

MEMBER ALERT

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JULY 25, 2008

COLLISION IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND EXTENDED OIL SPILL SAFETY ZONE

On Wednesday, July 23, a collision occurred between the Liberian-flagged chemical tanker TINTOMARA and a barge pushed by the tug MEL OLIVER splitting the barge nearly in half and resulting in an oil spill of significant magnitude. The accident happened just north of the massive bridges connecting downtown New Orleans to the west bank of the Mississippi River.

As a result, the US Coast Guard has extended the closure of the Mississippi River from mile marker 97, one mile north of the Harvey Canal, Gretna, La., to the Gulf of Mexico, which expands an area of nearly 100 miles.

This Safety Zone is needed to protect personnel and vessels from the potential safety hazards associated with the spillage of oil that originated near Mile Marker 97. The Safety Zone will be in effect until further notice. All vessels are prohibited from entering this zone until the restrictions are lifted by the COTP New Orleans.

Members are asked to note the foregoing and monitor US Coast guard sources for further information as events unfold.