

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, TX



## Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, TX Operation and Maintenance

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG

FACT SHEET as of April 01, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION:** Various, including P.L. 77-675 (1942) and Section 101(a)(29) of WRDA '96

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Navigation

**PROJECT PHASE:** Operation and Maintenance



Barge traffic along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

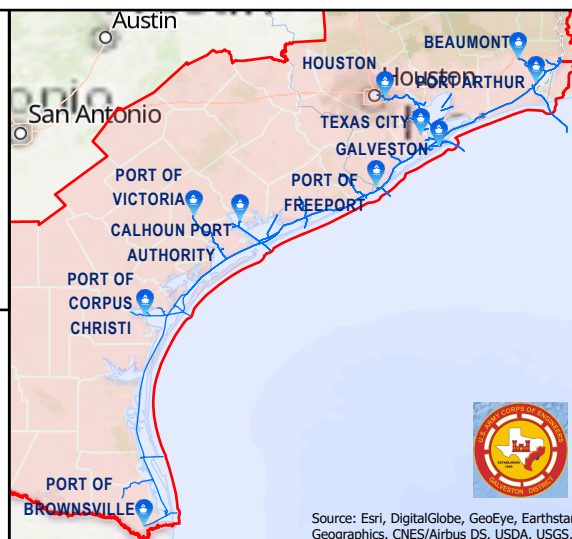
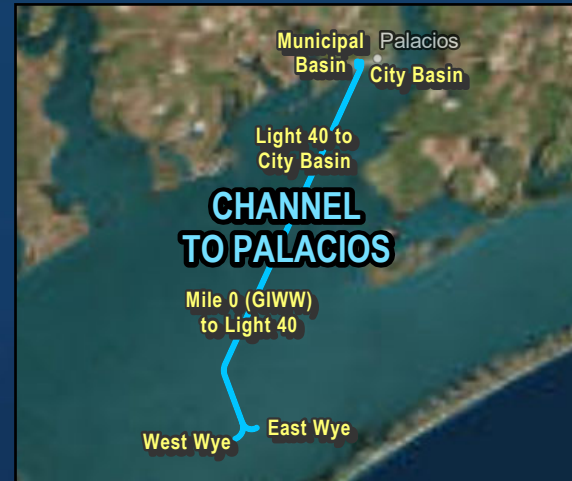
**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), Representatives Crenshaw (TX-2), Weber (TX-14), Gonzalez (TX-15), Olson (TX-22), Cloud (TX-27), Vela (TX-34), and Babin (TX-36)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Texas Department of Transportation

**BACKGROUND:** The Texas portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) navigation project consists, generally, of a 12 to 14-foot deep by 125-foot wide by approximately 423 mile long shallow-draft channel, traversing the entire Texas Coast. The 379 mile main channel extends from the Sabine River to Port Isabel, Texas and includes several tributary channels along its length. The GIWW project also includes flood gates and navigation lock structures at the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, respectively. Finally, mooring basins and mooring buoys are maintained at 10 separate locations along the length of the GIWW. The mooring basins support the heavy barge traffic, which is estimated at approximately 45,000 trips per year in FY 2017.

The Texas portion of the GIWW provides for an intermodal link between the Texas deep draft and shallow draft ports. This intermodal link is essential in connecting Texas ports and waterways with the petrochemical industries, refineries and manufacturing facilities staggered along the Texas coast. The GIWW also provides a critical link between the Texas ports and national coastal and inland port facilities. The amount of commercial tonnage transiting the Texas portion of the GIWW was 80.1 million tons total in 2017.

**STATUS:** FY18 activities included operation and maintenance of the Brazos River Flood Gates (BRFG) and the Colorado River Locks (CRL) facilities; procurement and maintenance of mooring buoys at the GIWW mooring basins; placement area (PA) improvements at PA 86, 87 & 88; and maintenance dredging within the following channel reaches: Rollover to Causeway and Bolivar Flare, Corpus Christi Ship Channel to Port Isabel and Channel to Harlingen. Also, received \$13,500,000 in supplemental funding for additional maintenance dredging within the following channel reaches as result of shoaling caused by Hurricane Harvey: Freeport to Upper Matagorda Bay, Across Aransas Bay, Rollover to Causeway and Bolivar Flare, Corpus Christi Ship Channel to Port Isabel and Channel to Harlingen.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS,

The USACE Galveston District plays a key role in America's well-being by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce. The Galveston District is directly responsible for monitoring more than 1,000 miles of channel. Dredges are constantly at work keeping vital marine arteries open for waterborne traffic carrying cargo ranging from crude oil to coffee. Other priorities include construction of jetties or breakwaters to protect harbor and inlet entrances and the locks along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at the crossing of the Brazos and Colorado rivers.

- Aids to Navigation**
- GREEN ● Texas Ports
  - RED ● CESWG District Offices
  - YELLOW ★ Navigation Channel