

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Matagorda Ship Channel, TX



## Matagorda Ship Channel, TX Operation & Maintenance

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of April 01, 2019

**AUTHORIZATION:** House Document 388, 84<sup>th</sup> Congress, Second Session

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Navigation

**PROJECT PHASE:** Operation & Maintenance



Alcoa Bauxite Discharging Berth at Point Comfort

**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), Representatives Weber (TX-14) and Cloud (TX-27)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** Calhoun County Navigation District, Calhoun County, Texas

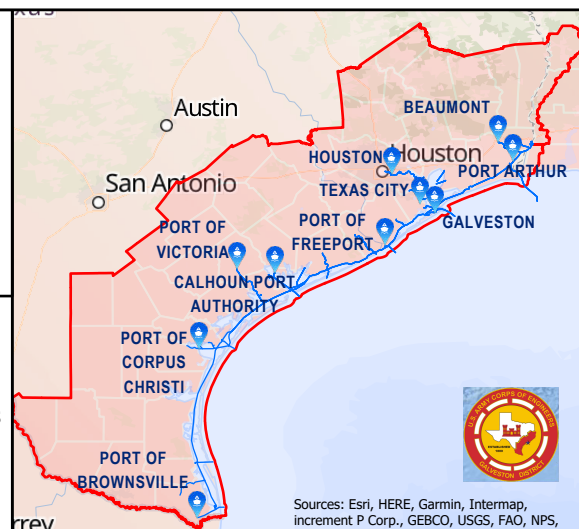
**BACKGROUND:** The Matagorda Ship Channel is a 38-foot deep by 200-foot wide by approximately 26 mile long deep-draft navigation channel, which extends from the Gulf of Mexico; through a jettied inlet; across Matagorda Bay; to a turning basin at Port Lavaca. The project includes 2 rock jetties; 1.13 & 1.14 miles in length. The project is located in the vicinities of Port O'Connor, Port Lavaca, and Point Comfort in Matagorda and Calhoun Counties, Texas.

Port Lavaca & Point Comfort is ranked #81 in the nation with respect to commercial tonnages (4.3 million tons total in 2017). Major commodities transported through the Matagorda Ship Channel include chemicals, petrochemicals, and agricultural fertilizer.

**STATUS:** FY 2018 activities included maintenance dredging from Matagorda Peninsula to Point Comfort to project depth.

**ISSUES:** The Matagorda Ship Channel is a very dynamic channel with shoaling patterns that vary widely from year to year and are strongly influence by localize weather events. These inconsistent shoaling patterns create challenges in providing consistent channel availability. It is critical that the advanced maintenance funding packages for this project are consistently funded to minimize channel draft restrictions.

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



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS,

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

