

# MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MSIB 007-21

Date: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **SAFETY ALERT:** **ATCHAFALAYA RIVER**

1. Based on current conditions and information provided by the National Weather Service, the Atchafalaya River gauge has reached, and is forecasted to remain above 5.0 feet. In accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 165.811, the following High Water Restrictions are in place for the Atchafalaya River in the vicinity of the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges, to include the waters extending 2000 yds north of the Highway 90 Bridge and 4000 yds south of the Morgan City Railroad Bridge (MCRRB):
  - a. Towing on a hawser is not authorized, except that one self-propelled vessel may tow one other vessel without barges Northbound
  - b. Max length of Northbound tandem tows remains 1,180 feet when transiting the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges
  - c. Max length of all Southbound tows transiting the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges is 600 feet
  - d. Max length of 600 feet and width of 70 feet for double wide tows, regardless of direction, when transiting the Morgan City Triple Span Bridges
  - e. Max length of 600 feet for all Westbound tows turning into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at Mile Marker 98.5 West of Harvey Locks (WHL)
  - f. Max length of 400 feet for all tows with a box in the lead
  - g. Minimal available horsepower requirements in accordance with 33 CFR TABLE 165.811(e) are in effect, and are as follows:

**TANDEM TOWS:** Minimum available horsepower for tows of 3,000 horsepower or less  
[The greater value listed]


Direction of Tow	Day (civil sunrise to civil sunset)	Night (civil sunset to civil sunrise)
Northbound	400 hp or 3x ( LoT-300 ft )	600 hp or 3 x ( LoT-200 ft )
Southbound	600 hp or 3 x ( LoT-200 ft )	600 hp or 3 x ( LoT )

**DOUBLE WIDE TOWS:** Minimum available horsepower for tows of 3,000 horsepower or less  
[The lesser value listed]

Direction of Tow	Day (civil sunrise to civil sunset)	Night (civil sunset to civil sunrise)
Northbound	1800 hp or 3x LoT	2400 hp or 3x LoT
Southbound	2400 hp or 3x LoT	3000 hp or 3x LoT

- h. Use of Shadow Boats to Meet Required Horsepower Criteria: All tows shall have at least 75% of the required horsepower wired-in when transiting the bridges. Once that condition is met, a shadow boat may be used to make up the remaining horsepower deficit.
  - i. Towing Certain Dangerous Cargoes (CDC) Barges, as defined in 33 CFR 160.202, shall have available horsepower of at least 600, or three times the length of tow, whichever is greater.
  - j. Mariners shall use extreme caution when transiting the Wax Lake Outlet due to high abeam currents. All mariners unfamiliar with this transit should consider using an assist vessel.
2. Vessels failing to comply with these VTS control measures may be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of up to \$25,000.
3. For further information on this advisory contact Coast Guard Morgan City Waterways Management at (985) 397-3289.
4. For a complete list of a current list of MSIBs within the COTP Houma Zone visit:

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/houma>

  
**J. W. Russell**  
**Captain, U.S. Coast Guard**  
**Captain of the Port**  
**Houma, Louisiana**