

News Release

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Electronic navigation charts now available on Corps Web site

Commercial navigators and recreational boaters provided free and easy access to information

NEW ORLEANS—The New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announces the recent release of a new electronic navigation chart (ENC) on the Atchafalaya River.

The Atchafalaya River ENC has three parts: Old River Lock to just below Krotz Springs, mile 0 to 42; Krotz Springs to Eugene Island, mile 42 to 104; and Eugene Island to the Gulf of Mexico, mile 104 to 150. In addition to the main channel, the chart covers the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel Extension and the Little Atchafalaya River Alternate Route.

The set is available at no cost to the user for download from the New Orleans District's Web site at http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eng/s-57/atchafalaya.asp.

The files may be directly imported into any river ENC or electronic chart display and information system that reads and handles the S-57 data format. The river ENC ranges from a small scale of 1:100,000 down to a larger scale of 1:5,000. These scales will pinpoint the mariner's or recreational boater's location within a six- to 10-foot (2-3 meters) radius of their craft.

"The Corps' goal is to make river ENCs as readily available to our customers as GPS receivers are today," explained Mark Nettles, a New Orleans District cartographer. "To that end, the New Orleans District's Web site will provide free and easy access to current and future river ENCs, making downloading simple, quick and user-friendly."

Add 1 – Atchafalaya River ENC

Future river charts will include the Lower Mississippi River from Pilottown to Black Hawk, including South Pass, Pass a Loutre, Main Pass, Baptiste Collette, Tiger Pass and Grand Pass. Also to be charted are the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, Michoud Canal and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (Industrial Canal)

In addition, smaller charts isolating target areas subject to shoaling, such as all deep-draft crossings and Southwest Pass, will be updated daily

The Corps also plans to produce electronic navigation charts of the entire Mississippi River Inland System as well as other rivers and tributaries that are heavily used by commercial as well as recreational crafts.

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