

USCG Sector Houston Galveston& MSU Port Arthur/Lake Charles

Waterways Analysis and Management System Questionnaire

Waterway: **Mermentau Entrance Channel to Lake Arthur (WAMS 8029)**

**Introduction:**

The United States Coast Guard is conducting a user survey for the entirety of the Mermentau Channel to Lake Arthur to validate the adequacy of the existing Aids to Navigation (AtoN) System and to gain a better understanding of the waterway users and general safety concerns. The information collected from this survey will be used to enhance safe navigation of the waterway and to anticipate future budgeting needs.. Please do not include any personal identifiable information in this survey.

**Included waterway areas:**

Mermentau Channel	Upper Mud Lake	Mermentau River
Grand Lake	White Lake	Lake Arthur

**Instructions:**

Please complete this editable survey and return to:

Sector Houston-Galveston  
Attn: Aids to Navigation Officer  
3000 Fort Point Road  
Galveston, TX 77553

The survey can also be saved as a PDF and emailed to [D08-DG-SFOGalveston-ATON@uscg.mil](mailto:D08-DG-SFOGalveston-ATON@uscg.mil). The comment period for this study ends 15 FEB 2023.

A blank copy of this survey is available on the Coast Guard Sector Houston Galveston Homeport page and the Coast Guard MSU Port Arthur/Lake Charles page:

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/my-homeport/safety-Notifications/Notice-to-Mariners?cotpid=28>

<https://homeport.uscg.mil/my-homeport/safety-Notifications/Notice-to-Mariners?cotpid=41>

1. Mariner Profile: If you operate more than one vessel, provide information for the vessel you operate the majority of the time. You may also submit separate surveys for other vessels in operation, if utilizing the waterway in different manner.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any vessel restrictions? (e.g. only transit during high tide)

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Beam: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Draft: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your vessel equipped with AIS?

Yes  No

Vessel Tonnage: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Transits: \_\_\_\_\_

Navigation equipment most used:

Paper Chart  Radar

Electronic Chart Plotter

Line of Sight  Fathometer

Spot Light  Mag Compass

Gyro Compass  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Transit Information:

Daily  Weekly  Monthly

Daytime  Nighttime  Annually

Publications most used while transiting this waterway:

Coast Pilot  Local Notice to Mariners

Light List

2. General Questions:

a. Do you rely on Electronic Charting systems to safely navigate these waterway?  Yes  No

b. If yes, do you utilize previously stored track line history to assist your voyage?  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Do you utilize U.S. Army Corps of Engineers digital depth surveys to plan your voyages?

Yes  No

d. How many years have you sailed on this waterway? \_\_\_\_\_

e. In general, have you had any problems safely navigating this waterway?  Yes  No

If yes, why?

\_\_\_\_\_

- f. Are there any special regulations (i.e. bridge operations, Caption of Port Orders, Regulated Navigation Area Closures) on this waterway that affect you? Yes No

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- g. The USCG lacks awareness of AtoN damage or discrepancies in this area, causing significant time delays for repair. Have you observed any damaged or missing AtoN and did you report the issue to the nearest USCG unit via VHF Channel 16 or by phone? Yes No

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3. Area Specific Questions

- a. Do you utilize the ranges in Lake Arthur? Yes No

If yes, are these ranges critical to your transit, do they adequately mark the channel, and are there any obstructions on the range line?

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- b. Are the fixed AtoN in Lake Arthur critical to your transit? Yes No

If yes, how do they adequately mark the channel and identify any AtoN concerns you have?

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- c. Do you support a potential USCG proposal to remove all AtoN in Lake Arthur, a potential USCG proposal to reduce the number of AtoN, or reclassifying the channel as private?

Yes No

Please explain:

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- d. Are you a waterway user of the Mermentau River above the ICW crossing? Yes No

If yes, do you transit above the Mermentau River Day Beacon 7 (LLNR 21020)? Yes No

If yes, please explain how the AtoN constellation above Day Beacon 7 (LLNR 21020) is critical to your transit and identify any AtoN concerns you have?

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- e. Do you support a potential USCG proposal to remove all AtoN above Mermentau River Day Beacon 7 (LLNR 21020), a potential USCG proposal to reduce the number of AtoN, or reclassifying the channel as private? Yes No

Please explain:

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- f. Are you a waterway user of Grand Lake? Yes No

Do you transit to/from the ICW crossing into Grand Lake? Yes No

What is your typical transit route and what purpose does the existing AtoN serve in marking the Federal Channel?

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- g. Do you believe the NOAA charts are adequate and mark all hazards in Grand Lake? Yes No

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- h. Do you support a potential USCG proposal to remove the following Grand Lake AtoN: Grand Lake 3, 4, 5, 6, & 8 (LLNR 20920, 20925, 20930, 209335, 20940)? Yes No

Please explain:

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- i. Are you a waterway user of Upper Mud Lake? Yes No

Do you observe adequate water depths in order to safely navigate your vessel? Yes No

Do the buoys in this area adequately mark the federal channel? Yes No

What impact would removing all the buoys in Upper Mud Lake have on your transit?

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- j. Are you a waterway user of Mermentau Entrance Channel, South of the Highway 82 Bridge? Yes No

Does the existing AtoN in this area adequately mark the Federal Channel? Yes No

Do you recommend any AtoN changes to this area?

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4. What is your ideal method for obtaining marine information (Local Notice to Mariners, Radio Broadcasts, AIS, Social Media)?

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Privacy Notice**

**Authority:** 14 U.S.C § 93, Commandant; general powers; 33 U.S.C. §§ 1223 and 1228; 46 U.S.C. § 3717

**Purpose:** To collect data that will be used to analyze the waterways safety and risk, effectiveness and efficiency. In order to assist with maintaining confidentiality, respondents are advised not to include any personally identifiable information not requested in their responses.

**Routine Uses:** This survey solicits information that the Coast Guard will use to improve maritime efficiency, navigational safety of the waterway, and focus on the area's Aids to Navigation system, waterborne commerce, port/harbor resources, routine and emergency communication capabilities and future development projects. DHS/USCG-013, Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement (MISLE), June 25, 2009, 74 FR 30305 provides coverage for this collection.

**Disclosure:** Furnishing this information is strictly voluntary.