



Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 09-16

San Jacinto River Mud Bank

The Coast Guard has received repeated reports and complaints of unsafe conditions in the vicinity of the Mud Bank in the San Jacinto River. Sector Houston-Galveston has determined, per 33 CFR 64.06, that current practices by some waterway users pose a hazard to navigation. The following operating restrictions will mitigate this hazard and take effect immediately:

- Only tugboats with barges in tow are permitted on the Mud Bank. No unattended or shared barges are authorized on the Mud Bank.
- The only tugboats, barges and tows permitted on the Mud Bank are those awaiting fleet space or dock space.
- Tugboats, barges and tows that make use of the Mud Bank are limited to no more than 48 consecutive hours and shall not exceed this timeframe.
- Tugboats, barges and tows using the Mud Bank shall not extend into the San Jacinto River beyond 162 feet from the river bank. **(No Exceptions)**.
- No barges are permitted beyond the Channel Shipyard Dry-Dock in the direction of the ship channel.

The Coast Guard is required by the Ports and Waterways Safety Act to maintain the safety of all U.S. waterways at all times. Coast Guard personnel will continue to monitor safety in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River Mud Bank and compliance with the above operating restrictions. Waterway users who fail to comply with the above operating restrictions will be subject to regulatory and administrative action. Persistent disregard of these operating restrictions may result in closure of the San Jacinto River Mud Bank to all tugboats, barges and tows.

The Coast Guard strives to facilitate commerce by maximizing the availability of waterways and navigational safety. This can only be achieved through close coordination and cooperation with waterway users. Please address any questions regarding operating restrictions on the San Jacinto River Mud Bank to LCDR Navin Griffin at Ph. 281-464-4736 or via E-Mail at Navin.L.Griffin@uscg.mil.

This Marine Safety Information Bulletin shall remain active until rescinded or superseded by future direction.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. F. Martin".

P. F. Martin

Captain, United States Coast Guard
Captain of the Port