



# U. S. Coast Guard



# MSU Morgan City



# General Vessel and Barge Mooring Requirements for Heavy Weather

To promote safe navigation and protect vital infrastructure, the USCG will enforce the following regulations (33 CFR 165):

No person may:

- secure a vessel or barge to trees or other vegetation.
- allow a vessel or barge to be moored with unraveled or frayed lines or other defective worn mooring.
- moor barges side to side, nor end to end, unless they are secured to each other from fittings as close to each corner of abutting sides as practicable.





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# Barge Moorings



The person in charge shall ensure that a barge moored to another barge, a mooring or spud barge, a vessel, a wharf, or a pier, is secured as near as practicable to each abutting corner of the barge being moored by:

- Three parts of wire rope of at least  $7/8$  diameter with an eye at each end of the rope passed around the timberhead, caval, or button;
- A mooring of natural or synthetic fiber rope that has at least 75% of the breaking strength of three parts of  $7/8$  inch diameter wire rope; or
- Fixed rigging that is at least equivalent to three parts of  $7/8$  inch diameter wire rope.



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# Port Conditions

Port Condition **WHISKEY**: Anticipated gale force winds (34kts/39mph) within **72** hours

Port Condition **X-RAY**: Anticipated gale force winds (34kts/39mph) within **48** hours

Port Condition **YANKEE**: Anticipated gale force winds (34kts/39mph) within **24** hours

Port Condition **ZULU**: Anticipated gale force winds (34kts/39mph) within **12** hours





# Port Condition WHISKEY

## (T-72 hrs)

### ***Port Status: OPEN to all commercial traffic***

1. COTP will contact authorities, other government agencies, and industry stakeholders to identify and address concerns over port status, activities, and emergency preparations.
2. COTP will issue MSIB requiring the following information be submitted to VTS Berwick Bay: “Remaining in Port Checklist for 500 GT Vessels” (Annex A of the Maritime Hurricane Contingency Plan)
  - a) All self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 500 GT and all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs remaining in port must complete within 24 hours for approval.
  - b) Each vessel intending to remain in port must request permission from the waterfront facility where mooring and pass that information to the USCG.
3. USCG will increase harbor patrols and will advise vessel and facility operators of any unsafe conditions they observe.
4. USCG will advise vessel operators of anticipated times of floodgate and bridge closures affecting their ability to seek safe refuge.
5. USCG will advise port stakeholders of intentions for setting next condition.



# Port Condition X-RAY (T-48 hrs)

## ***Port Status: OPEN to all commercial traffic***

1. USCG will continue to contact waterfront facilities to determine their intentions and any vessels moored thereto.
2. USCG will *individually assess vessels* desiring to remain in port and issue COTP Orders as appropriate.
3. USCG will contact deep draft vessels at anchor and determine their intentions.
4. USCG will inspect wharf and pier areas with waterfront facility representatives during harbor patrols.
5. USCG will spot check mariners and waterways to determine the status of hurricane preparations.
6. USCG will advise port stakeholders of intentions of setting next Port Condition.



# Port Condition YANKEE

## (T-24 hrs)

### ***Port Status: Vessel Control measures in effect.***

1. The COTP may close portions of the port in response to forecasted weather and actual damage, impact, or threat in different geographic areas within the port.
2. The COTP will control vessel movements and activities as appropriate, to include closing ports to all commercial vessel traffic except as specifically allowed:
  - a) Port closures will not apply to vessels that are capable of completing the cargo load/discharge cycle in less than 12 hours.
  - b) Red flagged barges will not be allowed to moor from MM63 to MM47 (near Houma) on the GIWW and other population centers as identified by the COTP.
3. The COTP will issue COTP Order as appropriate for any vessels or facilities not complying with Port Condition requirements:
  - a) Each self-propelled vessel over 500 GT without COTP approval to stay in port will be directed out of port.
  - b) The COTP will approve or direct, as necessary, final mooring arrangements for vessels remaining in port.
4. USCG will advise port stakeholders of intentions of setting next Port Condition.



# Port Condition ZULU (T-12 hrs)

***Port Status: Vessel Control measures remain in effect, likely to increase as needed.***

1. *The default for ZULU is closure of port and facility operations.* The COTP may deviate from this default and keep ports open with restrictions and close only portions of the port in response to forecasted weather, actual damage, impact, or threat in different geographic ports within the COTP Zone.
2. All commercial vessel transits within the port will be closed except as specifically allowed by the COTP. *Transits will only be allowed if the voyage can be made safely* and mooring or anchorage space has been identified; or if the vessel is departing to sea and can reach safe water prior to encountering hurricane conditions.
3. The COTP will suspend cargo operations involving bulk liquid dangerous cargoes (including bunkering and lightering operations), unless COTP grants specific approval. *All operations involving Cargoes of Particular Hazard or Certain Dangerous Cargoes will be suspended.*



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All hurricane informational documents and Port Status will be posted on NAVCEN:

<https://navcen.uscg.gov/>

- Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) and Broadcast Notice to Mariners (BNMs) can be found under “Routing Planning/Maritime Safety Information”
- Port Status can be found on the Home Page under “Port Status and USCG Port Contacts”
- The VTS Berwick Bay Radio Procedures can be found under “Maritime Safety Information > Vessel Traffic Services > VTS Radio Procedures”

**MSU Morgan City OOD:**

**(985) 397-3300**

**MSU Morgan City Waterways:**

**(985) 855-0724**

**VTS Berwick Bay:**

**(985) 380-5322**

**MSU Houma OOD:**

**(985) 665-2437**

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# *Questions/Concerns?*



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