west of Southwest Pass, Mississippi River. The bay is about 28 miles long in nearly an east-west direction, averages 7 miles in width, is full of shoals and oyster reefs, and has general depths ranging from 3 to 9 feet. A fringe of reefs partially separates the bay from the Gulf, the east end being known as Point au Fer Shell Reef. The bay is the approach to Lower Atchafalaya River and the Port of Morgan City, with depths of 25 feet or less extending 25 miles off the channel entrance. **Belle Isle**, on the north shore of the bay, is 75 feet high and conspicuous for some distance offshore. Oil well structures and obstructions are throughout the area.

(215)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(216) The lines established for Atchafalaya Bay are described in **33 CFR 80.835**, chapter 2.

(217) **Vessels should enter Atchafalaya Bay through the Atchafalaya Pass Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(218)

Channels

(219) Atchafalaya Bay Ship Channel extends in a northeast direction from the Gulf to near the mouth of the Lower

Atchafalaya River. A federal project provides for a 20-foot by 400-foot dredged channel from the 20-foot contour in the Gulf to about 4 miles southwest of the mouth of the Lower Atchafalaya River. (See Notice to Mariners and latest editions of the charts for controlling depths.) The federal project depth of 20 feet and width of 400 feet continues into the mouth of the Lower Atchafalaya River to the Avoca Island Cutoff, thence northeast through the cutoff to Bayou Chene, thence through Bayou Chene to the junction with the Intracoastal Waterway, thence northwest along the Intracoastal Waterway through Bayou Beouf to the vicinity of the U.S. Highway Route 90 bridge at Morgan City.

(220) Lights and buoys mark Atchafalaya Bay ship channel. Point au Fer Reef Light marks the cut through Point au Fer Shell Reef. Strong currents will be encountered in the channel through Point au Fer Shell Reef, especially during north winds and extreme low tides.

(221) **Deer Island**, on the east side of the Lower Atchafalaya River entrance, can be approached through a short dredged channel just southwest of the island. The entrance is marked by a daybeacon. The channel has a reported depth of 4 feet.

(222)

Weather

(223) Fog is most frequent during January, February and March. South winds bring it in, and north winds clear it away.

(224)

Currents and freshets

(225) Freshets occur frequently during May and June, at which times the river overflows its banks and the current has considerable velocity, making it difficult to keep in the channel. During ordinary stages of the river, the current has a velocity of about 0.5 knot. When there are freshets in the rivers, the water in Atchafalaya Bay is quite fresh and that in the Cote Blanche Bays is nearly so. The discolored water coming out of the mouth of the river will be encountered well offshore, the distance depending much upon the direction of the wind.

(226) **Lower Atchafalaya River** flows south into the northeast corner of Atchafalaya Bay; it is the outlet for an extensive system of south Louisiana lakes and bayous known as the Atchafalaya navigation system, an inside passage to the Mississippi River about 180 miles above New Orleans.

(227) The Lower Atchafalaya River leads north from Atchafalaya Bay through Berwick Bay, thence west through Berwick Lock, and joins Bayou Teche 8 miles above the Berwick Lock near Patterson. The section of the river from Atchafalaya Bay to Berwick Lock has a crooked channel with depths from 21 to 113 feet over widths from 300 to 600 yards; the deepest water is generally in midstream.

(228) **That part of the Lower Atchafalaya River route from Mile 122 to mile 113 and from Berwick Lock northwest 1 mile into Bayou Teche is within the area of the Berwick Bay Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). (Berwick Bay VTS is discussed later in this chapter.)**

(229) **Bayou Shaffer** is a passage branching northeast to Bayou Boeuf from Sweetbay Lake in the Lower Atchafalaya River. An overhead power cable with a clearance of 113 feet crosses Bayou Shaffer near the junction with Bayou Boeuf. The bayou serves as a cutoff for vessels bound east from Atchafalaya Bay to the Intracoastal Waterway. In 1994, the controlling depth was 5½ feet.

(230) **That part of Bayou Shaffer for 1 mile below the junction with Bayou Boeuf is within the area of the Berwick Bay Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). (Berwick Bay VTS is discussed later in this chapter.)**

(231) **Avoca Island Cutoff** is a narrow channel joining Lower Atchafalaya River with Bayou Chene. The cutoff enters the east side of the river about 4 miles above the mouth. The channel has a federal project depth of 20 feet and width of 400 feet.

(232) **Bayou Chene** extends from Avoca Island Cutoff to join and become part of the Intracoastal Waterway. The channel has a federal project depth of 20 feet with a width of 400 feet.

(233) **Little Wax Bayou**, which branches west from the Lower Atchafalaya about 13.5 miles above the mouth, is part of the Intracoastal Waterway and is described later in this chapter.

(234) **Bayou Boeuf**, also part of the Intracoastal Waterway and described in chapter 12, joins the Lower Atchafalaya from east at Morgan City. The Intracoastal Waterway follows Lower Atchafalaya south for 2.5 miles to Little Wax Bayou.

(235) An alternate route of the Intracoastal Waterway, from Morgan City north to Port Allen on the Mississippi River and Bayou Grosse Tete, is described in chapter 12.

(236)

ENCs - US5LA27M, US5LA23M, US4LA20M, US4LA22M
Charts - 11355, 11354

(237) **Berwick Bay** is the section of the Lower Atchafalaya from Morgan City north to Sixmile Lake. Morgan City is on the east side of the bay and Berwick on the west side.

(238) Three bridges across Berwick Bay link Morgan City and Berwick. The Southern Pacific railroad vertical lift bridge has a clearance of 4 feet down and 73 feet up. The bridgetender monitors VHF-FM channel 13; call sign KW-4440. The U.S. 90 fixed highway bridges, about 400 and 500 yards above the railroad bridge, have clearances of 73 feet and 50 feet, respectively. A lighted approach danger range is shown from the west abutments of the fixed bridges. The range is visible only to downbound vessels and is designed to mark the west boundary of the suggested downbound course for approaching the bridges. **The range is not designed to be steered on. Mariners are cautioned not to rely solely on the range to safely navigate through the bridges**.

(244)

(239) **Vessel Traffic Service, Berwick Bay**, is operated by the U.S. Coast Guard to enhance the safety of navigation in the Berwick Bay area and consists of a communications network, vessel reporting points and a Vessel Traffic Center (VTC).

(240) When high-water conditions exist in this area, limitations as to the size and makeup of tows, and of certain types of cargo carried, are put into effect.

(241) Based upon information provided by masters of vessels and the bridgetender of the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge over Berwick Bay, the VTC may make recommendations to coordinate the flow of traffic in the vicinity of and through the bridges across Berwick Bay. While the recommendations of the VTC to coordinate the traffic flow are advisory in nature, compliance with reporting requirements, operating procedures and high-water vessel and traffic limitations is mandatory for those vessels which must participate in the VTS.

(242) Navigation safety information will be relayed by the VTC. Mutual planning by vessels using the bridge-to-bridge radiotelephone is encouraged. The purpose of the Berwick Bay Vessel Traffic Service is not to attempt to maneuver or navigate from shore, but to coordinate the flow of traffic through the Vessel Traffic Service area. The rules governing vessels operating in the Vessel Traffic Service area are give in **33 CFR Part 161**, chapter 2. In addition, the proper operating procedures are contained in the Berwick Bay Vessel Traffic Service Users Manual, available free from Berwick Bay Vessel Traffic Service, U.S. Coast Guard, 800 David Drive, Room 232, Morgan City, LA 70380-1304.

(243) **Port of Morgan City** is at the confluence of Atchafalaya River and the Intracoastal Waterway about 35 miles from deep water in the Gulf of Mexico. The port limits include the east quarter of the Parish of St. Marys from 91°17.4'W. to Bayous Boeuf and Chene, and from Sixmile Lake to the mouth of Atchafalaya River. Numerous inland waterways that radiate from the port make it a center for offshore oil exploration and development. There is considerable commerce in seafood, shell, petroleum products, building cement, sand and gravel, oil-well pipe casing, machinery and supplies and chemicals. The Port of Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District has jurisdiction over the port under a Board of Commissioners appointed by the governor of the state. The board establishes rules and regulations for the port. The Port of Morgan City can be contacted by telephone at 985–384–0850 and maintains a website at *www.portofmc.com*.

(245) **Morgan City**, on the east side of Berwick Bay, has several landings with ample depths for river boats; vessels generally go alongside, because of the depths and currents in the river. The principal industries are fishing, ship building, cement, petroleum, carbon black, chemicals, sulfur, salt, menhaden and some agriculture in the raising of rice and sugar. The city has ice and cold

storage plants. Tugs in excess of 4,500 hp operate from Morgan City.

(246) The Young Memorial Vocational Training Center, a school for navigation, seamanship and marine and electrical engineering, is located in Morgan City.

(247)

Quarantine, customs, immigration and agricultural quarantine

(248) (See chapter 3, Vessel Arrival Inspections, and Appendix A for addresses.)

(249) **Quarantine** is enforced in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Public Health Service. (See Public Health Service, chapter 1.)

(250) There is a hospital at Morgan City.

(251) Morgan City is a **customs port of entry**.

(252) A 1,300-foot-long wharf with 12 feet reported alongside is on the east side of Berwick Bay between the railroad lift bridge and the U.S. 90 highway bridge. The wharf has water and electrical connections.

(253)

Repairs

(254) Several shipbuilding and repair yards are at Morgan City and on Bayou Boeuf. There are also yards on Bayou Black at West Gibson and on Bayou Teche at Avalon. These yards have floating drydocks, marine railways and machine and other repair shops and build barges, tugs, crew boats, oil well structures and shrimp boats. The largest floating drydock, at one of the yards on Bayou Boeuf, has a 6,200-ton lifting capacity and can handle vessels to 250 feet long, 110-foot beam and 20-foot draft for complete repairs; a 750-ton floating crane is also available at this yard. The smaller yards build and repair tugs, shrimp boats and other fishing craft. A 500-ton floating crane and many smaller cranes are available at these yards. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available.

(255) There is a small marina at Morgan City with dockage. Additional dockage is available at the fueling piers, fishing and oil company piers and at the port dock.

(256) **Berwick**, opposite Morgan City on the west side of Berwick Bay, has several seafood, fertilizer and chemical plants, a shipyard and several oil company bases. The shipyard has several floating drydocks, the largest of which can handle vessels to 2,000 tons, 200 feet long, 79-foot beam, and 16-foot draft for general repairs; a 25-ton crane is available. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available.

(257)

Communications

(258) The port is served by a Class II railroad that has connections with other trunk railroads. U.S. Route 90 passes through the city. A state-owned airport is 14 miles west of the city at Patterson. Numerous truck lines operate out of the port.

(259)

ENCs - US5LA27M, US5LA23M, US4LA20M, US4LA22M, US4LA13M, US5LA13M, US3LA02M, US3LA01M

Charts - 11355, 11354, 11350, 11352, 11345

(260) **Bayou Teche** is a navigable waterway in south Louisiana parallel to and 35 miles west of the Mississippi River, meandering northwest for about 93 miles from its junction with Lower Atchafalaya River, about 8 miles west of **Berwick Lock**, to its sources in St. Landrys Parish. The lock has a length of 300 feet, width of 45 feet, and depth over the sill of 9 feet at mean low water. The lockmaster monitors VHF-FM channel 13. The lock operates from 0600 to 2200 daily.

(261) There is considerable commerce on Bayou Teche, and that part of Lower Atchafalaya River west of Berwick Lock, in seafood, shell, sugar, molasses, petroleum products, building cement, sand and gravel, oil-well pipe casing, machinery and supplies, fertilizer and chemicals. There are shipyards and sugar mills along the bayou. Shell barges are the principal users; shrimp boats operate to Patterson.

(262) The main state highway between New Orleans and Lake Charles follows the bayou through the principal towns.

(263) A dredged channel leads from Berwick Lock west through the Lower Atchafalaya River and Bayou Teche to Arnaudville, a distance of about 100 miles.

(264) The St. Mary Parish highway bridge about 7 miles above Berwick Lock at **Patterson** has a swing span with a clearance of 6 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.477**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable at the bridge has a clearance of 61 feet. An overhead power cable crossing the bayou about 8.5 miles above Berwick Lock has a clearance of 66 feet.

(265) A highway swing bridge with a clearance of 5 feet is at **Avalon** about 10.6 miles above the lock. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(266) A shipyard at Avalon has a 125-foot marine railway and a 250-ton drydock that can handle vessels to 125 feet long, 30-foot beam and 8-foot draft. Hull repairs can be made to steel and aluminum vessels.

(267) Bayou Teche crosses the Wax Lake Outlet channel at **Calumet**, about 12 miles above Berwick Lock. There are floodgates, which are usually open, across both sides of Bayou Teche at its junction with Wax Lake Outlet. During high-water stages, the east gate remains closed. The west gate is manned from 0500 to 1900 and is opened upon request. The floodgates are used by small craft only. The opened widths through the floodgates are 45 feet. The overhead power cable just east of the east floodgate has a clearance of 60 feet. Local information should be obtained before attempting the alternate route through Sixmile Lake.

(268) At **Centerville**, about 17 miles above the lock, an overhead power cable with a clearance of 60 feet crosses the bayou. A highway swing bridge with a clearance of 5 feet crosses the bayou about 0.5 mile west of Centerville.

(See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and 117.501, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(269) **Garden City**, 18.5 miles above Berwick Lock, is the site of a large lumber mill. An overhead power cable about 20 miles above the lock has a clearance of 66 feet.

(270) **Hanson Canal** is 20.2 miles above Berwick Lock; little used for navigation, it leads south from Bayou Teche at Garden City, turns west and enters and follows Bayou Portage to the Intracoastal Waterway in Bayou Bartholomew. In 1982, it was reported that the canal was used only by small outboard boats, and local knowledge was recommended. Near the junction of Hanson Canal and Bayou Teche are the remains of an abandoned lock; seven fixed bridges with minimum widths of 18 feet and clearances of 6 feet, overhead pipelines with clearances of 7 feet, and overhead power cables with clearances of 35 feet. Traffic between the Intracoastal Waterway and Bayou Teche is via the Charenton Canal discussed later in this chapter and in chapter 12.

(271) **Franklin**, about 22 miles above Berwick Lock, is an agricultural center that has several industries and is the seat of St. Mary Parish. **Franklin Canal**, southwestof Franklin, leads into **Bayou Portage** and connects with the Intracoastal Waterway at Bayou Bartholomew. In 1997, the controlling depth through Franklin Canal and Bayou Portage to Bayou Bartholomew was 4 feet. Near its north end, the canal is crossed by three overhead power cables with a least clearance of 60 feet, twin fixed highway bridges with a clearance of 50 feet and a highway swing bridge with a clearance of 7 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.445**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) In 1993, a visible wreck was reported 0.2 mile above the swing bridge in about 29°47'11.5"N., 91°31'11.0"W.

(272) An overhead power cable with a clearance of 60 feet crosses Bayou Teche just below Franklin.

(273) At the town of Franklin a highway bridge with a swing span has a clearance of 2 feet. An overhead power cable about 0.1 mile north of the bridge has a clearance of 60 feet. Another highway bridge with a swing span with a clearance of 4 feet is about 23 miles above Berwick Lock. An overhead television cable about 0.1 mile west of the highway bridge has a clearance of 60 feet. The railroad bridge that crosses the bayou 26.5 miles above the lock, with a width of 49 feet, was not being used in 1982, and its span was left in an open position. A highway bridge with a swing span crosses the bayou 27 miles above the lock and is under construction (2018). Several more bridges with swing spans cross the bayou between 31.1 and 48.1 miles above the lock; minimum clearance is 3 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Between Franklin and Jeanerette several overhead power cables cross the bayou; least clearance is 60 feet.

(274) Launching ramps are available at Franklin on the west side of Bayou Teche and near the head of Franklin Canal.

(275) **Jeanerette** is 44 miles above Berwick Lock and is chiefly a market town; its principal products are sugar, oil, pecans and peppers. There is a large foundry in the town.

(276) About 1 mile northwest of **Hope**, 46.5 miles above Berwick Lock, a highway swing bridge with a clearance of 5 feet crosses Bayou Teche. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(277) The highway bridge that crosses the bayou at **Olivier**, about 50 miles above Berwick Lock, has a swing span with a clearance of 4 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(278) A highway swing bridge with a clearance of 5 feet crosses the bayou about 1.5 miles above Olivier. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(279) Between Jeanerette and New Iberia are several overhead power cables that cross the bayou; least clearance is 60 feet.

(280) **New Iberia**, the seat of Iberia Parish, lies on the banks of Bayou Teche, 54 miles above Berwick Lock. The town is the center of an extensive agricultural area and has food processing plants, dairies, condiment factories and several small manufacturing industries and is a supply center for the oil development of the surrounding area. New Iberia has two hospitals.

(281) Several highway bridges with swing spans, one with a vertical lift span, and one with a bascule span, cross the bayou at New Iberia; least clearance is 4 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(282) The **Port of Iberia (Port of New Iberia)** is located 5 miles south of New Iberia, on **Commercial Canal**, which connects with the Intracoastal Waterway through **Acadiana Navigational Channel** and Bayou Carlin. From the Intracoastal Waterway, a channel leads southwest and across the bar into Weeks Bay at the northeast corner to Vermilion Bay. In 2000, the reported depth was 6 feet across the bar to the Intracoastal Waterway; thence in 2002, 10 feet to the head of the canal at the Port of Iberia.

(283) The port is 7 miles north of the Intracoastal Waterway, about 8.5 miles from Weeks Bay, and about 35 miles from deep water in the Gulf. The port has several slips and a small turning basin, all of which are reported to have a controlling depth of 14 feet in 1982. The principal industries located in the port area are sugar, chemicals, fertilizer, shell, grain, oil-well rig and machinery construction and repair, pipe coating and shipbuilding. Loading and docking facilities are available at the public dock. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water and ice are available. A shipyard in the port has two floating drydocks, the largest of which has a 3,300-ton lifting capacity and can handle vessels to 180 feet long, 79-foot beam, and 16-foot draft for complete repairs.

(284) The canal and port are governed by the Board of Directors of the Port Commission, Port of Iberia; telephone 337–364–1065; website address: www.portofiberia.com.

(285) There are highway and railroad connections to the port area.

(286) Several highway bridges with swing spans cross Bayou Teche between New Iberia and Loreauville; minimum channel width 50 feet and minimum clearance 3 feet. The highway bridge at Loreauville 61.9 miles above Berwick Lock has a vertical-lift span with a clearance of 3 feet down and 50 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power cables crossing the bayou between New Iberia and Loreauville have a least clearance of 60 feet.

(287) A shipbuilding plant on the west bank above **Loreauville,** about 8 miles above New Iberia, constructs aluminum boats to 135 feet long. In an emergency, they can handle boats to 80 feet long and with 7-foot draft for complete repairs. Marine supplies can be obtained at the yard.

(288) A highway bridge about 4.5 miles above Loreauville has a swing span with a clearance of 8 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable crosses the bayou between Loreauville and Keystone Lock; clearance is 60 feet.

(289) **Keystone Lock**,160 feet long and 36 feet wide with a depth of 9 feet over the sill, is 17 miles above New Iberia and 70.7 miles above Berwick Lock, and halfway, by highway, between New Iberia and St. Martinville. Traffic lights are at each end of the lock. Vessels should wait for the green light before entering the lock.

(290) The least clearance of overhead power cables between Keystone Lock and Ruth is 50 feet.

(291) A highway swing bridge with a clearance of 6½ feet is about 71.5 miles above Berwick Lock. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(292) **St. Martinville** is a town on Bayou Teche about 20 miles above New Iberia. An overhead power cable crossing the bayou at St. Martinville has a clearance of 67 feet. A highway bridge over the bayou 73.1 miles above Berwick Lock has a swing span with a width of 40 feet and a clearance of 4 feet. A combination railroad-and-highway bridge at **Levert**, 75.2 miles above the lock, has a swing span with a clearance of 8 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(293) A highway bridge at **Parks**, 78.8 miles above Berwick Lock, has a vertical lift span with a width of 41 feet and a clearance of 5 feet down and 50 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(294) A highway bridge crossing the bayou at **Ruth**, 83.6 miles above Berwick Lock, has a fixed span with a clearance of 6 feet.

(295) Several bridges and overhead power cables cross the bayou between Ruth and Arnaudville. Least clearances are: swing spans, 15 feet; vertical-lift spans, 1 foot down, 51 feet up; removable spans, 5 feet; fixed spans, 7 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.501**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power cables between Ruth and Arnaudville have a least known clearance of 40 feet.

(296) The Lower Atchafalaya River leads north from Berwick Bay through Stouts Pass to Sixmile Lake. The marked channel north through **Sixmile Lake** and **Grand Lake** is part of the Atchafalaya River navigation system discussed in chapter 12.

(297) **Wax Lake Outlet**, a drainage canal for the Atchafalaya Floodway, is not a maintained waterway; however, it has some light barge traffic. This outlet leads south-southwest from Sixmile Lake to Atchafalaya Bay, crosses Bayou Teche near Calumet, the Intracoastal Waterway in the vicinity of Possum Point Bayou, thence through Wax Lake into the bay. An overhead pipeline bridge with a clearance of 33 feet crosses the canal 0.8 mile north of Bayou Teche. Three bridges with fixed channel spans and a minimum clearance of 2 feet control navigation in the canal south of Bayou Teche. An overhead power cable about 150 yards south of the bridges has a clearance of 60 feet. Overhead pipeline bridges 0.3 to 0.4 mile south of the bridges have a least clearance of 73 feet. An overhead telephone cable just north of the bridges has a clearance of 18 feet. In 1969 the entrance to Wax Lake Outlet from Sixmile Lake was reported to be marked by private buoys; also reported was an old sugar mill and stack on the east side of the entrance. Strong currents are reported to exist in Wax Lake Outlet.

(298)

ENC - US4LA21M
Chart - 11351

(299) **Little Wax Bayou**, branching west from Lower Atchafalaya River 2.5 miles below Morgan City, empties into **Wax Lake** and through **Wax Lake Pass** and **New Pass** into Atchafalaya Bay. The north end of the bayou has been straightened by dredged cuts to form the route of the Intracoastal Waterway west from Lower Atchafalaya River. **Big Wax Bayou** flows into Wax Lake Pass and through New Pass into Atchafalaya Bay. These bayous form an inside route from Morgan City to the west part of the bay. In 1969, shoaling to 2 feet and numerous uncharted stumps, snags and logs were reported in the approach to New Pass from Atchafalaya Bay extending about 4 miles south from a point in about 29°13.8'N., 91°26.5'W.

(300)

ENCs - US4LA13M, US5LA13M, US3LA01M, US4LA21M
Charts - 11350, 11345, 11351

(301) **Marsh Island**, on the south side of Vermilion Bay and west of Atchafalaya Bay, is low and marshy. The entire Gulf shore of the island is foul; numerous oyster reefs, some of which uncover at low water, extend for about 4.5 miles off the south point of the island. The

foul area should not be entered without local knowledge. **Shell Keys**, a low group of small islands 3 miles south-southwest of **Mound Point**, the southernmost point of Marsh Island, are only about 2 feet high.

(302) **Trinity Shoal** lies about 25 miles south of Southwest Pass, Vermilion Bay, and 60 miles 285° from Ship Shoal Obstruction Lights. The shoal is about 20 miles long in a west-southwest and east-northeast direction and has depths of 10 to 17 feet. It is fairly steep-to on its south side, the 5- and 10-fathom curves being distant only about 1 and 5 miles, respectively. In calm weather Trinity Shoal is discernible by a difference in the color of the water and in stormy weather by a choppy sea. Because of its greater depth, the sea does not break as heavily on Trinity Shoal as it does on Ship Shoal.

(303) Vessels should approach Southwest Pass through the prescribed Safety Fairway.(See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(304)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(305) The lines established for Southwest Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.835**, chapter 2.

(306) **Southwest Pass**, marked by lights, extends between the west end of Marsh Island and the mainland and is the entrance to Vermilion Bay from the Gulf. Although not difficult to enter, the pass may be difficult to recognize and local assistance is advised.

(307) **East Cote Blanche Bay**, **West Cote Blanche Bay**, and **Vermilion Bay** together make up a large body of water extending west-northwest from the northwest side of Atchafalaya Bay, and are separated from the Gulf by Marsh Island. This water area is about 32 miles long and 5 to 15 miles wide, with depths averaging of 5 to 9 feet. With the exception of Cote Blanche Island, Weeks Island and Avery Island, the shores of these bays and Marsh Island are low and marshy. In recent years there has been extensive oil exploration in the bays offshore from **Burns** off **South Bend** in East Cote Blanche Bay, along the northwest shore in West Cote Blanche Bay and on Dry Reef.

(308) Boats bound from Atchafalaya Bay to East Cote Blanche Bay generally use **Morrison Cutoff**, which is between **Point Chevreuil** on the east and **Rabbit Island** on the west. Under favorable conditions a draft of 4 to 5 feet can be carried through the cutoff into East Cote Blanche Bay and thence through West Cote Blanche Bay to Vermilion Bay. Local knowledge is needed to carry the best water.

(309) **The Jaws**, at the northeast corner of West Cote Blanche Bay, is a passage connecting the bay with the Intracoastal Waterway and with **Charenton Drainage and Navigation Canal**. Knowledge of local existing conditions is advised. A passage through the bay from off **Point Marone** through The Jaws is marked by private buoys.

(310) **Cote Blanche Island**, 97 feet high, is on the north side of West Cote Blanche Bay. From the bay side, the island appears as a reddish-yellow steep bluff. **Ivanhoe Canal**, west of the island, connects West Cote Blanche Bay with the Intracoastal Waterway. In 1983, the canal had a reported controlling depth of 4½ feet. The canal is marked by private aids.

(311) **Cypremort Point**, on the east side of Vermilion Bay and northwest side of West Cote Blanche Bay, is the site of a summer resort. Several private canals, on which are homes and private docks, have been dredged into the banks on the north side of the point. Gasoline, diesel fuel, ice and a launching ramp are available at a fuel facility on the point. The canals and the channel leading to the fuel facility had reported controlling depths of about 3 feet in 1982. Private mooring slips are available. State Route 319 connects the point with the town of **Cypremort**.

(312) **Weeks Island**, 171 feet high, is east of **Weeks Bay**, the northeast extension of Vermilion Bay. The Intracoastal Waterway passes close along the west side of the island. Several storage tanks and the mine buildings make prominent landmarks from the bays; salt is mined on the island. There are rail and highway connections to **Balwin** on Bayou Teche. A large oil field is on the north side of Weeks Island.

(313) **Avery Canal** leads northwest from Vermilion Bay to a junction with Bayou Petite Anse at the Intracoastal Waterway. A dredged approach channel leads from Vermilion Bay to the canal. In 2000, the reported controlling depths were 6.9 feet in the entrance and 14.1 feet in Avery Canal. Lights mark the entrance channel.

(314) A dredged channel in **Bayou Petite Anse** leads from the Intracoastal Waterway north for about 5.3 miles to a fixed highway bridge at the north end of Avery Island.

(315) **Avery Island**, east of Bayou Petite Anse, has several mine buildings that show prominently from Vermilion Bay. A canal 9 feet deep leads from Bayou Petite Anse to a salt mine on the island. A railroad and a highway from New Iberia extend as far south as Avery Island.

(316) About 2.8 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway, the Acadiana Navigational Channel in **Bayou Carlin** branches northwest from Bayou Petite Anse for about 2.5 miles to a junction with Bayou Tigre and Delcambre Canal. The dredged channel in **Delcambre Canal** continues north to **Lake Peigneur**.

(317) **Delcambre** is on Delcambre Canal, 2 miles south of Lake Peigneur, and is the fishing center for Iberia Parish. The town has several seafood processing plants, public wharves and a shipyard with a marine railway capable of handling vessels to 65 feet. General hull and electronic repairs can be made. There is a marina where covered berthage can be obtained. Numerous shrimp boats base at the port. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available. Highway and railroad bridges with vertical lift spans cross the canal at Delcambre. Each bridge has a channel width of 40 feet; the Southern Pacific railroad bridge has a clearance of zero feet down and 46 feet up, and State Route 14 bascule bridge has a reported clearance of 4 feet down and 73 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.435**, chapter 2, for

drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable at the highway bridge has a clearance of 51 feet.

(318) **Jefferson Island**, on Lake Peigneur, is the site of a large salt mine. It is the head of navigation on the canal. The lake is cluttered with old piling and other obstructions.

(319) **Bayou Tigre**, navigated only by small craft at high tide, is a tortuous waterway extending from Bayou Carlin to **Erath**. Seven bridges cross the bayou; minimum width is 9 feet, and minimum clearance of fixed spans is 1 foot. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.507**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) A shipyard at Erath has a marine lift that can haul out craft to 60 feet for hull repairs.

(320) A private light and daybeacons in Vermilion Bay mark the entrance channel into **Boston Bayou**, about 7.3 miles southwest of Avery Canal. In 1986, the reported controlling depths were 3½ feet in the entrance channel, thence in 1980, 4 feet to the Intracoastal Waterway.

(321) **Vermilion River**, also known as **Bayou Vermilion** and so marked at the bridge crossings, flows from the north and crosses the Intracoastal Waterway and enters Vermilion Bay through **Four Mile Cutoff (Vermilion River Cutoff)**.

(322) A dredged channel leads from Vermilion Bay through Four Mile Cutoff, across the Intracoastal Waterway, and north in the Vermilion River to Lafayette. Lights mark the entrance channel. A channel, marked by lights, leads across Vermilion Bay from Southwest Pass to the entrance channel to Four Mile Cutoff. The entrance shoals rapidly after dredging and may be difficult to enter during the winter when strong winds from the north lower the water in the bay. In 1983, it was reported that the river channel is subject to shoaling at its junction with a small stream about 0.8 mile below the Pinhook Highway Bridge. Mariners are advised that strong currents may be encountered in the river. In 1982, several sunken barges were reported to be along the east bank of the river about 1 mile north of the junction with the Intracoastal Waterway. Caution is advised while navigating in the area.

(323) The limiting clearances of the numerous overhead power cables crossing the river are as follows: Intracoastal Waterway to Abbeville, 60 feet (just southwest of Abbeville); and Abbeville to Lafayette, 54 feet (at Milton). The least clearance of the three swing bridges across the river is 3 feet; of the six vertical lift bridges, 4 feet down and 50 feet up; and of the two fixed bridges, on railroad and one highway, at Lafayette, 5 feet vertical and 25 feet horizontal. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(324) Waterborne commerce on the Vermilion River is in petroleum products, shell, oil-well pipe casing, machinery, cement, sand and gravel and crushed rock.

(325) **Intracoastal City**, on the Vermilion River just north of the Intracoastal Waterway, has several offshore oil-well terminals and bases, a fish packing plant and wharf, boat club and several marinas and boatyards. The largest marine railway in the area can handle craft up to 50 feet for hull and engine repairs; lifts are also available. Floating cranes up to 250 tons, lifts and marine railways are available for hauling out barges for repairs at the oil company bases. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, marine supplies, a surfaced launching ramp and open and covered berthage are available. Depths of 4 to 14 feet were reported alongside the berths in 1982.

(326) A shipyard that builds and repairs tugs, party boats and barges is on the east side of the river at Bancker. The largest floating drydock at the yard has a capacity of 2,000 tons and can handle vessels to 200 feet long with 90-foot beam and 14-foot draft. Machine and welding shops, supplies and a 60-ton crane are available; fuel is available by truck.

(327) The **Port of Vermilion**, on the west side of the river just above Bancker, is the site of oilfield equipment fabrication companies. In 1982, the reported controlling depth in the port was 16 feet. A public dock at the port can provide gasoline and water.

(328) **Perry** is a small village about 16 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway. State Route 82 highway vertical lift bridge at Perry has a clearance of 10 feet down and 55 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) A shipyard on the west side just below the bridge has marine ways capable of handling crew boats up to 65 feet long and 7 feet in draft for general repairs. Gasoline and diesel fuel can be trucked in. There are metal, joiner and welding shops at the yard, and hull and engine repairs can be made.

(329) A service wharf for tugs and crew boats is on the west side of the Vermilion River about 18 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water and some marine supplies are available. A shipyard on the west side of the river at Abbeville, about 18.5 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway, builds and hauls out for repairs wooden and steel crew boats to 75 feet and steel barges to 120 feet long and 5 feet in draft. A 30-ton crane is available. Just above the yard, the Southern Pacific Railroad swing bridge with a clearance of 8 feet crosses the river. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(330) **Abbeville**, about 19 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway, is the seat of Vermilion Parish. There are grain elevators, grain driers, warehouses and a rice mill. The principal industries are oil and natural gas production, shell and cement, rice, cotton, wool, sugar, molasses and syrup, dairy products, poultry and cattle raising and light industry in manufacture of consumer goods. The city has a hospital and a municipal airport and is served by freight service of the Southern Pacific Railroad and bus lines. State Route 14 and State Route 14 Bypass highway bridges crossing the river at Abbeville have lift spans with minimum clearances of 6 feet down and 55 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead television cable just below State Route 14 highway bridge has a clearance of 60 feet. U.S. Route 167 and State Routes 14 and 82 pass through the city.

(331) Woodlawn Highway Bridge crossing the river about 27 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway has a swing span with a clearance of 13 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable with a clearance of 77 feet crosses the river about 0.3 mile below the bridge. Gasoline is available at a dock near the bridge. State Route 92 highway bridge at **Milton** about 29.7 miles above the waterway has a vertical lift span with clearances of 4 feet down and 50 feet up. (See **33 CFR117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power and television cables just below the bridge have a least clearance of 28 feet.

(332) Broussard Bridge (SR 733) about 32.2 miles above the waterway has a vertical lift span with clearances of 6 feet down and 52 feet up. New Flanders (SR 3073) highway bridge about 36 miles above the waterway has a swing span with a clearance of 13 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through**117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(333) Pinhook Highway Bridge (State Route 182) at Lafayette and about 39.5 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway has a 40-foot vertical lift span with clearances of 10 feet down and 50 feet up. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.509**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) In 1983, it was reported that during periods of high water, primarily during winter and spring, severe turbulence may be experienced at the bridge.

(334) **Lafayette**, about 42 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway, is the seat of Lafayette Parish. Lafayette is referred to as the administrative oil capital of the world and is the headquarters of over 600 major and associated oil companies. It is the historical and cultural center of the Acadian country and Cajun people. The University of Southwestern Louisiana is in the city. The principal industries are oil, natural gas and salt production, but the area is primarily agricultural with production of rice, cotton, soybeans, sugar, molasses, dairy products, livestock, wool and poultry. Shell is manufactured into cement, and sand, gravel and timber are important products. There are four large hospitals, two medical centers and a municipal auditorium in the city. The city is served by passenger and freight service of Amtrak and the Southern Pacific Railroad, bus lines and airlines. The Lafayette Municipal Airport is on the east side of the city. State Route 729 highway bridge at Lafayette has a 25-foot fixed span with a clearance of 5½ feet. Southern Pacific fixed railroad bridge, about 200 yards above the highway bridge, has a clearance of 21 feet. The bridges are the head of navigation for all but small shallow-draft vessels. In 1983, it was reported that during periods of high water, primarily winter and spring, severe turbulence may be encountered at the railroad bridge. A small-craft facility is on the east side of the river just above the railroad bridge, and a launching ramp is about 0.5 mile above the bridge. Fuel and supplies can be trucked to several locations in the city.

(335)

ENCs - US3LA01M, US4LA13M, US5LA13M
Charts - 11345, 11350

(336) **Freshwater Bayou Channel**, a dredged channel, leads from the Gulf to the entrance of **Freshwater Bayou Canal**. Freshwater Bayou Canal continues north to the Intracoastal Waterway near Intracoastal City. Lights and daybeacons mark the approach channel to the entrance of the canal and lights mark the canal to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway. A saltwater barrier lock is about 1.3 miles above the entrance and is in continuous operation. The lock is 600 feet long and 84 feet wide and has depths of 16 feet over the sills. Each end of the lock on the west side of the channel has 300-foot-long timber guidewall approaches.

(337) **Vessels should approach Freshwater Bayou from the Gulf through Freshwater Bayou Safety Fairway**. (See **33 CFR166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(338)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(339) The lines established for Freshwater Bayou are described in **33 CFR 80.835**, chapter 2.

(340) **Schooner Bayou** empties into the extreme west extension of Vermilion Bay and forms a part of the former inside route of Mermentau River through White and Grand Lakes and connecting passages. The best approach to Schooner Bayou is through Freshwater Bayou Canal, the dredged canal which takes off from the Intracoastal Waterway near Intracoastal City. In 2000, the controlling depth was 10 feet in Freshwater Bayou Canal from the Intracoastal Waterway to Schooner Bayou, thence in 1996, 5½ feet in Schooner Bayou to Schooner Bayou Control Structure. Isle Marrone Canal and North Prong-Schooner Bayou connect Schooner Bayou with the Intracoastal Waterway to the west of Vermilion Lock. In 1995, the controlling depth was 8 feet in North Prong-Schooner Bayou. Schooner Bayou Canal is crossed by State Route 82 highway bridge 3.3 miles east of White Lake. The bridge has a swing span with a clearance of 6 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59**, and **117.494**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable east of the bridge has a clearance of 95 feet.

(341) The entrance channel to the bayou from Vermilion Bay via Mud Point is no longer maintained and has a depth of about 2 feet. To enter by this route, follow the privately marked channel in the old Vermilion River entrance to the mouth of the bayou which is marked by a light.

(342) **Schooner Bayou Control Structure**, 4 miles inisde the bayou, prevents saltwater from flowing through Schooner Bayou Canal into White Lake; the floodgates are 75 feet wide and 12 feet deep over the sill at mean low water. During high water the gates will be opened to permit passage of any vessel that can navigate against the current, which can attain velocities of up to 5 knots. Vessels coming from east or west can bypass the floodgates by

going through North Prong-Schooner Bayou into the Intracoastal Waterway southeast of Forked Island.

(343) From Schooner Bayou Canal, the route crosses White, Turtle, Collicon and Grand Lakes. Several lights and daybeacons mark this route. During the dry summer months, when farmers pump water to irrigate their rice fields, water in the lakes lowers enough to hamper navigation. In 1996, the controlling depth was 4 feet from Schooner Bayou Control Structure through the lakes and connecting canals to Mermentau River.

(344) **White Lake** is 12 miles long and 6 miles wide and has depths of 4 feet or more over a mud bottom. The east and west entrances to the lake are marked by lights, both aids being on the north side of the channel. The course across the lake passes about 0.5 mile off the point in the middle of the north shore of the lake. The channel is not marked.

(345) Approach the east entrance with the line of the Schooner Bayou Canal in range ahead. The channel is narrow, and the spoil bank on the south side is marked by stakes. At the west end of the lake, pass about 10 to 15 yards south of the light just off the canal entrance.

(346) **Turtle Lake** is nearly round, with a diameter of about 0.75 mile, and is shallow. **Alligator Lake** is about the same size and depth. **Collicon Lake** is 3 miles long, 1 mile wide, and from 2 to 4 feet deep. On the west side of this lake an earth dike extends along the north side of the channel. Keep close to this dike, within 5 to 10 yards of it.

(347) **Grand Lake** is from 4 to 7 feet deep, but the entrances are subject to shoaling. At the southeast end of the lake, the entrance from Collicon Lake leads within 5 to 10 yards along the south side of an earthen dike. A light marks the outer end of the dike. There are lights on Umbrella Point and **Grassy Point** and on the east point at the entrance to the Mermentau River. From the Collicon Lake canal entrance, steer to pass about 0.5 mile off Short Point, the first point to the north, and about the same distance off **Umbrella Point**, the second point to north. From Umbrella Point, pass about 0.25 mile east of Grassy Point, and when beyond this point haul to west and pass well off the east point at the entrance to the Mermentau River, which is marked by a light. About 0.5 mile up the Mermentau River, the Intracoastal Waterway enters from east, follows the river for about 1 mile, and exits to west. The river channel is deep.

(348) A network of canals south from Schooner Bayou to Cheniere au Tigre and west to Pecan Island has been dredged through the marsh. **Sixmile Canal**, a 1.5-mile passage, leaves Schooner Bayou about 1.5 miles east of Schooner Bayou Control Structure and extends south to Freshwater Bayou Canal. **Belle Isle Bayou** enters Freshwater Bayou Canal about 5.3 miles south of Schooner Bayou.

(349) **Freshwater Bayou** and **Louisiana Fur Company Canal** enter Freshwater Bayou Canal from the west about 10 miles south of Schooner Bayou. Louisiana Fur Company Canal leads northwest for about 1.7 miles thence west and north for about 5 miles to the private facilities at a large oil field south of Pecan Island. There is a fish camp near the oil company base at which gasoline, diesel fuel, ice, groceries and a launching ramp are available.

(350) Other accesses to this network of canals is through **Deepwater Bayou**, which enters Vermilion Bay about 1.5 miles south of Schooner Bayou, or through **Fearman Lake** with outlets to Vermilion Bay on either side of **Redfish Point**. Fearman Lake is shallow, and local knowledge is necessary to carry the best water.

(351) **Belle Isle**, west of Vermilion Bay, is a low ridge with most of the area under cultivation. The elevation is only slightly above that of the marsh. The headquarters of the Audubon Society Game Preserve is at Audubon on **McIlhenny Canal** at its junction with Belle Isle Bayou at the west end of Belle Isle Lake.

(352) **Cheniere au Tigre**, 4 miles south of Belle Isle, is a wooded ridge about 3 miles long with its east end on the Gulf Coast. The 12-foot elevation on the ridge is the highest natural elevation in the locality.

(353) **Pecan Island**, south of White Lake, is a long, wooded ridge about 10 feet high. Pecan Island, a village on the south end of Pecan Island Canal, has a few stores with limited supplies. Gasoline may be obtained by portage.

(354) **Pecan Island Canal**, a dredged channel, leads south from White Lake to Pecan Island. In 1982, the reported controlling depth across the bar was 1 foot.

(355)

ENC - US3LA01M
Chart - 11345

(356) **Mermentau River** empties into the Gulf of Mexico 86 miles west of Atchafalaya Bay Entrance east of Calcasieu Pass. The entrance channel shifts frequently and should be approached with caution. From the Gulf, the Mermentau leads east through **Lower Mud Lake** and Upper Mud Lake, thence north into the southwest side of Grand Lake, out of the north end of Grand Lake to the Intracoastal Waterway and continuing on 32 miles through **Lake Arthur** to the head of navigation at the junction of **Bayou Nezpique** and **Bayou des Cannes**, where the river is formed.

(357)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(358) The lines established for the Mermentau River are described in **33 CFR 80.835**, chapter 2.

(359) The preferred entrance to Mermentau River is through **Mermentau River Navigation Channel**, a jettied entrance and landcut about 6 miles south-southeast of the natural entrance to Lower Mud Lake. The marked channel leads north to join the natural channel at the upper end of Lower Mud Lake.

(360) **Vessels should approach the jettied entrance to Lower Mud Lake from the Gulf through Lower Mud Lake Safety Fairway.** (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(361) Numerous aids mark the channel in the Mermentau River north of the Intracoastal Waterway. Near the center of Lake Arthur the channel passes through a constriction known as **The Narrows**.

(362) The control structure across Mermentau River at Catfish Point, just below Grand Lake, has dikes and three gates to prevent the inflow of saltwater. The gates are opened for passing boats. Each gate opening is 56 feet wide; the depths over the sills are 15 feet for the two southeast gates and 10 feet for the northwest gate.

(363) The principal commodities carried by barge on the river are petroleum products, oil-well pipe casing, machinery, clays and drilling mud, sand, gravel and crushed rock.

(364) Mermentau River is crossed by the following bridges; State Route 82 highway bridge has a swing span with a clearance of 13 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.480**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) State Route 14 highway bridge at Lake Arthur has a fixed span with a clearance of 50 feet. A public launch ramp is just north of the bridge on the west side of the channel. Overhead power cables crossing the river above Lake Arthur have a least clearance of 50 feet.

(365) At Mermentau, the Southern Pacific railroad bridge with a swing span has a clearance of 10 feet and the U.S. Route 90 fixed highway bridge has a clearance of 44 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Mariners should exercise extreme caution to prevent collision when approaching and navigating through the drawspan. Tows navigating through the drawspan shall not exceed one barge, and the towing vessels shall be made rigid abreast or astern of the barge.

(366) **Creole Canal** leads northwest from the Mermentau River, about 1.3 miles above its entrance. A launching ramp, ice and gasoline are available at a grocery store at the head of the canal. A reported depth of 3 feet could be carried to the facility in 1972. Several oil company supply bases are near the State Route 82 highway bridge. Diesel fuel is available at a fuel dock on the east side of the canal about 0.3 mile below the bridge.

(367) **Grand Chenier**, a small settlement on the east side of the river between Lower and Upper Mud Lakes, has a highway connection to Lake Charles. Gasoline, water and limited quantities of provisions are available in the village.

(368) **Lake Arthur**, a town on the northwest side of Lake Arthur 13 miles above the Intracoastal Waterway, has highway and rail connections to Lake Charles. A depth of about 6 feet can be taken to the city pier at Lake Arthur. Gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricants, water, ice and supplies are available in the town. A marina is on the south side of Lake Arthur, near **Laurents Point**. Gasoline, water, ice, camping, a launching ramp and supplies are available at the marina.

(369) **Mermentau**, 16 miles above Lake Arthur, is a rice milling center that has railroad and highway connections with New Orleans and Lake Charles.

(370) **Port of Jennings**, on the west side of Mermentau River just below the railroad bridge, has slips with barge loading facilities, open storage areas for oil-well pipe casings and supplies and rail facilities. Two shipyards in the port build tugs, crew boats and barges. A marine railway at one of the yards can handle craft up to 250 feet for general repairs. Mobile cranes up to 60 tons, machine, metal, welding and joiner shops are available.

(371) The town of **Jennings**, about 4 miles west of the port, is the center of natural gas production in southwest Louisiana. It is also an important agriculture center in raising of rice and livestock and in the production of fertilizer and cement from sea shells. Jennings has a hospital and is served by a Class II railroad and several bus lines.

(372) From the head of Mermentau River, **Bayou Nezpique** and **Bayou des Cannes** were navigable for depths and distances as follows: Bayou Nezpique, 12 feet for about 6.1 miles to Interstate Route 10 highway bridge in 1997, thence in 1963, 14 feet for 5.2 miles, thence 4 feet for about 11 miles; Bayou de Cannes, 11 feet for about 4 miles to the Interstate Route 10 bridge in 1997, thence in 1963, 4½ feet for about 2.6 miles.

(373) Crossing Bayou Nezpique northeast of Jennings are Interstate Route 10 twin fixed highway bridges with channel widths of 40 feet and clearances of 28 feet and State Route 97 fixed highway bridge, which has a width of 50 feet and a clearance of 26 feet. Overhead cables at the fixed bridge have a clearance of 39 feet, and an overhead power cable south of the twin bridges has a clearance of 61 feet.

(374) **Bayou des Cannes** is crossed at **Evangeline** by the twin fixed spans of Interstate Route 10, about 4 miles above the mouth with a 35-foot span and a clearance of 14 feet, and about 7.4 miles above the mouth by State Route 97 highway bridge with a 45-foot span with a clearance of 1 foot.

(375) **Bayou Plaquemine Brule** empties into Bayou des Cannes about 1 mile above Mermentau River. A channel leads east from the mouth of the bayou to near the town of **Crowley**. The principal commodities carried on the bayou are shell and rice. Crowley has a large rice mill and elevator.

(376) A ferry crosses the bayou southwest of **Egan**. The Southern Pacific railroad bridge crossing the bayou north of **Midland** has a swing span with a clearance of 5 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.489**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) A pontoon bridge crosses the bayou north of **Estherwood**. The bridge is operated by cables that are suspended just above the water when the bridge is being opened or closed. The cables are dropped to the bottom when the bridge is in the fully open position but remain suspended while the bridge is fully closed. Extreme caution is advised in the area of the bridge. **Do not attempt to pass through the bridge until it is fully opened and the cables are dropped to the bottom**. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.489**,

chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead cables crossing the bayou have a least clearance of 50 feet.

(377)

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Chart - 11345

(378) **Calcasieu Pass**, the outlet of Calcasieu Lake, is about 98 miles west of Atchafalaya Bay entrance and 78 miles east of Galveston entrance. It is the first and only deep-draft channel west of the Mississippi River and east of Sabine Pass.

(379)

Prominent features

(380) In the vicinity of Calcasieu Pass are the range and jetties and, at night, the occulting red obstruction lights on the many radio towers in the area. A silver elevated water tank in Cameron, two large LNG tanks at the entrance to the channel and three tall microwave towers 1.5 miles east of Cameron are very conspicuous from seaward.

(381) **Vessels should approach Calcasieu Pass through the prescribed Safety Fairways.** (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)

(382)

COLREGS Demarcation Lines

(383) The lines established for Calcasieu Pass are described in **33 CFR 80.835**, chapter 2.

(384) **Vessel Traffic Information Service (VTIS) and Pilotage**. Positive control of Calcasieu River navigation is arranged through vessel traffic scheduling procedures by calling 337–436–0372 when pilot services are required. The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District Harbormaster can also arrange for pilot services (337–493–3620.)

(385) **Vessel Traffic Service, Lake Charles**, operated by the Lake Charles Pilots, has been established for the Port of Lake Charles including the entire Calcasieu Ship Channel. The service extends from Calcasieu Channel Lighted Buoy CC (29°20'01"N., 93°13'18"W.) to the Interstate Route 10 Bridge at Lake Charles.

(386) This Vessel Traffic Information Service (VTIS) is designed to enhance navigational safety, security and efficiency and provides vessels with information regarding the movements and intentions of other vessels within the VTIS area. The Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District, through its agent(s) [harbormaster], establishes navigable waterway operating controls as authorized by Louisiana State Statute, LA R.S. 34:215, and is available for receiving special priority requests and for mediating disputes. Owners or agents of vessels may make mutual agreements on the priority of certain vessels. This VTIS is not intended in any way to supersede or alter applicable Navigation Rules. The working channels for the VTIS are VHF-FM channels 16 and 66A and VHF-FM international radio channel 66. Vessels calling "VTIS Lake Charles" shall give their name, length, beam, deepest fresh-water draft, maximum air draft, destination and ETA for the appropriate pilot boarding area. This information may also be sent via email to dispatch@lakecharlespilots.com prior to arrival. Vessels entering the VTIS area will be advised by VTIS Lake Charles of the other traffic navigating within the area. All vessels are requested to advise VTIS Lake Charles 6 hours before entering the system inbound, outbound, or maneuvering between points within the VTIS, and again approximately 1 hour prior to entering the system. Vessel transit projections/priorities may be governed by tide and current and are dependent upon available under-keel clearance. Otherwise, every attempt is made to offer pilotage to best optimize channel use toward minimizing demurrage. The Lake Charles Pilots consult and cooperate with the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District to assist best operation of the navigable waterway system under the District's jurisdiction.

(387) Vessels shall report to VTIS Lake Charles at the following positions:

(388) 1. When entering or leaving the Calcasieu Bar Channel, time and buoy number are reported.

(389) 2. Crossing the intersection of the Calcasieu Ship Channel and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), time is reported.

(390) 3. Upon arrival or departure at a terminal, or other destination, time is reported.

(391) 4. Dredges or other vessels working on the waterway will report to VTIS Lake Charles daily and at any time they change location within the VTIS area.

(392) 5. Vessels traveling in the Intracoastal Waterway and intending to cross or enter the ship channel should give a security call on VHF-FM channel 13, and call VTIS Lake Charles on VHF-FM Channel 66A 30 minutes prior to crossing or entry and adjust speed so as to enter the river when the channel is clear.

(393) 6. Vessels intending to transit the Calcasieu Ship Channel between the Intracoastal Waterway (Light 92) and Cameron (Light 48) should contact VTIS on VHF-FM 66A to check the existence and/or status of any moving safety zones or other deep-draft traffic that may require special consideration or action.

(394) **Pilotage, Calcasieu River Waterway (enroute to Lake Charles)**-State pilotage is compulsory for all foreign vessels and U.S. vessels under register in foreign trade. U.S. vessels over 1,600 tons in coastwise trade must have on board a pilot licensed by the federal government. Vessels that must use the buoyed channel due to draft constraints must embark the pilot in an area where there is sufficient water depth outside of the buoyed channel in order to provide a safe lee for pilot boarding and must have the pilot on board prior to entering the buoyed channel.

(395) Prior to disembarking pilots, vessels' draft must be such that vessels are capable of maneuvering outside the buoyed channel if necessary to provide a safe lee. Non-piloted shallow draft vessels optionally using the buoyed channel must give way to piloted deeper-draft vessels.

(396) Arrangements for pilot service are usually handled through the ships' agents, by telephone, 337–436–0372,

via email to dispatch@lakecharlespilots.com, or by radiotelephone on VHF-FM channel 16. The pilots carry portable VHF radios and use VHF-FM channel 66A as working frequency. The pilot office in Lake Charles monitors VHF-FM channels 66A and 16. The pilot office stands by for pilot orders and for the Vessel Traffic Information Service (VTIS). Traffic information can be obtained by any vessel using the traffic service. Lake Charles Pilots request notices directly from vessels requesting pilots via email to dispatch@lakecharlespilots.com or by telephone at 12 hours and six hours prior to ETA. A minimum 4-hour notice of time of arrival at one of the following designated pilot stations, where pilots will board, is required.

(397) **Multiple pilot boarding areas** exist due to the varying depths of water adjacent to the buoyed channel. Boardings and disembarkations normally are accomplished in the safety fairway outside of the buoyed channel. Vessels awaiting pilots should wait in the safety fairway, outside of the buoyed channel, in an area of sufficient water until the pilot boards the vessel.

(398) **Recommended Pilot Boarding Areas**

(399) **Station No. 1, for vessels drawing less than 30 feet**.–Near the entrance channel within 1 mile of 29°38.8'N., 93°19.5'W., and thence an area 1 mile wide extending 2.7 miles north-northwest on the east side of the channel to about 29°42.6'N. Small vessels should await the pilot in the northeast corner of the boarding area.

(400) **Station No. 2, for vessels drawing between 30 and 34 feet**.–An area on the east side of the outer approach channel 1 mile wide and extending 2.5 miles northwest and southeast from 29°34'N., 93°16'W.

(401) **Station No. 3, for vessels drawing between 34 feet and 36 feet.**–A circular area within 1 mile of a point in 29°27.3'N., 93°13.4'W., and thence an area 1 mile wide extending 2.7 miles north on the east side of the channel to about 29°31.1'N.

(402) **Station No. 4, for vessels drawing over 36 feet.**–A circular area within 1 mile of Calcasieu Channel Lighted Whistle CC (29°20'01"N., 93°13'18"W.).

(403) **Navigation Guidelines, Calcasieu River Waterway**–Substantial increasing numbers of large deeper draft oceangoing vessels navigate the Calcasieu River Channel. The channel is dredged to maintain a 40-foot depth and 800-foot bar channel and 400-foot River Channel. Based upon reported marine casualties and on navigational challenges arising from the increased traffic, and after consultation with local marine interests, certain guidelines exist to enhance safe navigation.

(404) No vessel will be required to meet another vessel within the VTIS area if, in the opinion of the master or pilot of either vessel, it would be hazardous to do so because of some special circumstance or condition.

(405) Proposed movement of drilling rigs, submersibles and other floating heavy equipment must be preapproved at least 24 hours in advance by the Lake Charles Pilots, Inc., Harbormaster and U. S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port representative. Mooring or anchoring these vessels or units within the system or otherwise obstructing traffic is prohibited without prior approval.

(406) One Cameron ferry monitors VHF-FM channels 13 and 30. Vessels transiting this area should contact the ferry for information as necessary.

(407) Meeting and passing situations involving two vessels with combined beams exceeding 50% of the available channel width are restricted. Both involved pilots may, however, agree that conditions are such that meeting or passing can be accomplished safely.

(408) In fog, or any condition that restricts visibility, vessels will not normally be moved until conditions improve to a point where one-mile visibility is available, throughout the route to be transited.

(409) All vessels transiting the channel must be ballasted to a condition that keeps the propeller and rudder submerged to a sufficient degree to maintain control of the vessel.

(410) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) vessels transiting within the pilotage area shall be piloted in accordance with the current U. S. Coast Guard Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Vessel Management and Emergency Plan promulgated by the cognizant USCG Captain of the Port.

(411) It is recommended that all vessels, particularly those that must navigate in the channel because of draft constraints, hereafter referred to as **deep-draft vessels**, strictly adhere to these guidelines. Nothing in them shall supersede nor alter any applicable laws or regulations.

(412) For purposes of these guidelines, **low-powered vessels** are those which are unable to maintain a speed of at least 8 knots through the water; **full-powered vessels** are those which are able to maintain 8 knots or more through the water. **Poor-handling vessels** are those which, because of steering characteristics, are unable to consistently navigate within the channel half-width. In all cases, vessels towed on a hawser are considered to be poor-handling vessels if the overall length of the tow exceeds 500 feet from the stern of the towing vessel to the stern of the tow. **Tandem tows**, except for small scows and nondescript vessels that operate outside the main channel, are unmanageable and should not be attempted.

(413) The entrance channel between the jetties is marked by Range A. Tides and currents should be obtained from the Tidal Current prediction service at *tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov*. Vessels arriving at the bar should give a Security call on VHF-FM channel 13, 30 minutes before entering the jetties. So as not to delay river traffic, low-powered or poor-handling vessels intending to enter the river should be prepared to delay up to 45 minutes, if necessary, to allow full-powered and more maneuverable vessels to precede them through the jetties.

(414) During liquified natural gas (LNG)/liquid propane gas (LPG) movements in the Calcasieu River, special restrictions are placed on this waterway by the local U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port. Copies of the local LNG/LPG Operations Plan may be obtained from the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas

(Captain of the Port) or from Marine Safety Unit Lake Charles.

(415)

Areas of Particular Concern

(416) Three areas in the Calcasieu River are considered to be particularly troublesome. These areas are listed in order of ascension when proceeding from sea.

(417) (1) **Entrance to Calcasieu Jetties** (29°44.7'N., 93°20.5'W.). This area has been the site of many collisions and near misses due to strong cross-currents that may run across the entrance. Vessels should avoid meeting situations, particularly with ships or tows, within one-quarter mile North or South of Lights 41 and 42 at the entrance to the jetties.

(418) (2) **Monkey Island** (29°47.0'N., 93°20.8'W.). This area is used extensively by the fishing and offshore exploration industries. Numerous fishing and offshore exploration boats are homeported in this area. Vessels transiting this area may require speed reduction to reduce wake.

(419) (3) **Intracoastal Waterway** (30°05.5'N., 93°19.5'W.). This represents the point at which this waterway crosses the Calcasieu River Channel. This water is extensively used by tows. The situation is further complicated by an LNG facility located on the **Industrial Canal** which is serviced by deep-draft vessels. Tows intending to cross or enter the main river channel from the Intracoastal Waterway should give a Security call on VHF-FM channel 13, 30 minutes prior to entry and adjust speed so as to enter the river when the channel is clear. Every effort, including holding, should be made to avoid unduly restricting full-powered vessels, and allow them to clear this area when either inbound or outbound. LNG vessels frequently transit the area between the Calcasieu Intersection and the entrance to the Industrial Canal at Devil's Elbow. These vessels have a moving safety zone in effect around them when in transit. East and west bound vessels and tows should be prepared to stop and hold their vessel either west of the Calcasieu Intersection or east of Devil's Elbow if requested to by the U.S. Coast Guard or the pilot on board an LNG ship.

(420) A **regulated navigation area** has been established in Calcasieu River from the Calcasieu jetties to and including the Port of Lake Charles. (See **33 CFR 165.1** through **165.13** and **165.807**, chapter 2, for limits and regulations.)

(421) The Trunkline liquified natural gas facility on Industrial Canal is within a **safety zone**. Additionally, the waters surrounding non-gasfree LNG carriers transiting Calcasieu River are a **safety zone**. (See **33 CFR 165.1** through **165.7**, **165.20**, **165.23**, and **165.805**, chapter 2, for limits and regulations.)

(422)

Channels

(423) The Calcasieu entrance has been improved by jetties and a deepwater channel. The jetties extend seaward from the shoreline for about 1.1 miles and are mostly above normal high tide. A federal project provides for a channel 42 feet deep across the outer bar from that depth in the Gulf to the entrance jetties, thence 40 feet through the jetties, thence to and in the Industrial Canal and turning basin north of Choupique Island, thence to the Port of Lake Charles wharves, and thence 35 feet to the Interstate Route 10/U.S. Route 90 highway bridge. For detailed channel information and minimum depths as reported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), use NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts. Surveys and channel condition reports are available through a USACE hydrographic survey website listed in Appendix A.

(424) The channel is marked by lighted buoys and lights. A lighted **351°51.7'** range leads across the bar between the jetties and into the pass.

(425)

Anchorages

(426) Large vessels should anchor in Calcasieu Pass Fairway Anchorage, west of the safety fairway. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.) Vessels up to 12 feet in draft can obtain excellent anchorage in the bend in the river at Cameron. While waiting for daylight or fog to lift, ships can anchor out of the fairway anywhere in Calcasieu River. No anchorages exist in the landcuts, and ships entering cuts are expected to complete passage. Deep-draft vessels normally anchor 2 to 3 miles southeast of the Pilot Boarding Station No. 4, being cognizant to avoid charted pipelines.

(427)

Dangers

(428) Seaward of the jetties, a moderate to strong current sweeps across the channel, normally setting in a west direction; however, strong west winds will cause a current reversal; mariners should exercise caution and be on the alert. Numerous collisions have occurred at the entrance to the jetties due to this set across the channel. Meeting or overtaking situations near the entrance should be avoided. A mud slush lying on the bottom, approximately 6 feet above the hard surface, frequently will be found in the channel seaward of the jetties and at various places above the pass. A 1- to 4-foot layer of soupy material, some 8 to 10 feet above the hard bottom and 20 to 23 feet below the surface, occasionally is encountered in the same localities.

(429) **Spoil banks** of undetermined depth exist on the west side of the entrance channel and outer channel except within a mile north and south of Calcasieu Channel Lighted Buoy 29, which area, the Lake Charles Pilots report, has been left clear for Pilot Station No. 1. Mariners are advised to avoid navigating across the spoil banks, because the actual depths may be considerably less than the charted depths.

(430) Submerged obstructions exist in the fairway anchorage west of the safety fairway.

(431)

Currents

(432) Currents at Cameron may exceed 4 knots.

(433)

Weather

(434) The climate is humid subtropical with a strong maritime character. The climate is influenced to a large degree by the amount of water surface provided by lakes, bayous, flooded rice fields and the proximity of the Gulf of Mexico. These areas modify relative humidity and temperature by decreasing the range of the extremes throughout the year. When south winds prevail, these effects are increased. When wind gradients are weak, a sea breeze is evident during the warmer part of the day. The area is also subject to occasional cold air masses during winter. In general, however, winters are mild, and cold spells are usually of short duration. Temperatures drop to freezing or below on about 14 days annually. This ranges from 3 to 32 days in individual years. Snow is negligible most of the time. However, in February 1895, a record snowstorm dumped 22 inches of snow at Lake Charles. Visibilities fall below 0.25 mile on about 50 days annually; October through March are the foggiest months. July is the warmest month with an average temperature of 83°F and January is the coolest with an average temperature of 42°F. The warmest temperature on record at Lake Charles is 107°F recorded in August 2000 and the coolest temperature on record is 11°F recorded in December 1989.

(435) The summer months are warm, although temperatures rarely exceed 100°F due to the marine influences and the assistance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms. While thunderstorms occur in every month, they are most frequent in July and August, when on one-half of the days in each month thunder is heard. Temperatures reach 90°F or above on an average of 74 days each season.

(436) Severe local windstorms, hailstorms and tornadoes can occur in any season but are most frequent in spring. Tornadoes and large damaging hail are unusual. Only one major tornado has been reported in Lake Charles, causing widespread damage but no fatalities. During the warmer months, small funnel clouds may be sighted at times. Some of these may reach the ground or water as twisters or waterspouts but usually cause little or no damage. Since 1900, the centers of several hurricanes have passed very near Lake Charles. Other less intense tropical storms have also affected weather in the area. In 2020, the strongest sustained wind was during Hurricane Laura at 130 mph. However, a wind of 90 mph can be expected about every 50 years, on average. The average annual rainfall at Lake Charles is 55.6 inches. June is the wettest with an average monthly rainfall of 5.6 inches while February and March are the driest months averaging 3.4 inches. The greatest 24-hour rainfall occurred in August 1962 when 10.22 inches was recorded.

(437)

Pilotage, Lake Charles

(438) Vessels are taken to and from Lake Charles day or night. The Lake Charles Pilots have three boats; CAMERON PILOT II, CALCASIEU PASS and LAKE CHARLES PILOT; each are blue with gray trim and the word PILOT on the cabin. The boats fly the International Code flag "H" by day and show the standard pilot lights (white over red) at night.

(439) Vessels to be boarded must provide a safe lee and have a pilot ladder rigged amidships, 6 feet (2 meters) above the water. Vessels whose freeboard exceeds 29 feet (9 meters) must rig a combination ladder with the bottom of the accommodation ladder no less than 23 feet (7 meters) above the water and the pilot ladder at 6 feet (2 meters) above the water.

(440) The northwest Gulf Federal Pilots can provide pilotage to U.S. vessels within the Calcasieu Ship Channel leading to ports in Cameron and Lake Charles. A nine-hour advance notice is requested prior to sea buoy arrival. For pilot boarding, it is advised that the pilot ladder be rigged 3 to 6 feet above the water on the leeward side at 6 to 8 knots. The pilot boat monitors VHF-FM channels 13 and 16 and works on channels 68 or 72. The northwest Gulf Federal Pilots are available by telephone at 409–781–8140, and detailed information and instructions are available at *nwgulffedpilot.com*.

(441) **Cameron**, the seat of Cameron Parish, is a fishing village on the east shore of Calcasieu Pass 2.5 miles above its entrance. The village has oil-well supply bases, a LGN export facility, shrimp-packing houses and a menhaden processing plant. Gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice and marine supplies are available; electrical and engine repairs can be made.

(442) Small craft may find berthing space or can anchor in the bend of the river near Cameron in depths of 12 to 30 feet. An auto ferry crosses the ship channel northwest of Cameron. Monkey Island was formed by the river and ship channel.

(443) **Calcasieu Lake**, at the head of Calcasieu Pass, 6 miles from the Gulf, is 15 miles long, 3 to 5 miles wide and 5 to 7 feet deep. The controlling depth off the entrance at the south end was reported to be 6 feet in 1982. The controlling depth at West Pass, at the north end, was about 3 feet, but the lake bottom is so soft that slightly greater drafts can drag through. A row of piles marks the west side of the channel across the lake. Along the south end of the lake is an old revetment, partly submerged, extending about 1.5 miles east. The shore areas on the south and west sides of the lake are part of the **Sabine National Wildlife Refuge**.

(444) **Grand Lake**, a summer resort on the northeast side of Calcasieu Lake, has numerous private piers.

(445) **Hackberry**, on the northwest side of the lake, is an oil drilling center. Both towns have highway connections to Lake Charles.

(446)

Calcasieu River

(447) **Calcasieu River** and **Ship Channel**, north of Calcasieu Pass, the ship channel cuts across points of land along the west side of Calcasieu Lake to a junction with

the Calcasieu River at **Choupique Island**. The channel is straight and well marked by lights and lighted ranges.

(448) The Intracoastal Waterway crosses the ship channel at the north end of Choupique Island, at the mouth of the Calcasieu River, and continues west through **Choupique Cutoff**. North of the intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway, **Industrial Canal** leads northeast to a turning basin. From the junction with Industrial Canal, the ship channel follows the natural channel of Calcasieu River to the north side of **Moss Lake**, thence bypassing the river through a landcut about 1 mile long to the west bend of the river just above Haymark Terminal, thence in the natural channel to Rose Bluff, thence through **Rose Bluff Cutoff** and continuing on the same course through a cut across the south end of **Coon Island**; thence, the east or right fork for about 1.5 miles to the port wharves at Port of Lake Charles. Deep water is along midchannel but, unlike most rivers, the deeper water often favors the points rather than the bends.

(449) **Calcasieu Landing** is on the west bank of the Calcasieu River just north of its junction with Choupique Cutoff. A shipyard here has two 2,000-ton floating drydocks that can handle ships up to 200 feet and barges up to 300 feet long and 55 feet wide with drafts of 14 feet for general repairs. A marine railway at the shipyard can handle vessels up to 200 feet. The yard builds tugs, crew boats, and barges up to 200 feet. There are metal, joiner, machine, and welding shops, a floating crane that can handle craft to 60 tons and tank cleaning facilities. A fuel dock adjoins the shipyard. Diesel fuel is available on a 24-hour basis at the dock or in midstream by barge. The fuel facility monitors VHF-FM channels 13 and 16 continuously.

(450) **Haymark Terminal, Vincent Landing** and **Rose Bluff** are sites of extensive oil refining, storage and shipping facilities on the Calcasieu River below Port of Lake Charles. They are discussed later in this chapter under wharves at Port Charles. An overhead power cable with a clearance of 170 feet crosses the river 0.7 mile above Vincent Landing.

(451) The I-210 highway bridge at the north end of Rose Bluff Cutoff, about 1.5 miles below Port of Lake Charles, has a fixed channel span with a clearance of 135 feet.

(452)

Note

(453) Considerable damage, including bank erosion, is being suffered by properties along the river, particularly in the vicinity of Vincent Landing and the south or lower portion of Moss Lake. The damage results principally from wave action of light tugs and light or partially loaded ships. (See **33 CFR 162.75** and **207.180**, chapter 2, for navigation regulations.) Mariners are directed to exercise every caution and to proceed at slow speed.

(454) **Bayou d'Inde**, branching west from Rose Bluff Cutoff, is crossed by State Route 108 highway bridge 3.7 miles above the cutoff. The bridge has a 38-foot removable span with a clearance of 8 feet. Just above it, the Kansas City Southern railroad bridge has a 33-foot removable span with a clearance of 6 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.441**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) Overhead power cables cross the bayou at all three bridges. The head of navigation on the bayou is 6.3 miles above the cutoff, which is 0.3 mile below Sulphur. In 1995, the controlling depth was 9½ feet to the highway bridge.

(455) **Contraband Bayou** branches east from Calcasieu River just south of Port of Lake Charles deepwater terminals. An overhead power cable with a clearance of 48 feet crosses the bayou about 1.1 miles above the mouth. A highway bridge crossing the bayou about 1.6 miles above the mouth has a fixed span with a clearance of 15 feet. The twin fixed spans of another highway bridge with a clearance of 15 feet are 0.1 mile above the first bridge. **Lake Charles Coast Guard Station** is about 1 mile inside the bayou.

(456) A cut made across a narrow neck of land left a channel that forms a complete loop around **Clooney Island**, enabling vessels to turn around and head downstream. A dredged channel leads west off the northwest side of the loop to a large alkali plant. A depth of about 18 feet can be carried to the first wharf in the channel, thence about 7 feet beyond the wharf.

(457) The **Port of Lake Charles**, about 32 miles from the Gulf, is opposite Clooney Island on the east bank of Calcasieu River and the north bank of Contraband Bayou. It is the only major port in west Louisiana. The principal imports are petroleum products, barite ores, lumber and steel products. The principal exports are petroleum coke, petroleum products, chemicals, bulk and general cargo, paper and other wood products. Other commodities handled at the port are canned foods, caustic soda, synthetic rubber, plastics, paper products and other general cargo.

(458) **Lake Charles**, the seat of Calcasieu Parish, is located around the east side of the lake about 34 miles from the Gulf. It is the center of large chemical, petroleum, natural gas, fish oil, synthetic rubber, salt, seafood and rice industries. There is a small regional airport south of the city and two private airports. McNeese State University is here. Interstate Route 10 and U.S. Route 90, the main east-west highways, pass through the city, and U.S. Routes 165 and 171 lead north out of the city.

(459)

Towage

(460) Several towing companies maintain offices at the Port of Lake Charles. Tugs up to 4,800 hp are available. Divers can be obtained.

(461)

Quarantine, customs, immigration and agricultural quarantine

(462) (See chapter 3, Vessel Arrival Inspections, and Appendix A for addresses.)

(471)

Facilities at Lake Charles, Louisiana

Name	Location	Berthing Space	Depths*	Deck Height	Purpose and Owner
North side of Industrial Canal					
Lake Charles Carbon Co. Wharf	30°06'37"N., 93°17'42"W.	1,340	31	15	Receipt and shipment of green coke, calcined petroleum coke, molded carbon and anode blocks. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District
CMS Trunkline LNG Co. Wharf	30°06'37"N., 93°17'28"W.	936	40	18	Receipt of liquified natural gas and bunkering fuel. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District
Haymark Terminal					
Calcasieu Refining Co. Wharf	30°08'08"N., 93°19'16"W.	725	17	6	Receipt and shipment of crude oil and petroleum products. Owned by Calcasieu Refining Co.
Shell Pipeline, Haymarket Terminal Wharf	30°08'09"N., 93°19'09"W.	480	25	6	Shipment of crude oil. Owned by Shell Pipeline.
West side of Calcasieu River					
Venco Lake Charles Calcining Plant and Westlake Styrene Ship Wharf	30°08'46"N., 93°20'00"W.	750	40	8	Receipt and shipment of calcined petroleum coke, benzene and styrene. Owned by Venco/ Venco and Westlake Styrene, Inc.
Conoco Pecan Grov Marine Terminal Wharf	30°08'59"N., 93°20'02"W.	560	25	14	Receipt and shipment of lube oil, crude oil and caustic sodium hydrosulfide by barge. Owned by Conoco, Inc.
Conoco Clifton Ridge Marine Terminal Barge Wharf	30°09'28"N., 93°19'44"W.	350	10	6	Receipt of crude oil and bunker fuel. Owned by Conoco, Inc.
Conoco Clifton Ridge Marine Terminal Tanker Wharf	30°09'22"N., 93°19'50"W.	960	40	12	Receipt of crude oil. Owned by Conoco, Inc.
Citgo Petroleum Corp. Clifton Ridge Terminal Tanker Wharf	30°09'33"N., 93°19'34"W.	1,290	40	10	Receipt and shipment of crude oil and petroleum feed stock. Owned by Citgo Petroleum Corp.
Citgo Petroleum Corp. Refinery, Dock B	30°10'28"N., 93°19'09"W.	900	40	12	Receipt and shipment of crude oil and petroleum products. Owned by Citgo Petroleum Corp.
Citgo Petroleum Corp. Refinery, Dock C	30°10'39"N., 93°19'05"W.	950	40	12	Receipt and shipment of petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gas by barge. Owned by Citgo Petroleum Corp.
Citgo Petroleum Corp. Refinery, Dock D	30°11'01"N., 93°18'40"W.	835	40	11	Receipt and shipment of propylene and petroleum products, inlcuding liquid wax and lubricating oils. Owned by Citgo Petroleum Corp.
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Bulk Terminal No. 1, Wharf	30°11'24"N., 93°18'04"W.	2,060	40	14	Receipt and shipment of dry bulk commodities, including green and calcined petroleum coke, barite ore and caustic soda. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
Old River					
PPG Industries, “A” Dock	30°12'53"N., 93°16'53"W.	400	40	8	Receipt and shipment of ethylene, vinyl chloride and ethylene dichloride. Owned by PPG Industries, Inc.
PPG Industries, “B” Dock	30°13'12"N., 93°16'45"W.	440	5 to 32	5	Receipt and shipment of liquid chlorine. Owned by PPG Industries, Inc.
PPG Industries, “C” Dock	30°13'24"N., 93°16'42"W.	880	18 to 40	7 to 13	Receipt and shipment of liquid caustic soda and organic solvents. Owned by PPG Industries, Inc.
North side of Contraband Bayou					
Lake Charles Public Grain Elevator Contraband Bayou Wharf, Ship Berth No. 10	30°12'34"N., 93°14'59"W.	675	35	14	Shipment of grain and woodchips. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Berth No. 9A	30°12'32"N., 93°15'08"W.	926	40	14	Receipt and shipment of conventional general cargo, and shipment of bagged commodities. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Berths Nos. 7, 8 and 9	30°12'41"N., 93°15'27"W.	1,527	35	14	Receipt and shipment of conventional general cargo. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.

Facilities at Lake Charles, Louisiana

Name	Location	Berthing Space	Depths*	Deck Height	Purpose and Owner
Port of Lake Charles					
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Berths Nos. 4, 5, and 6	30°13'02"N., 93°15'32"W.	1,600	35	14	Receipt and shipment of conventional general cargo. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Berths Nos. 1, 2, and 3	30°13'07"N., 93°15'29"W.	1,676	35	14	Receipt and shipment of conventional cargo, sulphur compounds and caustic soda. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Berth No. 15	30°13'05"N., 93°14'56"W.	850	40	14	Receipt and shipment of conventional cargo, linerboard and other paper products. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
West side of Lake Charles					
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District Westlake Bulk Terminal No. 4 Berth No. 13	30°13'55"N., 93°14'50"W.				Receipt and shipment of crushed stone by ship or barge. Owned by Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District.
off-shore site		900	35	12	
upper bulkhead		325	35	12	
lower bulkhead		135	14-24	8	
Holnam, Lake Charles Docks	30°13'36"N., 93°14'44"W.	400	25	11.3	Receipt and shipment of bulk cement. Owned by Holderbank, Inc.
Cooney Island Loop					
Conoco, Westlake Products Terminal Dock No. 1	30°13'55"N., 93°15'32"W.	695	40	15	Receipt of crude oil and shipment of petroleum products. Owned by Conoco, Inc.
Conoco, Westlake Products Terminal Dock No. 2	30°13'52"N., 93°15'18"W.	695	14	15	Receipt and shipment of crude oil and petroleum products by barge. Owned by Conoco, Inc.
Conoco, Westlake Products Terminal, Dock No. 3	30°13'47"N., 93°15'13"W.	800	40	14	Receipt and shipment of crude oil, petrochemicals and petroleum products. Owned by Conoco, Inc.

Dimensions are given in feet
* The depths given above are reported. For information on the latest depths contact the port authorities or the private operators.

(463) **Quarantine** is enforced in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Public Health Service. (See U.S. Public Health Service, chapter 1.)

(464) There are several hospitals in Lake Charles.

(465) Lake Charles is a **customs port of entry**.

(466)

Harbor regulations

(467) Federal regulations applicable to Lake Charles are those usually in force at most seaports of the United States as amplified specifically by Safety Zone and Regulated Navigation Area regulations at **33 CFR 165.805** and **165.807**. Local rules and regulations are enforced by the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District, a political sub-division of the State of Louisiana utilizing both physical and waterway operating jurisdictions.

(468)

Wharves

(469) Lake Charles has more than 70 piers and wharves. Only the deep-draft facilities are listed in the facilities table for Lake Charles. Most of the facilities have highway and railroad connections, water and electrical shore power.

(470) General cargo at the port is usually handled by ship's tackle; special handling equipment, if available, is mentioned in the description of the particular facility. Approximately 1 million square feet of transit shed space and about 22 acres of open storage are available in the port. Mobile cranes up to 150 tons are available at the port.

(472)

Supplies

(473) Marine supplies are available. Fresh water is available at most deep-draft wharves. Bunker fuels are available at several of the oil terminals and by barge from Port Arthur by prior arrangements.

(474)

Repairs

(475) Lake Charles has no facilities for making major repairs or drydocking deep-draft vessels; the nearest such facilities are at Beaumont, TX Shipyards at Calcasieu Landing and on Contraband Bayou are available for making minor above-the-waterline repairs to vessels and hull and engine repairs to smaller vessels.

(476)

Communications

(477) Three Class I railroads serve the city. Continental Express has scheduled service from the Lake Charles Regional Airport. Several bus lines and motor freight lines serve the city. Numerous steamship lines have scheduled service to all ports of the world. Several barge lines operate from the port.

(478) About 1 mile above the port docks, the river widens into **Lake Charles**. The lake is fairly circular and more than a mile in diameter. The city of Lake Charles fronts on the east shore. The river channel extends along the west side of the lake.

(479)

Small craft facilities

(480) Berthage, electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, wet storage, marine supplies, a 30-ton hoist for hull, engine and electronic repairs and reported depths to 8 feet are available in facilities across the river from the Port of Lake Charles, northeast of Berths 1, 2 and 3. Facilities on Contraband Bayou provide berthage, electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, water, ice, pump-out station, launching ramp, dry storage, marine supplies and a 30-ton hoist for vessels to 80 feet for hull, engine and electronic repairs. Good anchorage is available in the lake in depths of 8 to 10 feet. A marina off the Calcasieu River, about 0.9 mile north of Lake Charles, has gasoline, launching ramp, water and ice.

(481) **Westlake** is an industrial suburb of the city of Lake Charles on the west side of the Calcasieu River about 2 miles above the Port of Lake Charles wharves. U.S. Route 90 highway bridge that crosses the river and the north part of Lake Charles near Westlake has a fixed cantilever center span with clearance of 95 feet for a width of 380 feet and a clearance of 135 feet for the middle 200 feet of span. Just north of the highway bridge, the Southern Pacific railroad swing bridge has a clearance of 3 feet. The west opening is protected by a fender system and is the prescribed draw; any craft navigating the east opening does so at its own risk. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(482) **Calcasieu River Salt Water Barrier**, about 2.1 miles above the Kansas City Southern railroad bridge at Westlake, prevents salt water from flowing upriver and interfering with irrigation of the rice lands during the growing season.

(483) The barrier consists of a 56-foot-wide navigation structure with a depth of 13 feet over the sill, a floodway control structure parallel to and immediately south of the navigation structure and a dam on a loop of the river at Two O'Clock Point, about 3.9 miles above the floodway control structure.

(484) The dam prevents navigation upriver via the old river route. All traffic upriver is via the navigation structure. Mariners are cautioned not to pass through the floodway control structure under any conditions.

(485) The entrance channels to the navigation and floodway control structures are marked with large signs for the aid of navigation.

(486) The navigation and flood control structures are operated from 0600 to 2200 hours, 7 days a week. The control structure can be contacted on VHF-FM channel 14. Red and green lights and daybeacons are at each end of the navigation structure. Vessels should await the green signal before entering the navigation structure.

(487) An overhead power cable with a clearance of 136 feet crosses the river about 0.8 mile above the navigation structure.

(488) **West Fork** of Calcasieu River branches west about 0.9 mile above the navigation structure. Overhead power cables cross the fork about 3 miles above Calcasieu River, and a vertical lift bridge with a clearance of 14 feet down and 50 feet up crosses the fork about 4 miles above the river. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.49**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.) An overhead power cable is at the bridge. The U.S. Route 90 highway bridge, about 12 miles above Calcasieu River, has an 18-foot fixed span with a clearance of 10 feet.

(489) **Houston River** branches west from the West Fork of Calcasieu River. In 1995, the controlling depth was 13 feet to the fixed highway bridge at **Anthony**, about 3.8 miles above the mouth. Overhead power cables with a least clearance of 61 feet cross the river about 1 mile above the mouth. The highway bridge at Anthony has a 17-foot fixed span with a clearance of 10 feet. The Kansas City Southern railroad bridge about 5 miles above the mouth has a swing span with a channel width of 27 feet and clearance of 6 feet. (See **33 CFR 117.1** through **117.59** and **117.457**, chapter 2, for drawbridge regulations.)

(490) **English Bayou** branches east from Calcasieu River about 1.9 miles above the navigation structure. U.S. Route 171 fixed highway bridge with a clearance of 14 feet crosses the bayou about 0.7 mile above its mouth. An overhead power cable with a clearance of 45 feet crosses the bayou just above the bridge.

(491) U.S. Route 171 fixed highway bridge with a clearance of 35 feet crosses Calcasieu River about 4.6 miles above the navigation structure.

(492) In 1996, the controlling depth in Calcasieu River was 13 feet from Interstate Route 10/U.S. Route 90 bridge to the junction with **West Fork**, thence 6½ feet to **Point Fing** and to **Hecker**; above this point, the river is not navigable because of snags and trees.

(493)

Sabine Bank

(494) **Sabine Bank** is a succession of detached shoal spots parallel with and distant about 17 miles from the mainland. From the vicinity of Calcasieu Pass, the bank extends about 38 miles west to the vicinity of Sabine Pass and has several passages between the detached shoals. Depths on the shoals range from 16 to 30 feet and are subject to change.

(495) **Sabine Bank Light** (29°28'22"N., 93°43'21"W.), 30 feet above the water, is shown from a red conical tower on a cylindrical caisson, on one of the shallowest parts of the bank about 2 miles west of Sabine Bank Channel.

(496) **Sabine Bank Channel** leads through Sabine Bank through a passage locally known as **Hole in the Wall**. This is the most frequently used passage and is marked by lighted buoys. Sabine Bank Channel Lighted Buoy SB (29°25'01"N., 93°39'54"W.), marks the entrance to the

channel. There are several charted obstructions and shoal areas in the approach and around Sabine Bank Channel; mariners are advised to proceed with caution. The depths in the channel may be reduced as much as 3 feet during northers. The east part of the bank has several lighted oil well platforms.

(497) Vessels approaching the passes and entrances to the ports, or bound along the Gulf Coast between Calcasieu Pass and Brazos Santiago, should proceed in the charted shipping Safety Fairways. (See **33 CFR 166.100** through **166.200**, chapter 2.)