State of the Waterway

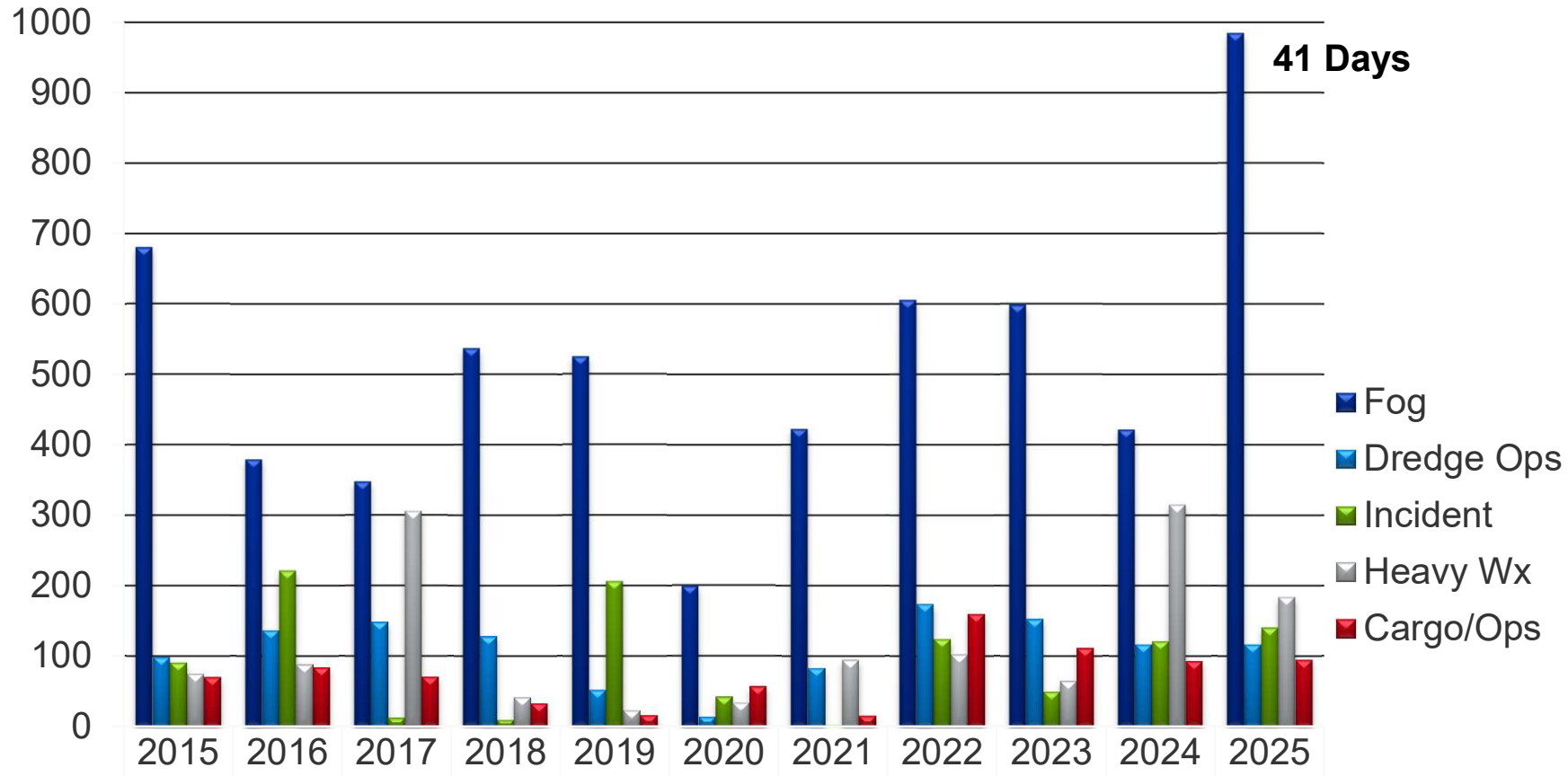
February 2026

Vessel Traffic Service
Calendar Year 2025

VTS Transits - 2025

Tug/Tow	131,947	-5% (18dy)
Ships	22,101	-6% (22dy)
OSV/Aux/Pax	7,993	-11% (54dy)
SubTotal	162,041	-6%
Ferries	64,567	+3% (11dy)
Total	**226,608**	-2.5%

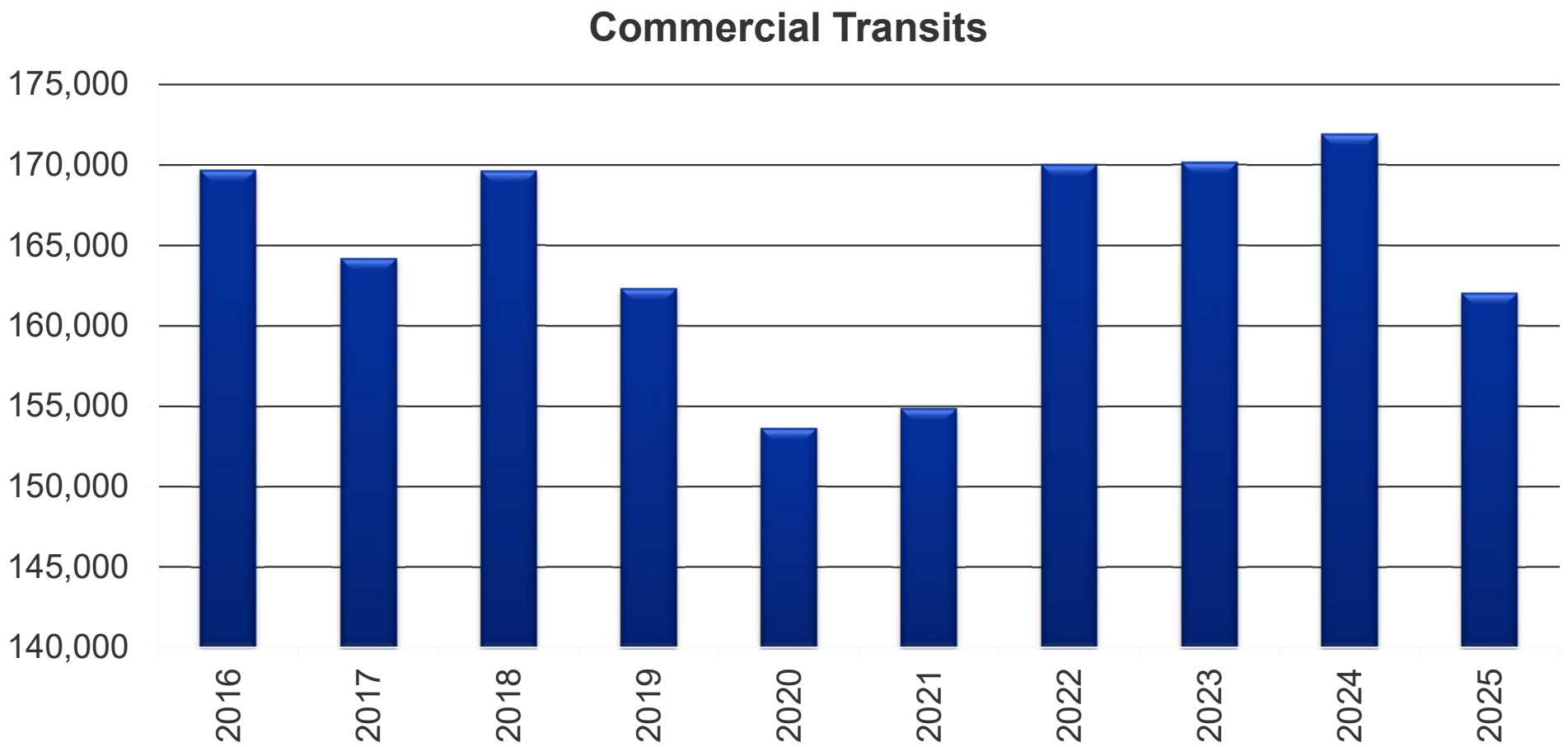
Channel Closure/Lost Hours



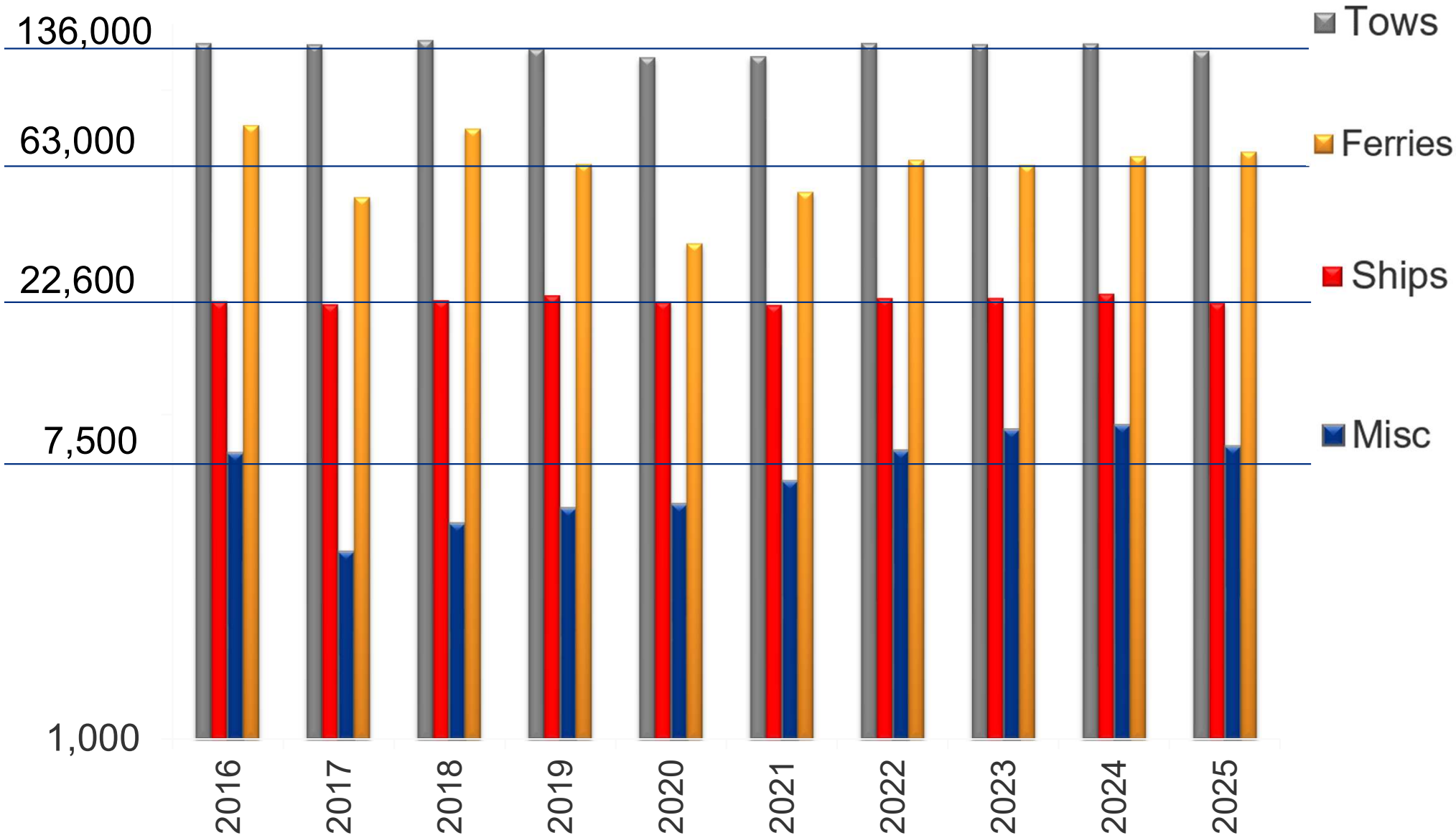
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fog	680.2	379	347.4	537	525	199.3	422.5	605.7	598.7	421.8	984.5
Dredge Ops	99.2	137.3	148.8	128.6	52.5	14.5	83.5	174.2	153.2	117.3	117
Incident	91.5	221.8	13	10	206.5	42.75	2	124.7	50	121.6	141
Heavy Wx	75.5	88.6	305.8	42.2	23.5	34.5	95	102.8	65.3	315	184
Cargo/Ops	70.5	84.25	71	33.4	16.5	57.7	16	160.2	111.8	93.4	95

Commercial Transits

w/o ferries



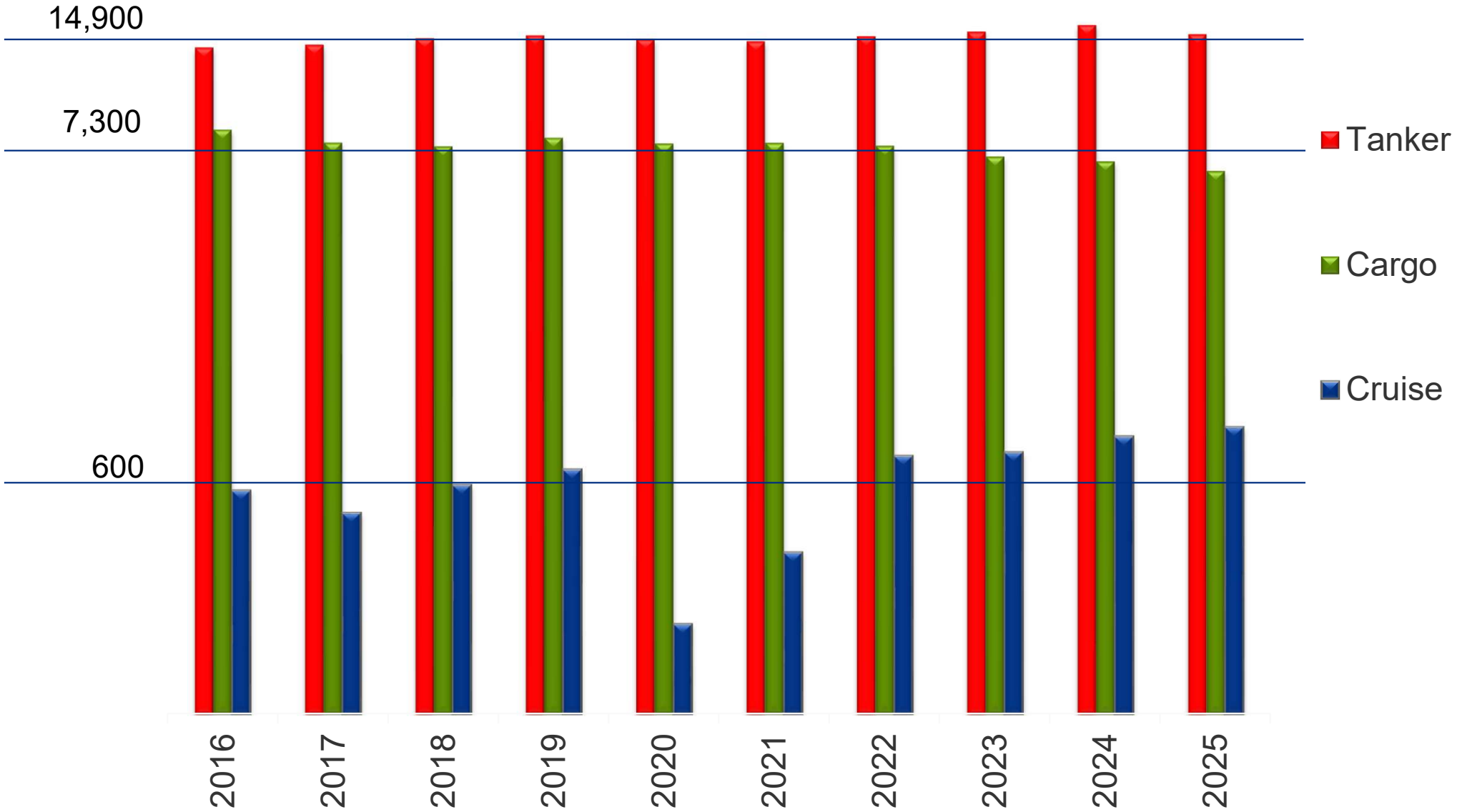
Annual Comparison



U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Annual Comparison



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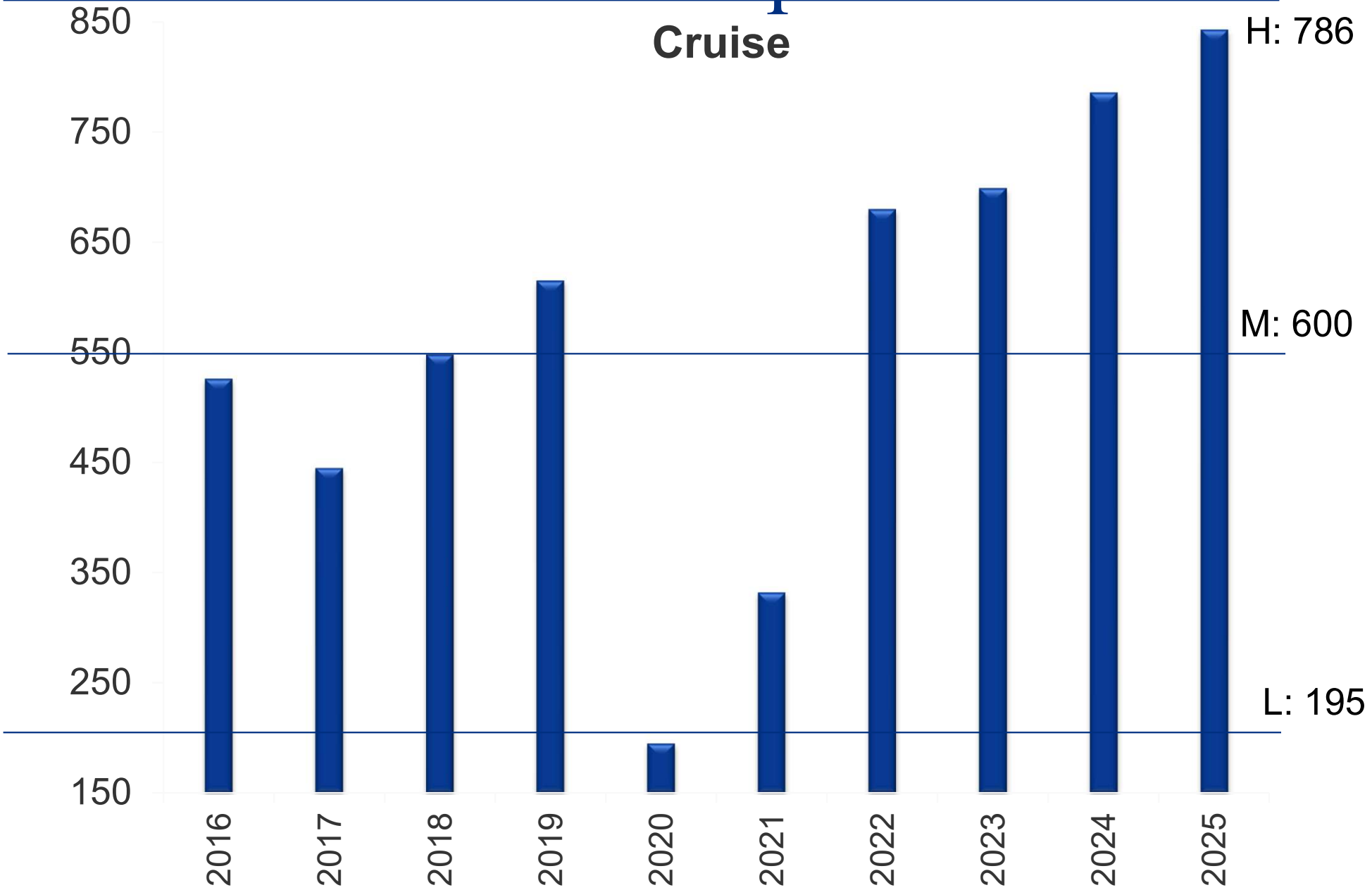
Annual Comparison



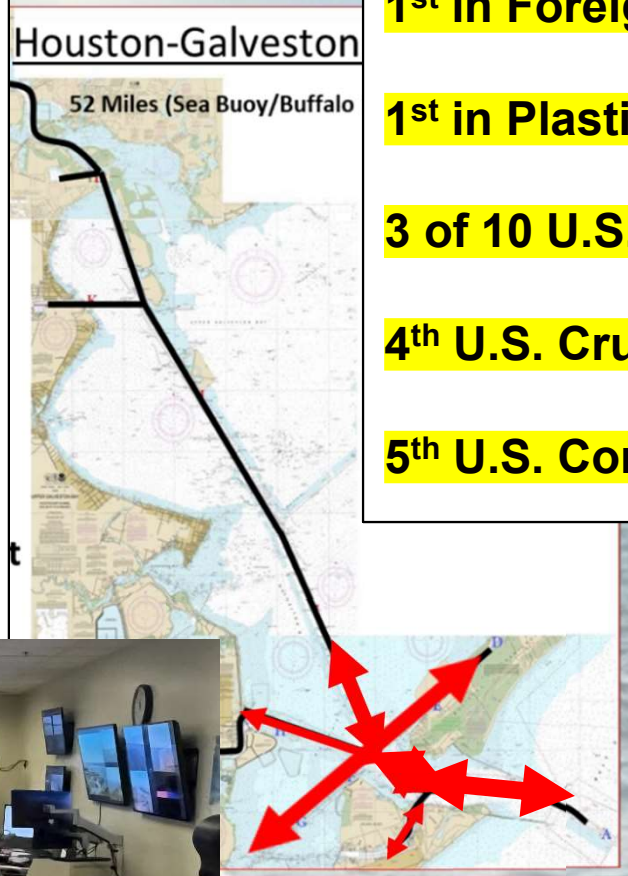
Houston Vessel Traffic Service Area
Hou, Gal, TC, GICW

$1Trillion Economic Impact

3.4 Million Jobs

Largest Texas Port

200+ Port Facilities



N.A. Largest Petrochem Cluster

1st in Overall Tonnage

1st in Foreign tonnage

1st in Plastic Export

3 of 10 U.S. Largest Refineries

4th U.S. Cruise Ship Port

5th U.S. Container Port

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Typical Day in the VTSA - 2025

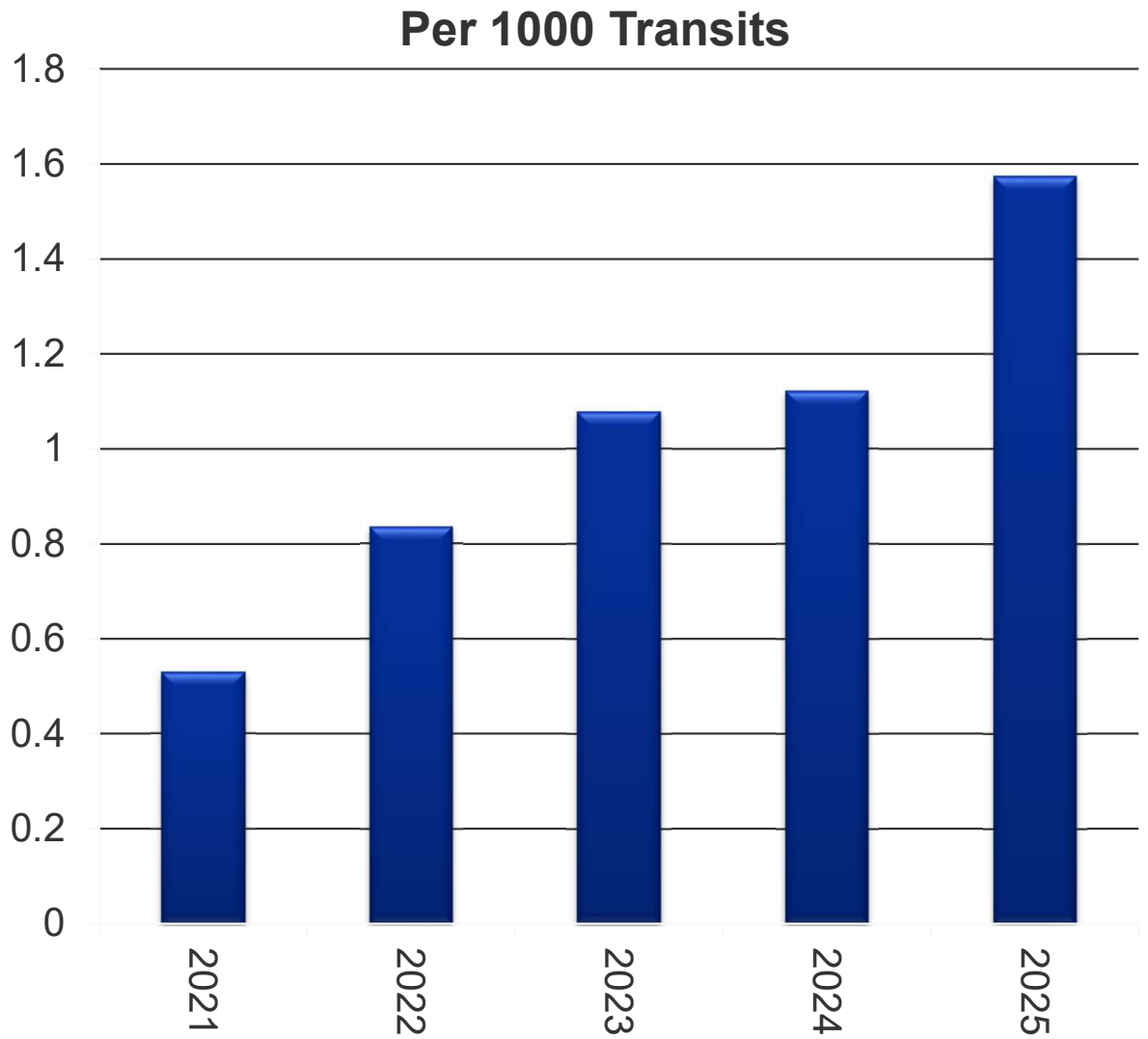
43	Tanker Transits
16	Freighter Transits
2	Cruise Ship Transits
362	Tow Transits
177	Ferry Transits
22	OSV/Aux/Pax

4 min – tow vessel
7 min – ferry/misc
24 min – deep draft

Notifications

357 Total Vessel Notifications

- 151 Tow
- 182 Ships
- 24 Miscellaneous- (OSV/Aux/Pax)
- Notifications include:
  - Propulsion, steering, radar/AIS, collision, allision, broken tow, pollution
  - Propulsion sensors, limiters
- Vessel programs
- Collisions:
  - 4x Ship/Tow
  - 4XTow/Tow
- Allisions: 2x Ship to Dock
- Broke Tows: 17
- CFV: 11 near miss + 2 collisions
- Near Miss: 5
- VTS awareness



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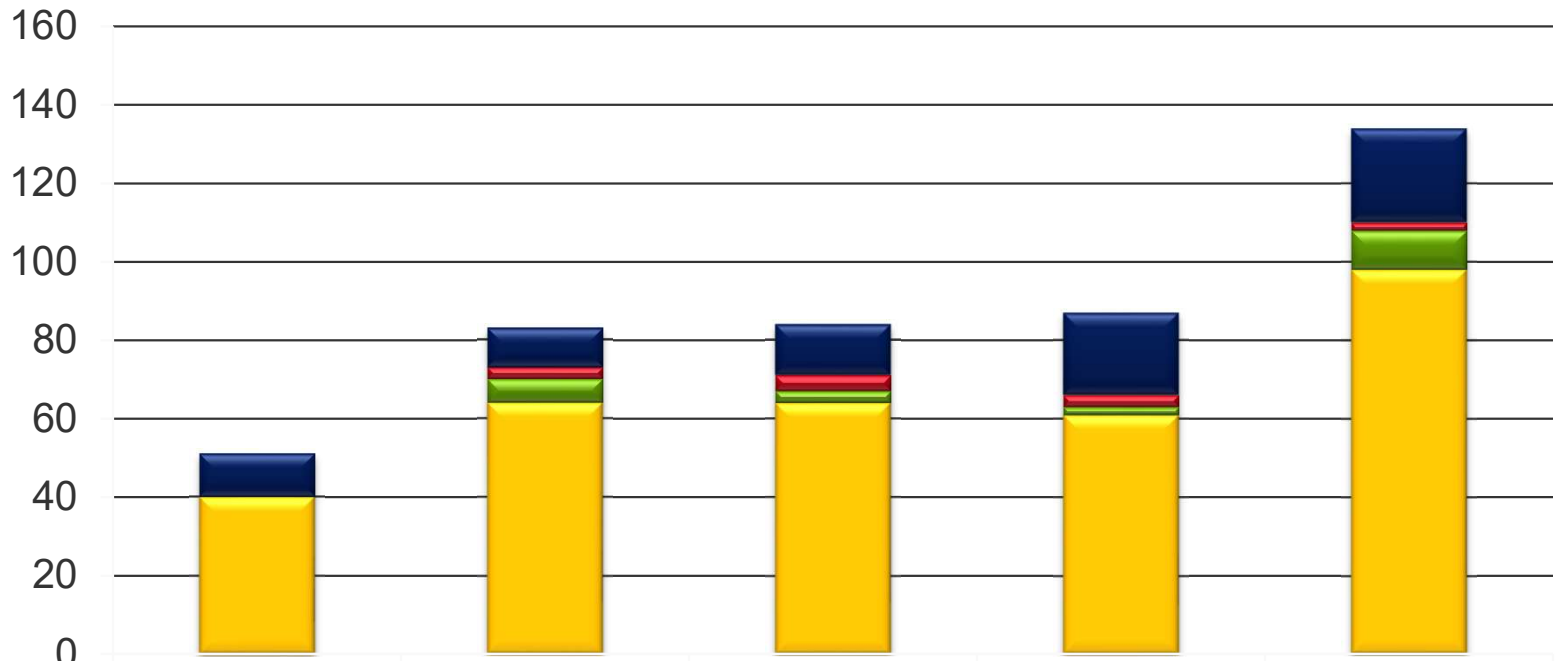
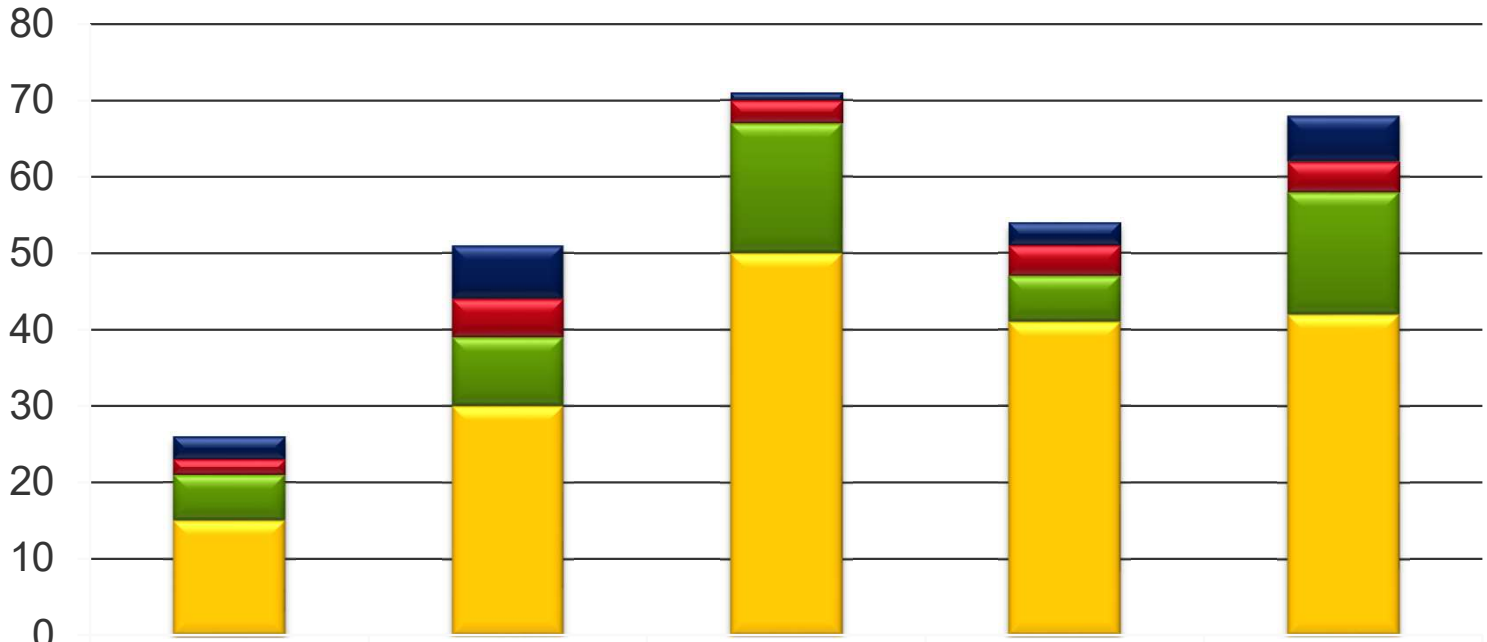
Ship Notifications



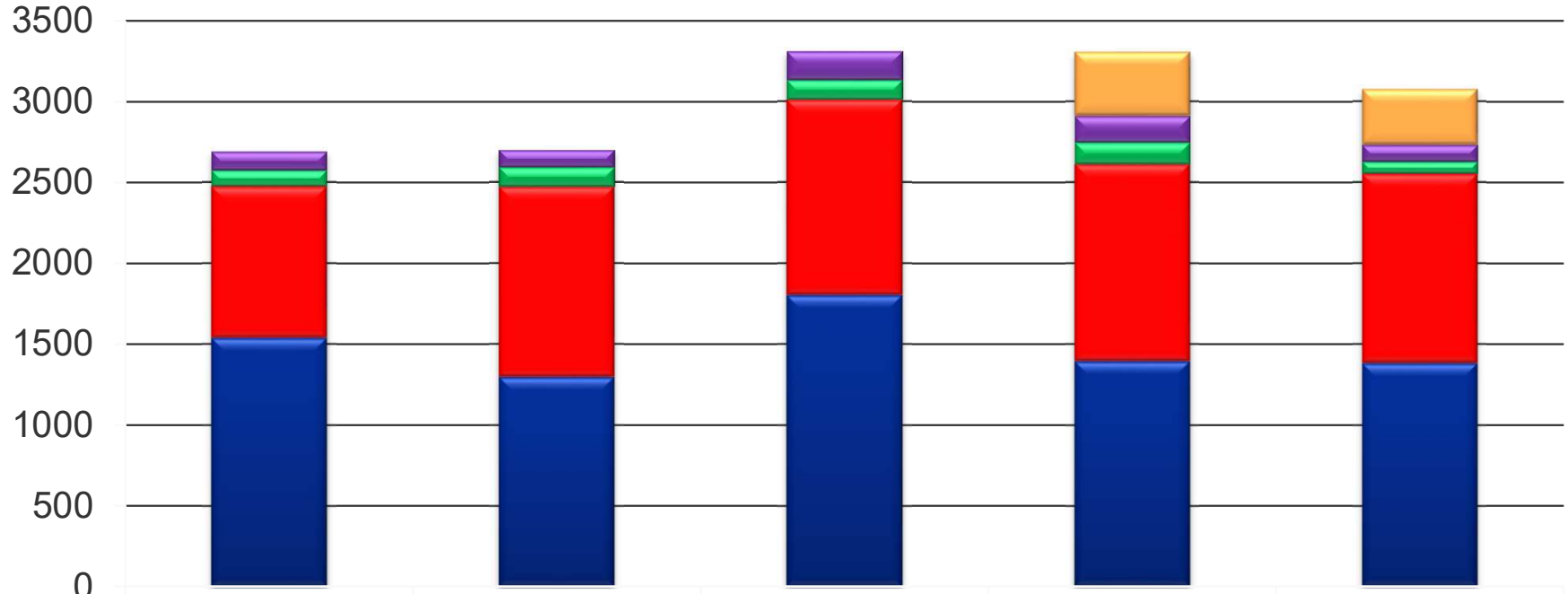
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nav/AIS/Electric	11	10	13	21	24
Generator	0	3	4	3	2
Steer	0	6	3	2	10
Propulsion	40	64	64	61	98

Tow Notifications



	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nav/AIS/Electronics	3	7	1	3	6
Generator	2	5	3	4	4
Steer	6	9	17	6	16
Propulsion	15	30	50	41	42

Bolivar Roads
Anchorage Transits



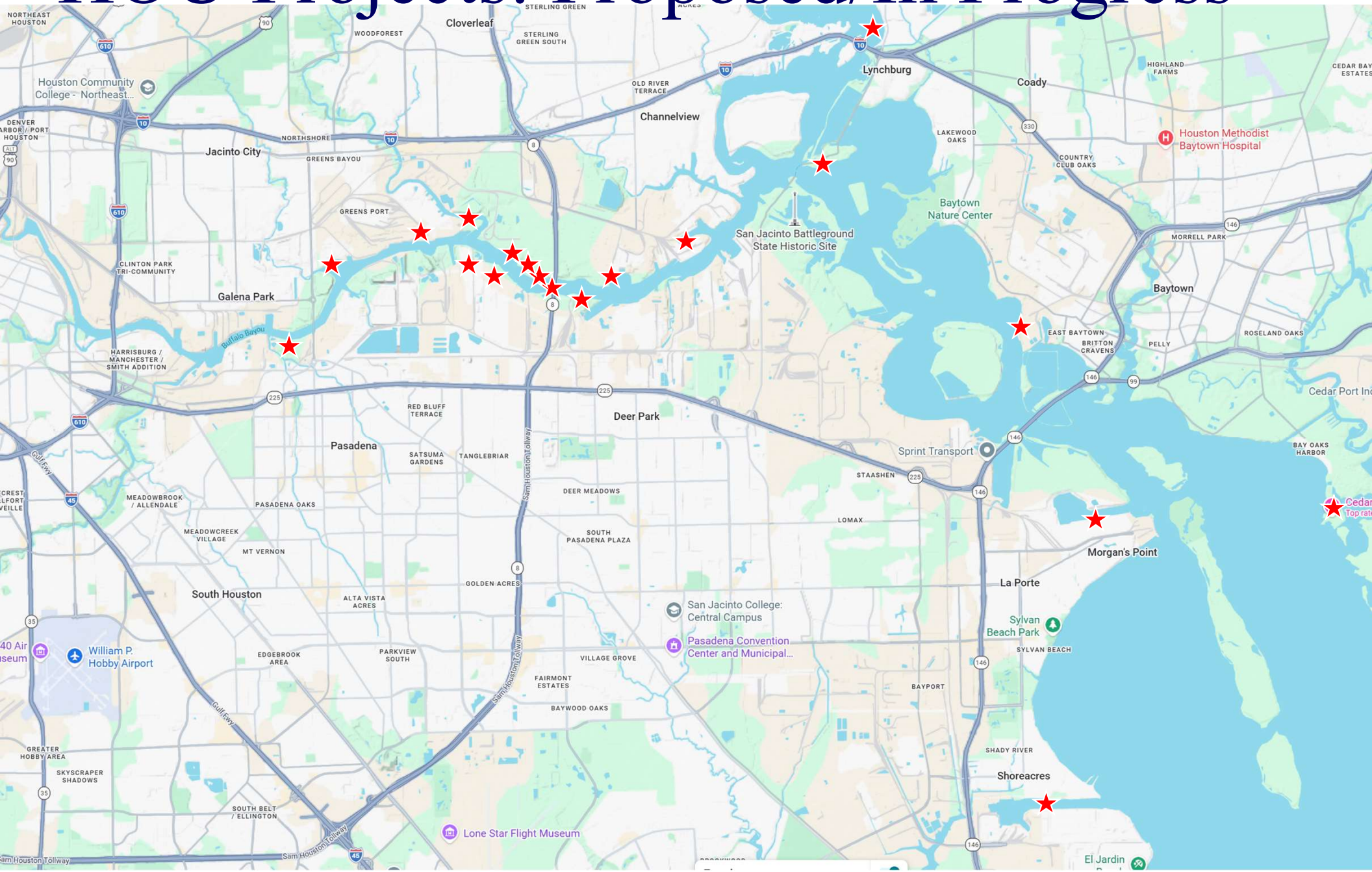
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ATB/ITB				396	344
Misc	117	106	178	162	103
Freighter	98	120	121	134	74
Tanker	936	1175	1209	1218	1172
Towing	1540	1298	1803	1396	1382
Total	2691	2699	3311	3306	3075

Challenges/Progress

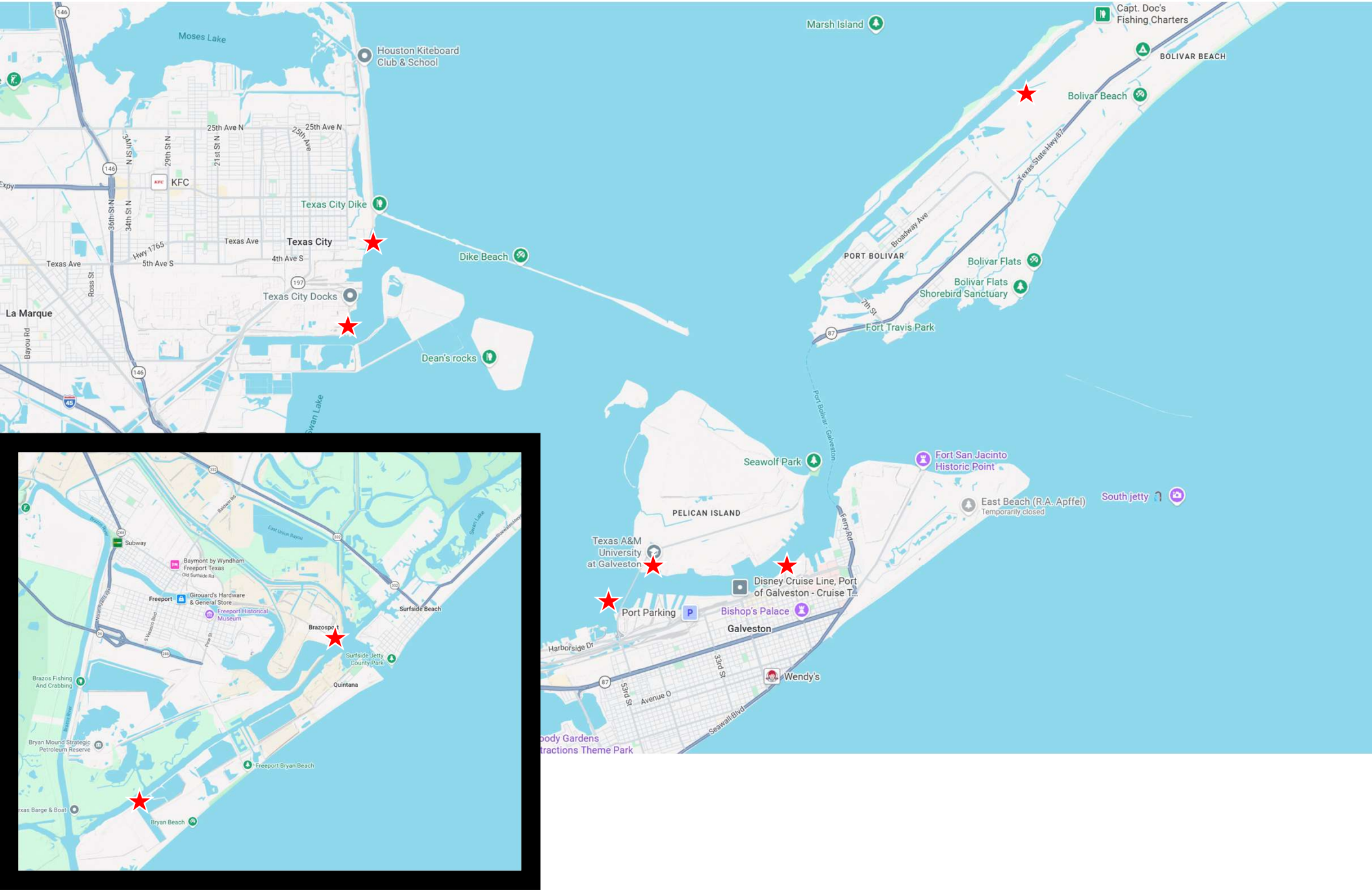
- Fog Season 900+ !!
- Winter Storm, Fronts 200hrs
- G32 – Allision, pollution
- JACP - HS2 leak
- TXIT – Allision
  - West End Gal procedures
- CFV – 13(2) Interactions

- Groundings –
  - 12 BOL
  - 4 LB11
- ATON Restoration
- VTS Equipment
- PROJ 11 !!
  - Dredging
  - Pipeline removals
- COCs

HOU Projects: Proposed/In Progress



GAL-TEX/Freeport Projects: Proposed/In Progress



Contacts

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