

Summary of HSC Anchorages Working Group Review

Purpose: Conduct risk assessments of all federal anchorage grounds outlined in 33 CFR 110.195 - Mississippi River below Baton Rouge, LA, including South and Southwest Passes.

Methodology: Split the review into 3 areas of assessment, based upon Pilot zones. Started with the Associated Branch (Bar) Pilots' zone (MM 0 to Sea Buoy) on 12DEC22. Crescent River Port Pilots Association's Zone (MM 0 to MM 95 AHP) assessment was conducted on 02FEB23. New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association's Zone (MM 95 to MM 232 AHP) was conducted on 02MAY23. Stakeholder representation included: cognizant pilots association, Coastal and Marine Operators (CAMO), and brownwater representatives.

Recommendations: Submit completed anchorage risk assessments to USCG District Eight Waterways Management Division. Convene follow-on meetings for NOBRA pilots zone and Crescent pilots zone to discuss anchorage expansions with all available stakeholders.

Individual summaries of each zone are below:

Bar Pilots Zone

- Concerns with shoaling at Pilottown Anchorage
- No great concerns with SWP Fairway anchorage; though, oil rigs do extend into this anchorage

Crescent Pilots Zone

- General concerns with timing and communication of beneficial use dredging which reduces ability to anchor deep draft vessels in certain anchorages
- Request to expand Emergency Anchorage.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project will be located just upriver of Wills Point anchorage; Crescent pilots are open to losing the top portion of this anchorage and regaining anchorage grounds in bottom portion. The way the CFR is currently written is inaccurate, but keeping that language will reflect the Crescent Pilots' request to gain anchorage grounds in the bottom portion.
- Will discuss re-writing regs for General & Quarantine anchorages; might remove language that states "no hazardous cargoes" in these anchorages.

NOBRA Pilots Zone

- General concerns with incursion of barge fleeting areas into anchorage grounds, and overall higher density traffic in this area
- Request to expand the following anchorages:
 - Kenner Bend Anchorage
 - Ama Anchorage
 - LaPlace Anchorage
 - Upper Grandview Reach Anchorage
 - Belmont Anchorage
 - Sunshine Anchorage – recommend also listing as Burnside Anchorage
 - Lower Baton Rouge Anchorage – recommend also listing as Miel Anchorage