Mississippi River Delta
NOAA Chart 11361

A reduced-scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters
When possible, use the full-size NOAA chart for navigation.

- Complete, reduced-scale nautical chart
- Print at home for free
- Convenient size
- Up-to-date with Notices to Mariners
- Compiled by NOAA’s Office of Coast Survey, the nation’s chartmaker
What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America’s commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

What is a BookletChart™?

This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Notice to Mariners Correction Status

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.

For latest Coast Pilot excerpt visit the Office of Coast Survey website at http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=11361

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[Coast Pilot 5, Chapter 9 excerpts]

Mississippi River empties into the N central part of the Gulf of Mexico through a number of mouths or passes which, taken together, form the delta of the river. The river and its tributaries form the largest network of navigable waters in the world. The two principal passes, South Pass and Southwest Pass, are about 1,600 nautical miles from New York, 500 nautical miles from Key West, 300 nautical miles E of Galveston, and 440 nautical miles E of Gulfport. The river is the access to the Ports of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and the numerous cities in the central part of the United States located in the Mississippi River Valley and along its tributaries, the Ohio, Missouri, Red, Tennessee, and other rivers flowing into it. From the mouth, at the entrance to Southwest Pass, it is about 1,840 miles to Minneapolis, 1,960 miles to Pittsburgh, 1,680 miles to Knoxville, and 1,530 miles to Chicago via the Illinois Waterway.

New Orleans can also be reached by the more direct deep-draft route through the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal, about 30 miles N of South Pass. The outlet canal extends from deepwater in the Gulf to the junction with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal at New Orleans. The passes consist of narrow-banked deposits of sand and clay brought down by the river current which continuously adds them to the seaward margins of the delta. In this manner the delta is being built seaward at an estimated average rate of 300 feet a year. Numerous bays between the passes are changing through wave and tidal action and filling up with the immense amounts of material carried down by the river. The upper half of Garden Island Bay has been filled in so that now it is a marsh. Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal is a 66-mile-long deepwater channel that extends NW from deep water in the Gulf of Mexico to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal at New Orleans.

Caution during high stages of the river.—Vessels navigating the Mississippi River at flood stages, when passing habitations or other structures, partially or wholly submerged and subject to damage from wave action, shall proceed slowly and keep as far away from such structures as circumstances permit, and shall also proceed slowly when passing close to levees. In low river stages, vessels bow wave and suction may be more pronounced due to calmer, less-flowing waters. Caution is advised when nearing facilities and moored/anchored vessels as their own suction may cause hazard and damage.

Under these conditions, between Baton Rouge, Mile 232.0, and Head of Passes, Mile 0.0, mariners are directed to steer a course as close as possible to the center of the river and to proceed at a speed sufficiently slow so that levees and revetments will not be endangered by wave wash. Careful observation by mariners of the effects of the vessel’s wash is a vital element in this control. Mariners are also advised to exercise extreme caution when navigating or mooring their vessels in the forebays of Algiers, Harvey, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, Port Allen and Old River locks to prevent vessels and tows from coming in contact with the controlling levee line in those areas.

Strong currents and shifting eddies in the vicinity of Algiers Point will be encountered during high stages of the river. These conditions may make hazardous the operation of a tow which could normally be handled with ease. It is accordingly requested that operators and masters exercise every precaution when operating in the area controlled by the New Orleans Harbor traffic lights. Size of tows and tugs should be considered in view of conditions which may be expected.

The river is well marked with lights, and for the most part the banks are sufficient guides. The distance from Head of Passes to New Orleans is 95 miles.

Vessels should approach the Empire Waterway from the Gulf through the Empire Safety Fairway. (See 166.100 through 166.200, chapter 2.) Vessels should approach Bastian Bay and Grand Bayou from the Gulf through Grand Bayou Pass Safety Fairway. (See 166.100 through 166.200, chapter 2.)
Lateral System As Seen Entering From Seaward

on navigable waters except Western Rivers

PORT SIDE
ODD NUMBERED AIDS

- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- OCCULTING
- QUICK FLASHING
- ISO

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE LETTERED
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO STARBOARD
TOPMOST BAND GREEN

- GREEN LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

PREFERRED CHANNEL
NO NUMBERS – MAY BE LETTERED
PREFERRED CHANNEL TO PORT
TOPMOST BAND RED

- RED LIGHT ONLY
- COMPOSITE GROUP FLASHING (2+1)

STARBOARD SIDE
EVEN NUMBERED AIDS

- RED LIGHT ONLY
- FLASHING (2)
- OCCULTING
- QUICK FLASHING
- ISO

For more information on aids to navigation, including those on Western Rivers, please consult the latest USCG Light List for your area. These volumes are available online at http://www.navcen.uscg.gov.
Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.
VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

- **Channel 6** – Inter-ship safety communications.
- **Channel 9** – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.
- **Channel 13** – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.
- **Channel 16** – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.
- **Channel 22A** – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here.
- **Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A** – Recreational boat channels.

**Getting and Giving Help** — Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.

**NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)** is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

**Quick References**

- Nautical chart related products and information — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov
- Interactive chart catalog — http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml
- Chart and chart related inquiries and comments — http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idsrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs
- Chart updates (LNMs and NM corrections) — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html
- Coast Pilot online — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm
- Tides and Currents — http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov
- National Data Buoy Center — http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/
- NowCoast web portal for coastal conditions — http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/
- National Hurricane Center — http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/
- Pacific Tsunami Warning Center — http://ptwc.weather.gov/
- Contact Us — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm

**Distress Call Procedures**

- Make sure radio is on.
- Select Channel 16.
- Press/Hold the transmit button.
- Clearly say: “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY.”
- Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of Emergency; Number of People on Board.
- Release transmit button.
- Wait for 10 seconds — If no response Repeat MAYDAY call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS!

This Booklet chart has been designed for duplex printing (printed on front and back of one sheet). If a duplex option is not available on your printer, you may print each sheet and arrange them back-to-back to allow for the proper layout when viewing.