



# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Sector Mobile  
1500 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mobile, AL 36615

MSIB Number: 51-20  
Date: October 7, 2020  
Contact: LTJG' Andy Anderson  
Phone: (251) 382-8653  
E-Mail: Sectormobilewaterways@uscg.mil



## PORT STATUS X-RAY FOR CAPTAIN OF THE PORT MOBILE AREA OF OPERATIONS

(Gale force winds are predicted within 48 hours)

### Weather Advisory Port Status X-RAY

**Time: 10:00 A.M. / Date: Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

1. Information for the Marine Industry: Due to the possibility of gale force winds (39-73 mph) associated with Hurricane Delta entering Sector Mobile's area of responsibility within 48-hours, the Captain of the Port (COTP) has ordered **Port Status X-RAY** for the entire Captain of the Port Zone Mobile with the exception of Panama City and the GICWW east of MM 187.
2. Current port and waterway status:
  - a. GICWW East of MM 187: WHISKEY
  - b. GICWW West of MM 187: X-RAY
  - c. Port of Panama City: WHISKEY
  - d. Port of Pensacola: X-RAY (DRAFT RESTRICTION 25FT / 7.6M)
  - e. Port of Mobile: X-RAY (DRAFT RESTRICTION 45FT / 13.7M)
  - f. Port of Pascagoula: X-RAY
  - g. Port of Gulfport: X-RAY
3. At this time, all waterways in the Mobile AOR are open to all traffic with the mariner guidelines below.
4. The COTP will increase harbor patrols and conduct preliminary surveys of all ports, vessels, and facilities to determine their present state of readiness and to identify and correct potential problems.
5. The COTP may issue additional MSIBs as the weather system approaches and Port Status' change. Mariners throughout the COTP Mobile AOR are encouraged to use reliable sources of information to monitor the path of Hurricane Delta and remain prepared to take actions in accordance with the direction and severity of the storm.
  - a. Current information may be obtained from the Homeport Port Directory:  
<https://homeportr.uscg.mil/port-directory/mobile>
6. Mariner Guidelines: The following guidelines are provided in order to make preparations for the onset of the weather system.

**Port Status X-RAY is ordered at this time and the following actions are required:**

- (1) All self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 300 Gross Tons (GT) and all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs must continue to report their intention to depart or remain in port.
- (2) All oceangoing commercial vessels and Coast Guard regulated barges over 300 GT that intend to remain in port are required to submit a *Remaining in Port Checklist for Oceangoing Vessels* (Annex A) and a detailed mooring plan to the COTP Mobile Immediately. The request must be faxed to (251) 441-6534 or emailed to [secmobarrivals@uscg.mil](mailto:secmobarrivals@uscg.mil).
- (3) All oceangoing commercial vessels and Coast Guard regulated barges over 300 GT that intend to remain in port should follow the *Storm Preparation Checklist for Vessels* (Annex B), which list additional precautionary measures for vessels and barges that intend to remain in port.
- (4) The COTP Mobile may take administrative action against oceangoing commercial vessels and Coast Guard regulated barges over 300 GT that refuse to depart port/relocate to safe harbor, submit an insufficient/inadequate mooring plan, or have not taken the necessary steps to prepare for forecasted heavy weather.
- (5) Any oceangoing commercial vessel and Coast Guard regulated barges greater than 300 GT permitted to remain in port should have the outboard anchor at short stay, adequate mooring lines out, have a navigation watch set and maintain a listening watch on Channel 16 VHF-FM. Vessels allowed to remain in port must have the decks clear of any missile hazards, potential pollution hazards, and flammable materials. All persons in charge must ensure hatches are secured for heavy weather.
- (6) All waterfront facilities & vessels should start securing cargo operations in preparation for storm arrival. Vessels required to depart port shall ensure cargo operations are secured to meet sail times. Vessels requiring tugs & pilots during their transit should arrange for these services immediately.
- (7) Oceangoing commercial vessels and Coast Guard regulated barges greater than 300 GT not approved to remain in port should depart the port immediately.
- (8) All commercial vessels with installed Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) - regardless of tonnage, length, or service - that remain or transit within port must activate the AIS. The AIS shall remain activated through Post-Storm **ZULU** (following landfall). Vessel operators must contact the COTP if, for any reason, the installed AIS is not activated.

**Waterfront Facilities:**

- (1) All waterfront facilities & vessels should start securing cargo operations in preparation for storm arrival. Cargo operations may continue, however, shall be ready to secure immediately by direction of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port.
- (2) Waterfront facilities should secure all missile hazards and properly stowing all hazardous cargoes that remain onboard their facility.

- (3) Waterfront facility operators must notify the COTP Mobile of any Cargo of Particular Hazard (33 CFR 126) or Certain Dangerous Cargo (33 CFR 160) which they intend to leave unsecured in open areas due to insufficient storage space or stowage regulation.
  - (4) Complete the action items for Port Status **X-RAY** outlined in the *Storm Preparation Checklist for Waterfront Facilities* (Annex C).
7. Mariners are advised that movable bridges may close as early as 12 hours prior to the forecasted arrival of gale force winds within the COTP Mobile AOR.
  8. Ports and mariners are cautioned that the COTP Mobile may quickly set Port Status Yankee and further conditions as the situation develops.
  9. Port Authorities, Directors and Managers are reminded of the importance to communicate all information provided by the Coast Guard to tenants, vessels and other port infrastructure members. Port tenants, local industry and vessels operating in the impacted area are strongly encouraged to obtain the latest port status and other relevant information by checking USCG Homeport. Lessons learned from Hurricane Sally indicated confusion due to lack of communication. In order to reduce confusion, the COTP recommends taking an aggressive communication posture, pushing all information as early and often as possible.
  10. Questions may be addressed by contacting Sector Mobile Command Center at (251) 441-5976.



L. A. ALLEN  
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander, Coast Guard Sector Mobile  
Captain of the Port Mobile

Please visit us on the internet at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/mobile>

*This release has been issued for public information and notification purposes only.*

- Annexes:** Annex A – Remaining in Port Checklists for Oceangoing Vessels  
Annex B – Storm Preparation Checklist  
Appendix 1 – Recommended Precautionary Measures for Ships  
Appendix 2 – Recommended Precautionary Measures for Barges  
Annex C – Storm Preparation Checklist for Waterfront Facilities