

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: GIWW - Chocolate Bayou, TX



## GIWW, Chocolate Bayou, TX Operation and Maintenance

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of April 01, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION:** House Document 217, 89th Congress, First Session

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Navigation

**PROJECT PHASE:** Operation and Maintenance



Bank Erosion Protection at Chocolate Bayou

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), Representative Weber (TX-14)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Brazoria County Conservation and Reclamation District # 3

**BACKGROUND:** This Chocolate Bayou navigation project is a shallow-draft project 13-feet deep by 125-feet wide by approximately 8.2 miles long, extending from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at Mile Marker 376, through Chocolate Bay and Chocolate Bayou, to the port facilities located between Galveston and Freeport in Brazoria County, Texas.

The Chocolate Bayou navigation project support barge traffic calling the facilities located along the east bank of Chocolate Bayou. The primary commodities include chemicals and chemical related products such as benzene, toluene, chemical feed stock, heavy aromatic oils, pyrolytic gasoline, etc. Chemical products transported to/from the Chocolate Bayou facilities are utilized in support of refineries at Freeport, Houston, Corpus Christi, etc. The GIWW provides a critical link between Chocolate Bayou and the Texas coastal ports.

**STATUS:** No activities were performed in FY 2018.

**ISSUES:** Neither the FY18 nor the FY19 budgets provide funding to perform maintenance dredging of Chocolate Bayou. Without maintenance dredging it is anticipated that the Chocolate Bayou project will be draft restricted in FY20. Tug and barges will be required to light-load until restrictions are lifted.

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
- RED
- ★ YELLOW
- Texas Ports
- CESWG District Offices
- Navigation Channel



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