CANAL Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)(General	STA	nus Operating		ACS			
STATE/PROVINCE: FL,AL,MS,LA,TX	┧						
COUNTIES:	1	DATES IN USE	CANAL	L E N G T H SLACKWATER	TOTAL.		LOCKS / SIZE
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Carrabelle, FL to the Mexican Border & branch to Port Allen	GEMENTS	1820 s+			1,100 mi	10/v	arious
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:	ENLAR		· · · ·			ļ <u> </u>	<del></del>

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

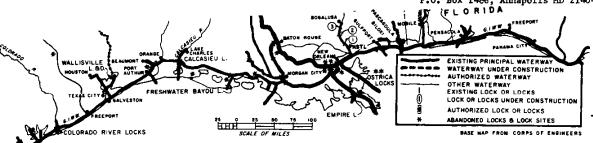
The GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY (GIWW), stretches 1,100 miles from northern Florida to the Mexican border, a sheltered waterway similar to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, cutting through lowlands and marsh, connecting numerous bays and streams along the Gulf coast. Developed in sections and essentially completed by 1949, it is still undergoing changes. One of the earliest cuts on the GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY was in Texas, the privately built GALVE-STON AND BRAZOS CANAL (1854) between Galveston Bay and the mouth of the Brazos. Although there are a meder of locks on the GIWW in Louistana, the only ones in Taxas are the COLORADO RIVER FLOOD LOCKS in Matagorda (75x1,275) in the chamber, 0-10 f lift, 1957), one on each side of the river where the GTWW crosses it. to keep floodwaters out of the waterway. These were originally flood gates in 1944, later converted into locks by the addition of a second pair of gates for each. This earlier stage is still represented by the BRAZOS RIVER FLOODGATES (1943) at the Brazos River crossing of the GIWW.

Until 1953 there was a concrete tide lock (1916, 80x600\*, 1\* lift) on the SABINE-NECHES CANAL (1908), now part of the GIWW, 6 mi. above Port Arthur. This lock was intended to keep salt water out of the ricegrowing region upstream, but proved to be such a bottleneck that it was entirely removed.

A number of nautical charts covering the Louisiana canals and the GIWW are available from the National Ocean Survey, Distribution Division C44, Riverdale, MD 20804. Ask for their free chart catalog #1 (Atlantic). Especially useful are #11354 (Morgan City to Port Allen), #11087 (New Orleans to Calcasieu River, East Section), #11077 (West Section), and #11086 (Mississippi River, Venice to New Orleans).

For an excellent account of the development of the GIWW in Texas see CUSTODIANS OF THE COAST by Lynn M. Alperin (1977), the Bicentennial history of the Galveston District, \$6 ppd. payable to Treasurer of the United States, from the Galveston District. The

GIWW is also covered by the Southern Edition of WATERWAY GUIDE, \$9.45 plus tax ppd. from Waterway Guide, P.O. Box 1486, Annapolis MD 21404.



From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 3 (1979)

See also: "Gulf Intracoastal Waterway" flyer free from the Galveston, New Orleans or Mobile District; and The Delta Engineers, by Albert E. Cowdrey, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, Box 60267, New Orleans LA 70160.

Also see Inner Harbor Navigation Canal; Algiers, Harvey, Bayou Sorrel, Bayou Boeuf, Port Allen, Vermilion, Galcasieu, and Colorado River locks, in the American Canal Guide Part 3.

The HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL (1914), daily 9-4 except holidays; call a branch of the GTWW, is 51 miles long from the Bay to a turning basin in Houston east of US 90 via Clinton Drive. There are no locks. There is an observation platform on Wharf 9, open during daylight, and there are free 2-hour boat tours Tues -Sun, reservations at least 3 months in advance at 713-225-0671. Near the channel is the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, on NASA Rd. 1, NE of I-45, with unguided tours

713-483-4321 for guided tours. On the channel is the San Jacinto Monument and Museum of History, M-Sat 9:30-5:30, Sun 10 to 6, June through Labor Day, then closed most Mondays and Christmas; panoramic view from top of monument. Nearby is the battleship USS TEXAS, open daily 10-7 June - Labor Day and 11-5 Sept. 3 - Apr. 30 except Mondays. Bear Creek Park (camping) is convenient to the channel and its attractions.

1	Socie	ties,	Libraries,	etc.	):
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DATE 26Sept81

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CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549

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