

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

CEMVN-ODT-C

16 October 2023

NAVIGATION BULLETIN NO. 23-129

**GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY**  
**HARVEY LOCK (UPDATE)**

Reference Navigation Bulletin No. 23-128, dated 13 October 2023, stating that Harvey Lock, which has been closed to marine traffic due to risk from reverse head conditions as a result of low water levels on the Mississippi River, is expected to reopen for navigation at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, 16 October 2023, due to forecasted weather that should allow for favorable locking conditions.

**MARINERS ARE ADVISED THAT ALGIERS LOCK IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO NAVIGATION DUE TO DEWATERING OPERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE CANAL END GATES AND IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATE ROUTE.**

The parameters listed below are safety measures concerning moving vessel traffic with an abundance of caution.

1. During the Mississippi River low water conditions, Harvey Lock will have additional operating procedures and restrictions for daylight operations only.
2. When positive head conditions are under 1.5 feet, tows will be restricted to 300 feet in length, which includes barge and boat. Additionally, there will be no breakouts allowed and no tows 70 feet wide will be locked through.
3. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will request that the U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) mandates slow bell on ships passing Harvey Lock. The USACE will cancel the slow bell request once the river has a head condition over 2 feet and resume normal lock operations.
4. During periods when deep draft ships are passing and positive head conditions are between 1.5 feet and 2 feet,

both sets of gates will remain closed with the water level in the chamber equal with the water level in the Harvey Canal.

5. Once the Mississippi River stage drops below 1 foot of positive head, the USACE will chain the river end gates as the lock continues operating.
6. Once the Mississippi River stage drops to 6 tenths of a foot of positive head, this will trigger the lock closing.
7. The USACE requests that all mariners lock with extreme caution. For questions, please contact the Head Lock Operator on duty at 504-366-5187.

The Lockmaster at Harvey Lock, Greg Desselles, can be reached at 504-366-4683 for up-to-date information (lock wall number is 504-366-5187). The points of contact with the New Orleans District are Vic Landry at 504-862-2407 and Robert Swayze at 504-862-2060.

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TRACY F. FALK  
Acting Chief, Technical Support Branch  
Operations Division