



Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee Freeport Sub-Committee

28 November 2018

Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere / Deputy NOAA Administrator, Acting
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere / NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Request for a new Harbor Chart for Freeport Harbor, Texas and Approaches (NOAA Chart 11324)

Dear Admiral Gallaudet:

The Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) provides a public forum to address Marine Transportation System (MTS) issues with particular emphasis on navigation safety-related matters involving the ports of Houston, Galveston, Texas City, and Freeport including the associated waterways of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and offshore lightering zones. As a vehicle facilitating communications between and among public and private sector entities, the Committee draws upon regional expertise and insight to address such issues as vessel traffic management, anchorage management, communications, security, significant/heavy weather preparations, maritime traffic disruption/restoration, process improvements, and any other related topics dealing with the MTS. The Freeport Sub-Committee is dedicated to maximizing safety, security and efficiency, while balancing the competing needs and uses of the waterways in and around the Port of Freeport. The committee focuses on improving the safety of operations and identifying areas of concern. Freeport Harbor has recently been named one of the fastest growing ports in the United States which is only forecasted to continue. With this in mind; the Freeport Subcommittee, with unanimous support of the Full LSHSC, respectfully requests NOAAs support in developing and producing a new Navigation Chart for Freeport Harbor and its approaches (NOAA Chart 11324) to meet the needs of the Harbor.

Currently there is no harbor chart for the Port of Freeport and users rely on a near coastal chart of 1:40,000 scale. The Navigation Workgroup of the Freeport Subcommittee for Navigation requests a chart of 1:10,000 scale in the Harbor, utilizing inserts, with a slightly smaller scale of the approaches and anchorage area off the channel. The workgroup sites the numerous shore side facility and pier additions or modifications, channel widening and deepening, range marker changes, the need for an expanded anchorage area and increasing transits that increase maritime safety and security concerns which more than justify this new chart.



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The following areas are of particular concern and need to be addressed in conjunction with this proposed new chart.

- Hydrographical Surveys with recent and continued deepening and widening projects currently being progressed by contractors and USACE surveys. The committee is interested in a completed project survey, possibly accomplished by NOAA's NRT 4 due to time constraints.
- Shoreline over flights for updated shoreline delineation due to new facilities within the harbor.
- Security Zones and moving Security Zones need to be placed on the chart and in the notes.
- The committee is requesting appx. 20 anchor positions on the chart with clear anchor swing circles defined for each position. The pilots have drafted out a recommendation for the position of these anchorage circles.
- A hydrographical survey in the anchorage area to remove old wrecks or obstructions that are no longer present.
- NE and SW spoil areas located next to the channel surveyed with depths shown.
- Additionally, the Navigation Workgroup is working with the US Coast Guard to make updates to the current chart and ATON position, including:
 - Red buoys #2, #4, and #6 moved to their correct position, as the channel has changed.
 - The workgroup would like the two dredge spoil areas located south of the channel to be discontinued, surveyed and depths shown, and the two new larger dredge spoil areas put on the chart further to the south of the channel and away from the anchorages.
 - Outbound red range lights repositioned to mark the center of the channel.
 - Several new day markers needed to be positioned on the channel
 - Update the US Coast Pilot

We thank you for your attention to these needs to ensure continued safe navigation in Freeport as the Harbor grows. We look forward to working with you and NOAA for a finished product to achieve this goal. The Brazos Pilots and the Freeport Sub-Committee Navigation Workgroup are available to assist the process and continue to review for updates. Going forward, Colleen Kallestad (CKallestad@freeportlng.com) will take over as the Freeport Sub-Committee Chair and will be the Point of Contact for this issue.

Best regards,

Captain Ann Marie Poninski, USMM
Chairman, Lone Star Harbor Safety Freeport Sub-Committee
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