

# Sabine-Neches Waterway

## Feasibility Study/EIS

**Jefferson  
County Waterway  
And Navigation  
District**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Galveston District

# Existing Channel System

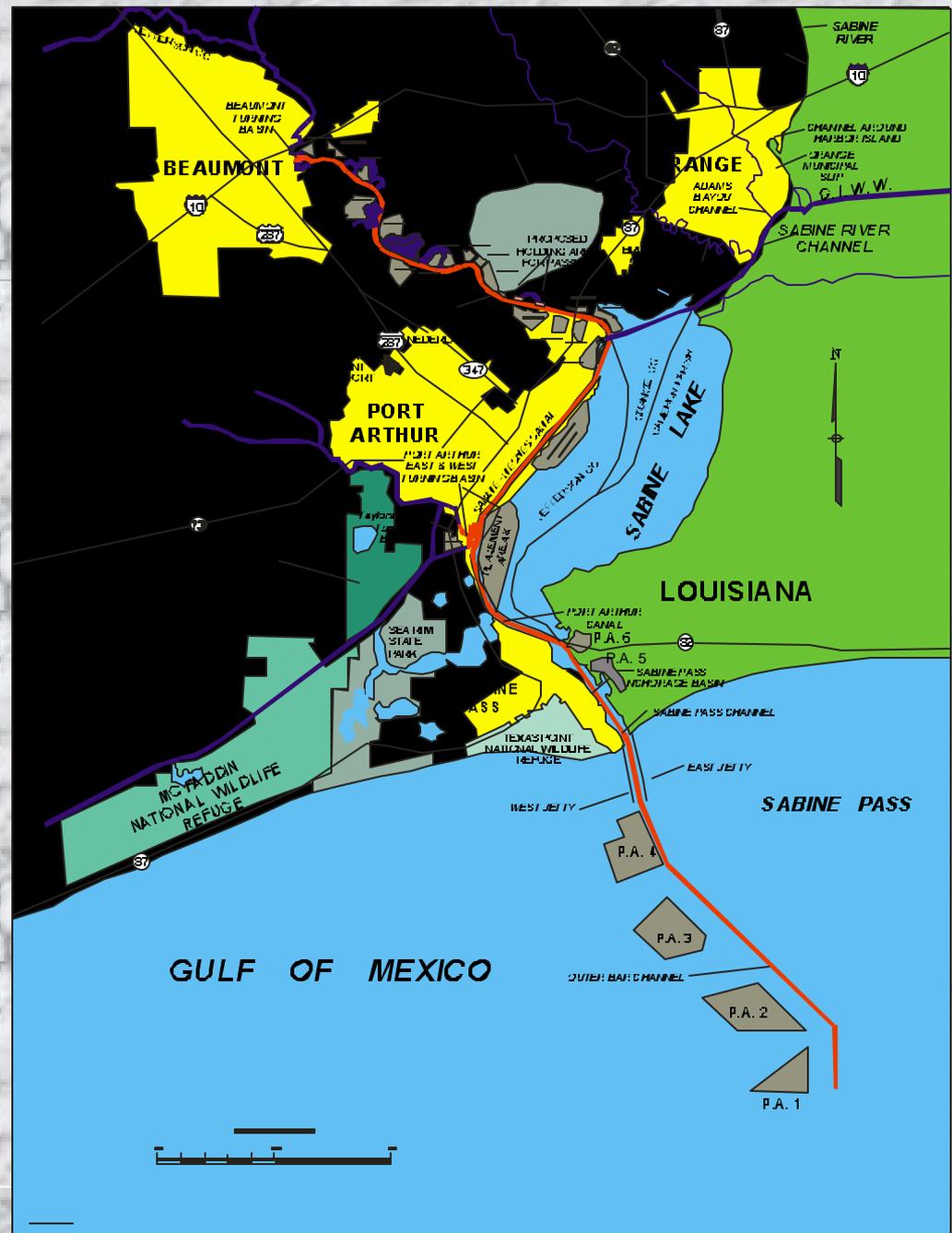
**Entrance Channel**  
Depth: 42'/Width: 800'

**Sabine Pass Channel**  
Depth: 40'/Width 500'

**Port Arthur Canal**  
Depth: 40'/Width 400'

**Sabine-Neches Canal**  
Depth: 40'/Width 400'

**Neches River Channel**  
Depth: 40'/Width 400'



# History of Channel Deepening



**Year  
Completed**

**1912 – 25'**

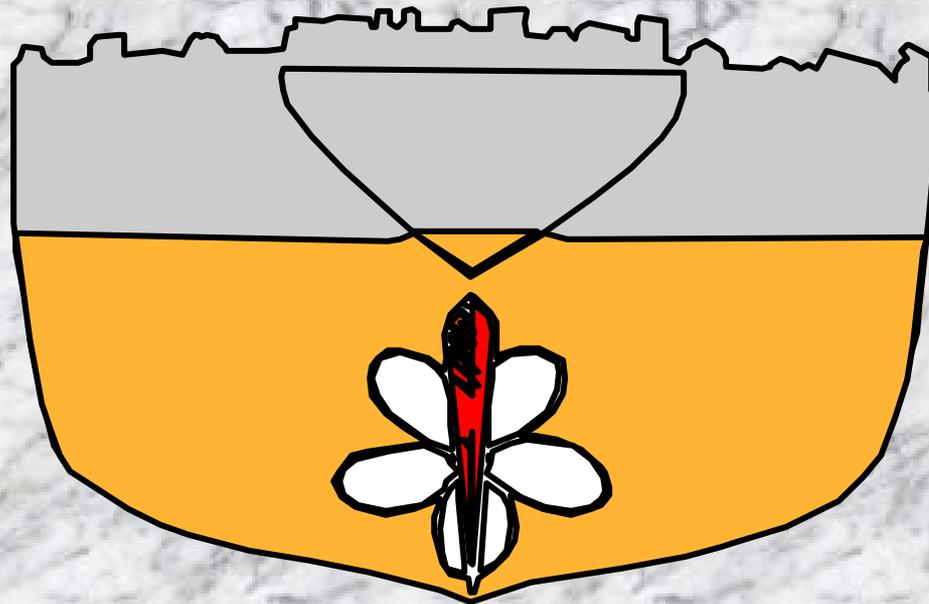
**1922 – 30'**

**1935 – 34'**

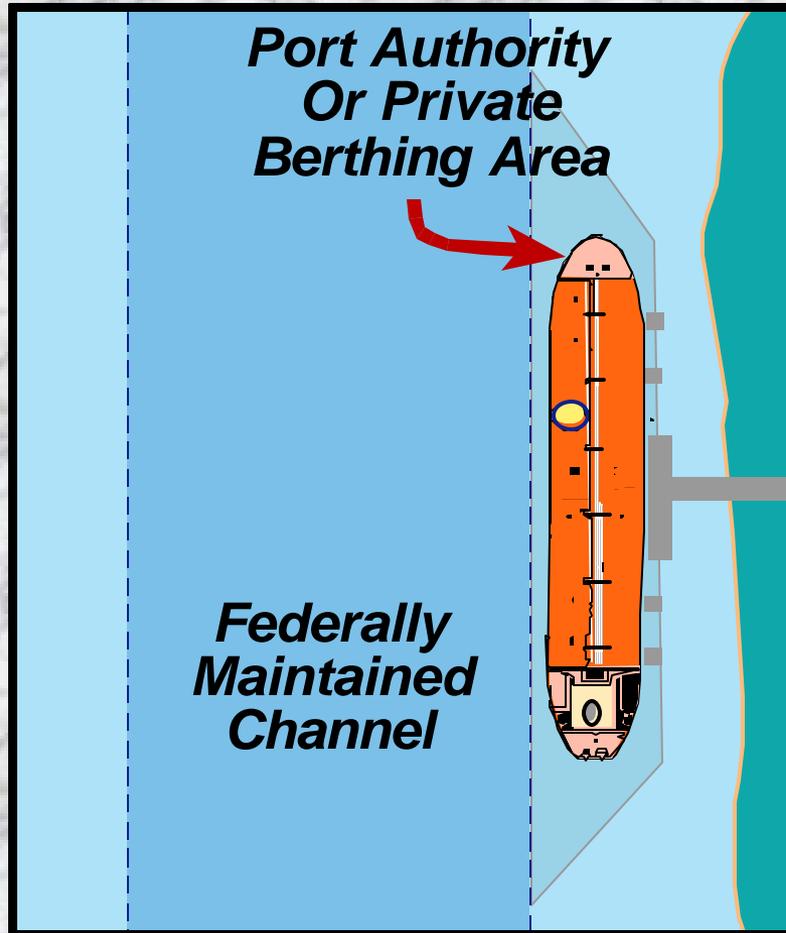
**1946 – 36'**

**1962 – 40'**

**50'**



# The Federal Channel



- ◆ Federal involvement started in 1875
- ◆ Channel to Beaumont authorized in 1912
- ◆ Federal funds pay for maintenance
- ◆ Berthing areas not part of federal channel

# Transportation Efficiency



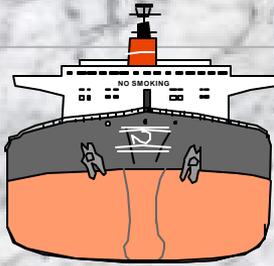
- ◆ Even as we work to diversify, Sabine-Neches Waterway is primarily a petrochemical port.
- ◆ Using large, more efficient ships to carry bulk petroleum, ore, and grain makes East Texas more cost competitive.

# Elements of Proposed Project

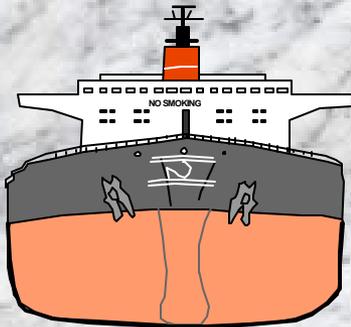
- **Deepening the waterway from the Gulf to the Port of Beaumont to improve transportation efficiency.**
- **Widening the Neches River Channel and the Sabine-Neches Canal to improve operating efficiency and navigation safety.**



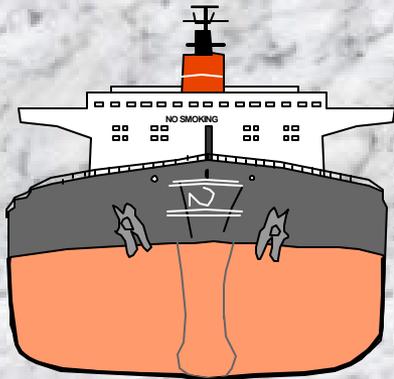
# Vessel Size Increasing



1960s  
Panama Canal  
Max.  
106' Beam  
34' Draft

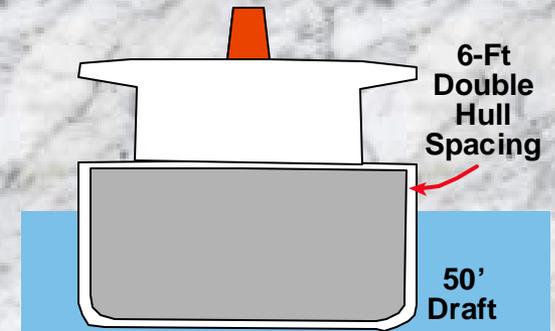


1980s  
132' Beam  
45' Draft



"Year 2000"  
>160' Beam  
>50' Draft

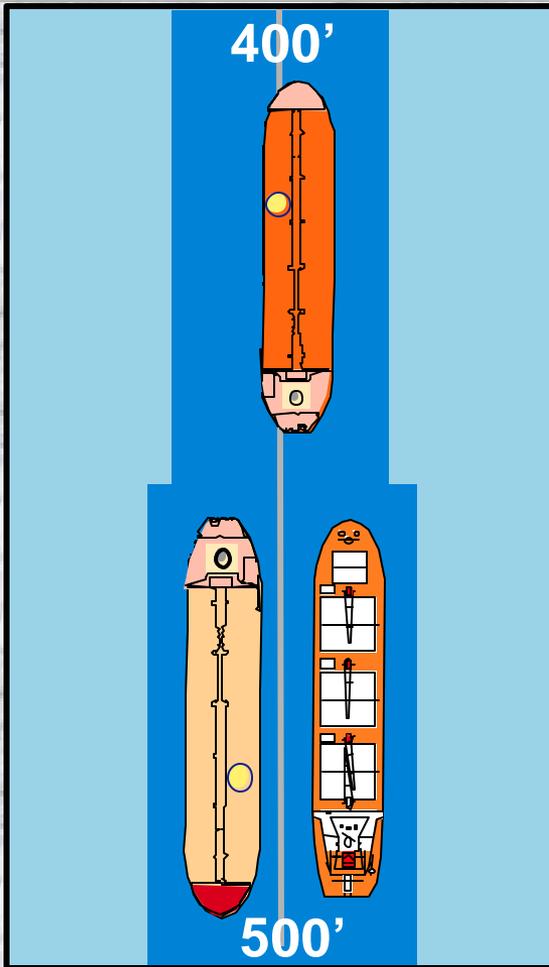
- ◆ World fleet getting bigger, draft increasing
- ◆ Double-hull requirements make tankers wider
- ◆ Ships over 40 feet already calling at the ports
- ◆ Offshore lightering continues



6-Ft  
Double  
Hull  
Spacing

50'  
Draft

# Widening to Address Safety



- ◆ Neches River Channel and Sabine-Neches Canal are 400 feet wide at bottom
- ◆ Pilots restrict traffic to one-way for wider vessels; limited to a combined width of 251 feet

# Preparing For The Future

- ◆ Deepening and widening the waterway will reduce ship delays and congestion
- ◆ Planning, authorization and construction of major navigation projects is a lengthy process