Post Hurricane Harvey

Navigation Restoration Briefing

1030 CDT, Tuesday August 29, 2017

1. NWS briefing Upper TX: Brian Kyle: Harvey sitting offshore 105miles S/SW Port Arthur. 45mph winds. Moving N/NE at 5mph. 7-10’ seas; tropical storm force winds from Matagorda Bay to TX/LA border. Elevated seas
   1. Upper TX coast/SW LA Thursday night until we get to less than 20knot winds. 30-40 inches of rain in last 4 days. Surge shouldn’t be an issue much longer, but water draining into Galveston Bay/Rivers/Bayous will cause elevated levels for several weeks and will cause hazardous navigation currents.
   2. Lower Texas coast will remain above normal.
   3. Further east will continue to get rain/thunderstorms until landfall in LA coast tomorrow.
   4. Surface hydrologist will be on board to answer questions about flows, will be having a webinar. Brian will give Chris her email address. If you are interested, don’t forward login to others because limited spots.
2. NWS briefing Lower TX Joel Corpus Christi NWS: dropped TS warnings from Matagorda down the coast. Today 4-6 w/occasional 8’ seas. Tonight 4-6’ waves. Tomorrow will be close to USACE 6’ criteria, but probably 25knot winds. Thursday should be decent for survey operations in San Antonio Bay and Matagorda Bay.
3. USCG Bridge Group (Doug Blakemore): Grand Lake Pontoon bridge secured due to high water; bridge can open on request, closed to vessel traffic.
4. USCG Sector Corpus Christi: LCDR Pickering; no updates
5. USCG Sector Houston Galveston: Steve Nerheim: evaluating waterway; had a good survey for ATONS, had pilot boats, fire boats, running down channel to figure out how to open at limited basis. Two drydocks missing, one sunken, evaluating communications, working on language for MSIB. Working to get out of Port Condition Zulu and how to get into Recovery.
6. MSU Port Arthur: Doug Hendricks for Scott Walen: went to Port Condition Zulu at 1800 last night. Looking for proper conditions to begin recovery.
7. USACE update
   1. Karl Brown:
      1. BRFG: operational with power, flow estimated 7mph; stream gauge and piles have been taken out. Caretaker status, only open in daylight
      2. Colorado River Locks: caretaker status, on generator power. Flow estimated 4-5mph.
   2. CCSC update:
      1. USACE currently tracking all survey assets. Sheet is online showing assigned vessels for different reaches, kind of survey. Chris will send out link.
      2. CC01 did survey harbor, surveys will be posted online today
      3. Several vessels staged in Houston and Port Arthur. 7 vessels working in Corpus; will have 13 by Wednesday.
   3. CCSC Darrell Johnson
      1. CCO1, NO1, Vannoy, CC03 all working
      2. Terra Sond boats working, ran sidescan and profiles at LaQuinta; other Terra Sond 25’ boat running South on GIWW; 27’ came on board today on GIWW between bird island and Baffin. NRT 2 should be on location at 1500 today;
      3. NOAA has contract vessel in Brownsville to put that in service.
      4. Profile surveys of CCSC ongoing, ICW in protected waters,
      5. Sea conditions not favorable to send smaller vessels into Bay.
      6. Tomorrow should be able to send Vannoy across bay tomorrow.
      7. Should be getting New Orleans boat coming on location today as well.
      8. Tomorrow should be getting 2 more New Orleans vessels going to Galveston
      9. Corpus will have 11 vessels, 2 in Galveston
      10. Contractor vessels leaving Galveston today should be in Corpus tomorrow morning. Expect them to be surveying Entrance Channel in morning.
   4. MSC conditions should be more favorable tomorrow, will divide up assets tomorrow. 40’ from NOAA in Rockport, may be able to deploy it to MSC tomorrow.
   5. All surveys from BCN 82 to Viola TB have been uploaded to website. Bob Koch will send link
   6. Matt Duke (Survey info):
      1. Galveston area in holding pattern; trying to get out Thursday but it might still be too rough. Still have Tanner and De La Hunt doing Houston. Tanner will move to Freeport. NOAA boats will help on upper HSC and Galveston Harbor. Texas City Channel needs a complete exam, KTR will do it, we will do profiles. We’ll do as much as we can at getting the BD surveys. Can put USACE personnel on KTR vessels and use those surveys.
      2. Would feel more comfortable if we had one more boat with sidescan for upper HSC/Buffalo Bayou.
         1. Guys going into Corpus Christi from New Orleans District (Ops vessel) has portable sidescan if need to relocate the asssets.
         2. Matt will call Darrell
         3. We can also procure one under contract if not arrived
         4. All 3 crews went to College Station, still trying to get around Houston
      3. Contractor vessels: rented vessels, one in Galveston, one in Freeport
         1. Contractor personnel on way to Galveston,
         2. One 100’ vessel (Miss Brook) going to Freeport, then move up to Galveston
         3. One 100’ vessel (Orion) will be enroute to CCSC in morning, then to MSC
         4. Can put vessels in the right quarter of GIWW when coming back from Freeport to Galveston. May not have ability to go up GIWW.
   7. SNELL: sitting on E. side of Colorado River to east of Locks on GIWW. Capt Scott Hall does not anticipate being able to cross Colorado River for next 2-3 days due to currents. Will continue to work with crew about getting it down to Corpus down GIWW.
8. Ongoing USACE contracts;
   1. Hopper dredge contracts on Galveston, Freeport, Matagorda
   2. Contractor has Hopper dredges in Louisiana available to mobilize
   3. Moving forward on rapid response contract for CCSC, task order for contractors to bid on in 24 hours and dredge onsite by this weekend.
   4. Currently Dredge Newport is set to go to Freeport. It is standing by in Louisiana.
   5. Dredge Glenn Edwards is standing by in Sabine for Galveston dredging.
   6. Dredge Bayport could be available for Corpus
9. Pilots
   1. Corpus Christi Pilots:
   2. Matagorda Pilots:
   3. Freeport Pilots(Capt Burns): Lot of wind/current; 30knot wind. Tanner inside channel, Miss Brook outside channel. SWG thinks we can start Thursday, can turn around surveys in a few hours after obtained.
   4. Galveston/Texas City Pilots (Matt Bush): boats are out doing preliminary surveys in AOR, tried to make it past jetties today but no able too.
   5. Houston Pilots (JJ): tried to go out, but unproductive. Will try again today. After surveys collected and processed (same day) within hours will have surveys up. When available, Chris Frabotta will send notices to respective groups. Priorities? Contract vessel will work Bolivar Roads out successfully. 2 trailerable vessels from Bayland marine will run side by side down to Bolivar Rds, will then send one down to Freeport to get one quarter and then other side coming back up. Big boat and 40’ boat will work channels. If weather cooperates, expect surveys by Friday. Earliest we would see any survey would be Thursday, most likely Friday.
   6. As they are surveying, boats are hooked up with wi-fi, so will send it in and process as opposed to having to bring it all back to upload.
   7. Corpus: BCN82 to Inner Harbor everything clear 47’ up to Viola except toes
   8. Sabine Pilots: awaiting storm, conditions deteriorating. Glenn Edwards is in Sabine. As soon as permittable will continue working in Houston Galveston. As of right now, we don’t think we will have need for dredging at Sabine, but if we do, we have two in coastal Texas now, can have 3 quickly, and 4 if required.
10. NOAA: NRT2 headed to Corpus (or potentially Matagorda) enroute. NRT4 still in Houston, can’t get people to boat. Have shipped mobile sidescan, forward deploying personnel to man mobile equipment or assist on NRT4
    1. Sector Houston offered potential ways to get personnel to boat since roads closed
    2. Priority plan on reopening port? Can Chris send to NOAA? Chris will work with Mr. Nerheim and NOAA offline.
11. The NRT list has everyone’s cellphone number. Chris encourages everyone to print it and utilize contact info to have communication offline.
12. Next call 1030 8/30/17, same call in info.