

## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume IX, Issue CIII

TIME:

1400

23 October 2009

**Implementation of Channel 12 VHF as the VTS Channel  
for the New Orleans Harbor Area**

Effective 0001 hours (local time), Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Coast Guard will establish **Channel 12 VHF FM (156.600 Mhz) as the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) working channel for the New Orleans Harbor area.**

The New Orleans Harbor area is described as the section of the Lower Mississippi River between Twelve Mile Point Light 110 (MM 109.0 LDB) and Saxonholm Light 86 (MM 86.0 LDB) including the riverside lock forebays for the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC), Algiers Canal, and Harvey Canal. Within this section of the river, vessels **will no longer** be required to monitor Channel 16 VHF-FM.

This change in operating procedure is required to reduce VTS radio communications on the Bridge to Bridge Channel 67 VHF-FM (156.375 Mhz) and improve its service to the marine community. VTS Lower Mississippi River ("New Orleans Traffic") will continue to monitor Channel 67 and respond when hailed.


**Vessels operating in this section of the river will be required to continuously guard Channels 67 and 12.**

All vessels subject to the Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act are affected by this change.

Vessels shall notify the VTS of the following:

- (1) Marine Casualty as defined in 46 CFR; Part 4.05-1;
- (2) Involvement in the ramming of a fixed or floating object;
- (3) A pollution incident as defined in 33 CFR, Part 151.15;
- (4) A defect or discrepancy in an aid to navigation;
- (5) A hazardous condition as defined in 33 CFR, Part 160.203;
- (6) Improper operation of vessel equipment required by 33 CFR, Part 164; and,
- (7) A hazardous vessel operating condition as defined in 33 CFR, Part 161.2.

If you have any questions regarding the establishment of Channel 12 as the VTS Channel for New Orleans Harbor, please contact the **Vessel Traffic Service at 504-589-2780**. Additional information on this change is provided on Homeport at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> under "VTS LMR" Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's).



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