

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Texas (GIWW)

Brazos River Flood Gates (BRFG)

AUTHORIZATION: *River and Harbors Act, 21 Jan '27, House Document 238, 68th Congress, 1st Session*

LOCATION: 7 miles southwest of Freeport, Texas at the intersection of the Brazos River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

HISTORY: Soon after construction of the GIWW, rapid shoaling became evident at this crossing and these structures were built to provide safe navigation across the river crossing and minimize shoaling at the crossing and in the GIWW. The project was completed in Sept. 1943 by Tellepsen Construction for \$3,343,000

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Two Flood Gates consisting of two Sector gates each located on each side of the Brazos River along the GIWW. Gates and chambers are 75' wide with sill elevations of -16' MLLW, sealing depth of 22' and operate on rack and pinion drives. Each gate weighs 150,000 lbs or 75 tons. The project is operated by a Lockmaster, Operator Supervisor, Mechanic, and 10 Lock and Dam Operators. IMTS job and structure model is currently in place.

CURRENT STATUS: Conducting Operations and Maintenance of Brazos River Floodgates with O&M General funds (96X3123). Repairing gate houses and boat house including guidewall repairs using in-house maintenance crews. The project is scheduled for completion in Sept. 2026

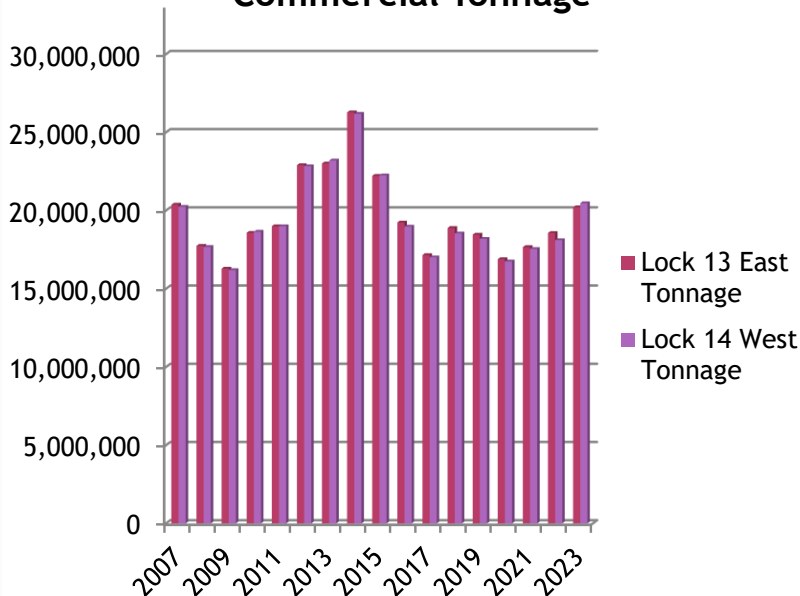
POTENTIAL ISSUES: The project records the highest allision rate of all Navigation Locks in the nation with over 60 hits per year. Most of these are chargeable back to industry as insurance repairs. A major allision could shut down navigation for days to weeks.

PROJECT FUNDING:

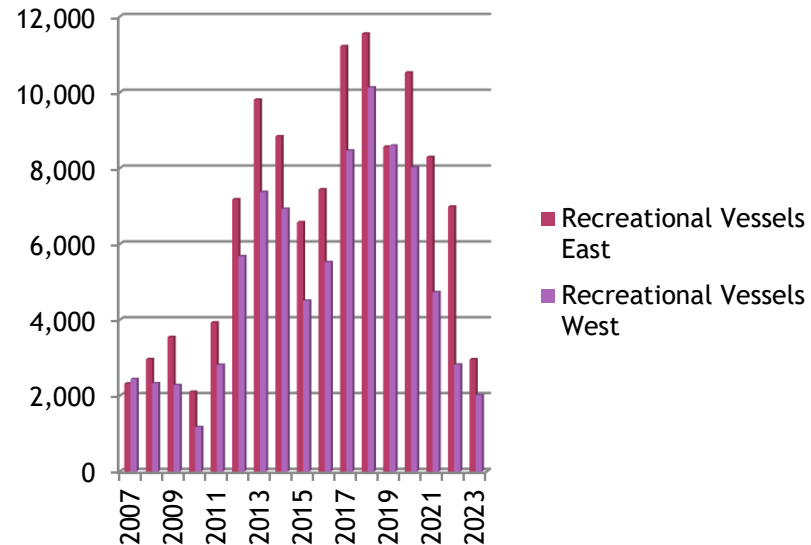
Allocation for FY25	\$2,750,000
President's Budget for FY26	\$2,755,000



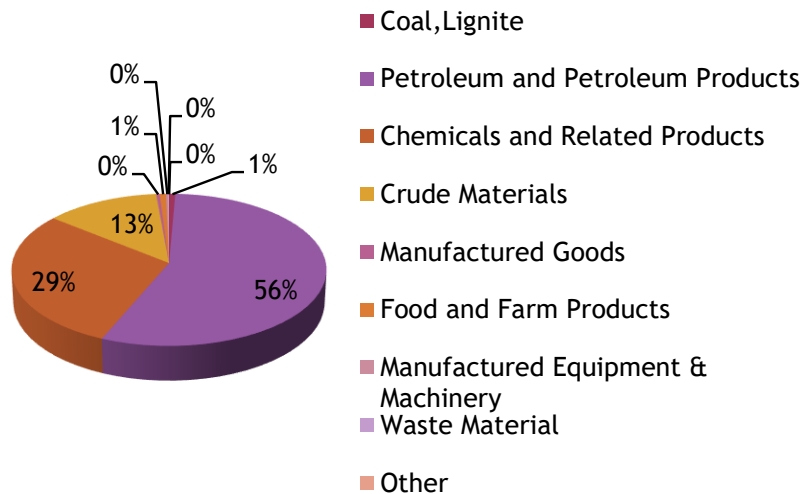
Brazos River Floodgates Commercial Tonnage



Brazos River Flood Gates Recreational Vessels



Brazos River Floodgates Commodities



The Texas portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) extends from the Sabine River to Port Isabel, Texas, and includes several tributary channels.

- 12-foot deep by 125-foot wide
- 423 miles long,
- Traverses the entire Texas Coast.
- Flood Gates at the Brazos River
- Navigation Lock at the Colorado River.
- Handle over 24,000 barge trips in 2023
- 10 Mooring basins with mooring buoys
- 76,000 million tons of cargo in 2023
- If considered a port, would be 3th largest navigation project in the state

Did You know

1 barge
= 15 rail cars
= 60 trucks

1 gal of fuel moves
1 ton of cargo
60 miles by truck
202 miles by rail
514 miles by barge

Annual economic impact of \$151m annually for each foot of draft lost by not dredging in the GIWW

The Inland Waterways move over 630 million tons of cargo valued over \$77 billion annually. Texas ships over \$11 billion.

According to research by the Tennessee Valley Authority, this cargo moves at a savings of \$10.67 per ton over alternative modes. This translates to over \$7 billion annually in transportation savings to the American Economy