



# U.S. COAST GUARD

## Sector Upper Mississippi River



February 02, 2022

### Marine Safety/Security Information Bulletin # 01-22

*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 and situations that may impact our Marine Transportation System as well as facilitate 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 Ice Advisory Update 1

Due to concerns of ice buildup interfering with navigation on the Illinois River, and in anticipation of continued prolonged extreme temperatures accelerating the presence of ice formation in the channel, Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River is recommending:

- All vessel operators group tow boats prior to transiting.
- The use of ice couplings prior to locking through.
- Operators consider navigating in single file.

If additional restrictions are dictated by the local lock and dam, operators shall follow their requirements. Operators are reminded to be on the lookout for missing or off-station buoys and to report any aids to navigation discrepancies to the numbers listed below. Additionally, please make use of both electronic and physical means to identify buoy locations. Mariners are cautioned to exercise extreme care when entering and departing lock chambers to avoid damaging the lock gates and are reminded to contact the appropriate lock and dam for current navigation restrictions.

Vessel operators should remain diligent while on the lookout for ice gorges and are advised to exercise due caution to avoid damaging barges and unusual currents and high localized flow or out draft conditions due to water bypassing the temporary dam formed by the gorge. Operators approaching an ice gorge should make certain that their towboat has sufficient power to properly control the number of barges in tow under such unusual conditions of flow. The most likely areas for ice gorge formation are enclosed to this bulletin.

The Coast Guard has received reports of individuals riding motorcycles on the ice in the vicinity of mile marker 163 on the Illinois River. Mariners are advised to be aware of persons and wildlife on the ice. Please report all sightings to the Western Rivers Command Center.

To receive the latest information, monitor marine VHF channels 14 and 16, 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)). Hazardous conditions and marine casualty notifications should be made to the Western Rivers Command Center at (314) 269-2332 or (314) 269-2463 – these numbers are continuously monitored.

Sincerely,

S. R. MOORE  
Chief, Waterways Management Division  
U.S. Coast Guard

# Most Likely Areas for Ice Gorge Formation for the Illinois Waterway Annex of the Waterways Action Plan

