Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River, in accordance with the Navigation Safety Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations Title 33, Subpart 161.11, will establish a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) Measure for all waters of the Lower Mississippi River from Mile 20.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP), to Mile 0.0 at Head of Passes. This Measure is needed to protect persons and vessels from the potential safety hazards associated with salvage operations in Southwest Pass. This Measure is in effect with the following provision:

- August 07, 2017: All ocean-going deep draft vessels are restricted from entering between Mile Marker 20.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) and Mile Marker 0.0 Head of Passes from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time. All other vessels planning to transit Southwest Pass should contact the tug GEORGE C via VHF FM Channel 67 to make safe passing arrangements in the vicinity of the salvage operations (between Head of Passes and Mile Marker 5.0 BHP).

Updates and/or changes to the published schedule will be broadcast via Safety Broadcast Notice to Mariners and by Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River.

All vessels intending to depart the river on the day of the closure must arrive at Pilottown no later than 8:30 a.m. local on the morning of the closure. Vessels intending to arrive in the river on the days of the closures must arrive at Southwest Pass Entrance Light no later than 7:00 a.m. local on the morning of the closures.

For further information, contact:

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center: (504) 365-2200
Coast Guard Waterways Management: (504) 365-2280
Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River: (504) 365-2230, VHF FM Ch. 11, 12, 67.