



Marine Safety Information Bulletin # 02-20

This bulletin is used purely for informational purposes to assist the maritime community within the Sector Upper Mississippi River Area of Responsibility. Its purpose is to advise relevant parties of emerging information & situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System as well as facilitates cooperation among the involved parties regarding actions that we may be taking and/or that you may need to employ in the interest of safety/security.

Illinois River High Water – River Closure / No Wake Zone

May 20, 2020

Commercial and recreational operators are advised that portions of the Illinois River will close to vessel traffic based on the thresholds in the table below. Closures are enforced due to existing hazards such as drift and high water. Additionally, vessel traffic may cause damage to or overtopping of levees. Closures will remain in effect until water levels decrease to a safe condition as determined by the Captain of the Port in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Unless on-scene conditions dictate otherwise, the following thresholds will be used to determine the status of the Illinois River:

Area	Gauge Level	Threshold
Peoria (MM 145.6-187)	Peoria Gauge – above 27.0 ft	Closed
	Peoria Gauge – 27.0 to 25.5 ft	No wake
	Peoria Gauge – below 25.5 ft.	No restrictions
Havana (MM 108.6-128.9)	Havana Gauge- above 26.0 ft	Closed
	Havana Gauge – 26.0 to 24.5 ft	No wake
	Havana Gauge – below 24.5 ft	No restrictions
Beardstown (MM 80.3-108.5)	Beardstown Gauge – above 27.0 ft.	Closed
	Beardstown Gauge – 27.0 to 26.0 ft.	No wake and 9-barge tow or less
	Beardstown Gauge – below 26.0 ft.	No restrictions
Meredosia (MM 50-80.2)	Meredosia Gauge – above 26.0 ft. Valley City Gauge – above 24 ft.	Closed
	Meredosia Gauge – 26.0 to 25 ft. Valley City Gauge – 24.0 to 23.0 ft.	No wake
	Meredosia Gauge – below 25.0 ft. Valley City Gauge – below 23 ft.	No restrictions
Hardin (MM 10-49.9)	Hardin Gauge – above 35.5 ft.	Closed
	Hardin Gauge – 35.5 to 34.0 ft.	No wake
	Hardin Gauge – below 34.0 ft.	No restrictions

Gauge readings can be obtained from <https://water.weather.gov>.

Operators are reminded that areas impacted by high water most likely have not been surveyed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nor have Aids to Navigation been reestablished post flooding. Mariners should use extreme caution when operating in these areas.

To receive the latest information on this high water event, monitor marine VHF channels 14 and 16 or the Upper Mississippi River Port Directory at [https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/upper-mississippi-river-\(st-louis\)](https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/upper-mississippi-river-(st-louis)). Notifications of hazardous conditions or marine casualties should be made to the Sector Upper Mississippi River Command Center at 314-269-2332 or 314-269-2463. This number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

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By Direction