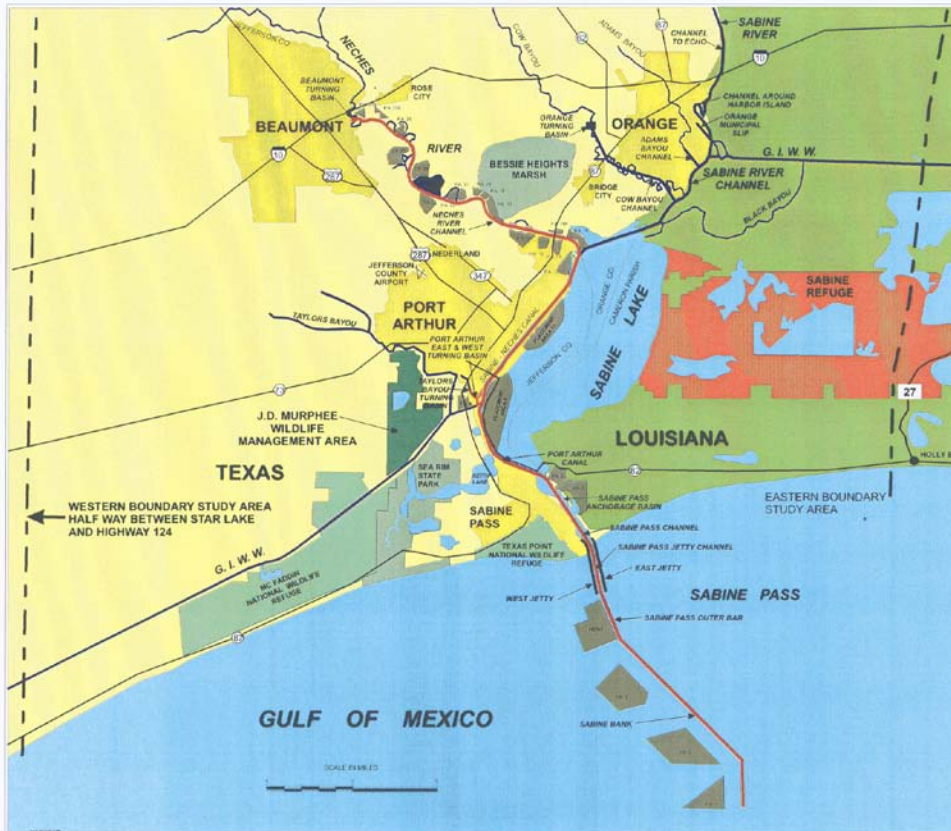


# Sabine-Neches Waterway Channel Improvement Project Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana

25 May 2010



**Abstract:** The Sabine-Neches Waterway (SNWW) is a federally constructed deep-draft channel, which serves the Ports of Port Arthur, Beaumont, and Orange, Texas. The non-Federal sponsor is the Sabine-Neches Navigation District. The existing waterway consists of a jettied entrance channel, 42 feet deep and 500 to 800 feet wide, from the Gulf of Mexico; a channel 40 feet deep and 400 feet wide to Beaumont via the Neches River; and a channel 30 feet deep and 200 feet wide to Orange via the Sabine River. The study focused on modifications up to the Port of Beaumont to improve the efficiency and safety of navigation on the waterway. The current channel was completed in

1960. At that time, crude oil tankers averaging 40,000 dead weight tons (DWT) with loaded drafts of 36 feet were common. Vessels over 90,000 DWT are now used routinely for crude oil imports to both Beaumont and Port Arthur. In addition to larger vessels, the amount of vessel traffic on the SNWW has also increased. Both the SNWW and U.S. crude oil imports have risen steadily since the 1970s. From 2002 to 2006, the SNWW's crude petroleum waterborne imports comprised 12 percent of U.S. and 18 percent of Western Gulf Coast imports.

The recommended plan consists of navigation improvements in seven phases:

- Deepening the SNWW from 40 to 48 feet and offshore channel from 42 to 50 feet in depth from offshore to the Port of Beaumont Turning Basin;
- Extending the 50-foot-deep offshore channel by 13.2 miles, increasing the total length of the channel from 64 to 77 miles;
- Decreasing the width of the Sabine Bank Channel from 800 to 700 feet;
- Tapering and marking the Sabine Bank Channel from 800 feet wide (Station 23+300) to 700 feet wide (Station 25+800 through the end of the channel);
- Deepening and widening of Taylor Bayou channels and turning basins;
- Easing selected bends on the Sabine-Neches Canal and Neches River Channel; and
- Constructing new and enlarging/deepening existing turning and anchorage basins on the Neches River Channel.

The fully funded cost for the project (e.g., First Costs and escalation in current dollars) totals \$1,161,372,000. Based on the annualized project benefits estimated at \$115,074,000 and annualized project costs estimated at \$91,341,000, the benefit-cost ratio for the Recommended Plan is 1.3.

**Report Documentation:** Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- State & Agency Review Comment Letters
- Documentation of Review Findings
- Proposed Chief of Engineers Report for CWRB
- ASA(CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Response
- Congressional Notification
- Signed Record of Decision
- Authorization

**Additional Information:**

[Southwestern Division](#)

[Galveston District](#)