

Notice to Merrimack River Boaters

The Whittier Bridge/I-95 Improvement Project has been underway since summer 2013 and will continue through the 2016 boating season. This season's work is focused on demolition of the old Whittier Bridge and construction of the new southbound span in the old bridge's location. As a result, several large barges, tugs, cranes and work boats will be operating in both the federal channel and Steamboat Channel areas of the bridge during the spring, summer and fall. The contractor is working two shifts:

- Day shift work hours:
 - 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Saturday
- Night shift hours:
 - 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM, Sunday through Thursday
 - A Saturday night shift from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM may be utilized, on an as-needed basis

Safe passage for boaters will be maintained through the work zone during construction using one or both of the channels. Should it be necessary to close one of the channels, local harbor masters will patrol and direct traffic accordingly. Additionally, the available navigation channels may be reduced in width at times. We recommend that concerned vessels hail the tug Katahdin via marine radio VHF FM channel 16/13 before traveling through the area. **For your safety, we ask that you note the following:**

- Mariners are urged to transit at the slowest safe speed to minimize wake and to use extreme caution when traveling through the construction site.
- Barges are marked with white flashing lights and temporary structures, such as temporary piers, are marked with red flashing lights.
- Existing aids to navigation (buoys and lights) are fixed and operate day and night.
- On those weekends when work is not ongoing at the bridge, tying up to or climbing on the new bridge, barges, cranes or other construction equipment is strictly prohibited. "No Trespassing" signs will be posted for police enforcement and 24-hour video surveillance will be in effect.

**For the safety of river users and construction personnel,
strict adherence to these guidelines is essential.**

Please visit the project website at www.mass.gov/massdot/whittierbridge to sign up for email alerts and updates and to learn more about this important project. View progress photos on MassDOT's [Whittier Bridge Flickr Album](#). For questions or concerns about the project, please contact Daniel Fielding, Legislative Liaison for MassDOT, at daniel.fielding@dot.state.ma.us or 857-368-8959.