

SABINE-NECHES WATERWAY CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana

PROJECT LOCATION

The SNWW is an approximately 64-mile federally authorized and maintained waterway located in Jefferson and Orange Counties in southeast Texas and Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The Sabine Pass, Sabine Lake, and Sabine River together form part of the boundary between the states of Texas and Louisiana (Figure 1). The SNWW serves the ports of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange, Texas.



FIGURE 1. Project Location

PROBLEM

As growth and economic development of the study area continues, the increasing use of the SNWW intensifies the need for more efficient movement of commodities, particularly crude petroleum, by vessels traveling the waterway.

The amount of the vessel traffic along the waterway also increases concerns for the safety of the users and the local communities and businesses all along the waterway. With the current channel dimensions, the tonnage is not being moved as efficiently due to the size restrictions of the larger tankers utilizing the channel. These tankers are either limited by the current channel depth of 40 feet or by the physical and safety limitations of the channel.

Waterway users are concerned that future increases in the Nation's dependence on imported oil and the SNWW's growing share of the import market will compound existing problems with transportation efficiency and safety.

STUDY

In response to Congressional study authority, the reconnaissance phase of the study was initiated in September 1998. The reconnaissance investigations resulted in a finding that there was an interest in continuing the study into the feasibility phase. The feasibility study was initiated on March 6, 2000 and investigated the need to deepen and widen the SNWW to improve navigational efficiencies and improve safety along the waterway. The Jefferson County Waterway and Navigation District is the non-Federal Sponsor (Sponsor). The study costs are shared equally between the Corps of Engineers and the Sponsor.

The proposed channel improvements consists of:

- Offshore reaches in Gulf of Mexico deepened from 42 to 50 ft
- Channel extended an additional 13.1 miles into the Gulf of Mexico at a width of 700 ft.
- Inshore channels (Sabine Pass Jetty Channel to the Port of Beaumont) deepened from 40 to 48 ft
- Inshore channels (Sabine Pass Jetty Channel to the junction with Taylor Bayou) widened to 700 ft
- Taylor Bayou channels and turning basins (TBs) deepened to 48 ft

- Neches River mouth curving, existing TBs enlarged and addition of new TBs and anchorages basins.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The following project documents are provided for additional information:

Section 905(b) Reconnaissance Study (Sept. 1998)

Project Management Plan (April 2002, with Oct 2003 updates)

Project Review Plan (2007)

PROJECT LINKS

Project information can be obtained at the following website [\[REDACTED\]](#):