



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

Project Fact Sheet

Official Project Name

Port of Iberia (locally known as AGMAC, or Acadian Gulf of Mexico Access Channel)

Location

Iberia Parish is located in south central Louisiana near the coast. The port is located south of the City of New Iberia.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide a deeper and wider navigation channel from the Port of Iberia to the Gulf of Mexico for the transportation of deepwater offshore exploration and production equipment fabricated at the port.

Status

An August 2002 reconnaissance report recommended continuing the feasibility phase of deepening the Commercial Canal, portions of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and Freshwater Bayou from 12 feet to 20 feet from the Port of Iberia to the Gulf of Mexico. (The Port of Iberia limited the study scope to a maximum authorized depth of -20-feet NAVD88.) The feasibility report and environmental impact statement were completed in October 2006 and the Chief of Engineers Report was completed in December 2006. The project is currently in the pre-construction engineering and design phase in which the first set of plans and specifications will be developed.

Benefit to the Community & Project Features

Benefit to the Community

Several fabricators of deepwater offshore oil and gas drilling structures are located at the Port of Iberia. According to the project's local sponsors, the revenue generated by these fabricators is critical to the region's economic stability. The completion of a deeper and wider navigation channel to accommodate the transportation of the fabricated structures will allow the companies who make them to remain competitive and viable.

Features

- 16-foot deep by 150-foot wide navigation channel
- New floodgates at both ends of Freshwater Bayou lock bypass channel

Sponsors

Port of Iberia

<http://www.portofiberia.com/>

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

<http://www.dotd.state.la.us/>

Authority

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 (General Investigation)

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 (Construction)

Scope

The movement of oil exploration into deeper water in the Gulf requires larger offshore oil rigs that cannot be delivered via the existing 12- and 13-foot channels. Port tenants are being denied contracts for the deck structures needed to complete these rigs. This project provides for enlargement of the channels in Commercial Canal, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and Freshwater Bayou, Freshwater Bayou Bypass Channel, and Freshwater Bayou Bar Channel. It provides for the existing channels to be dredged to a 16-foot navigable depth and a 150-foot width. The project includes features such as the floodgates that are designed to accommodate further deepening to a 20-foot depth if warranted in the future.