

# AIS Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) and Navigation Notices: Transmitting Information via AIS

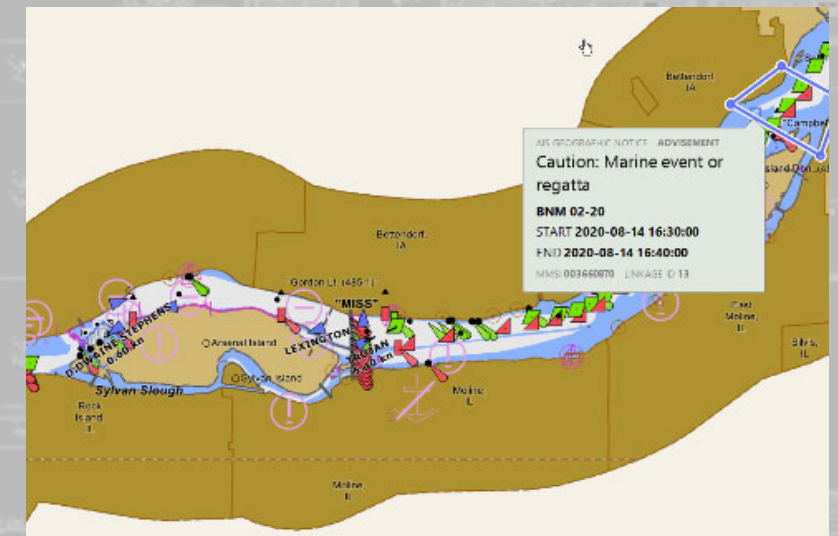
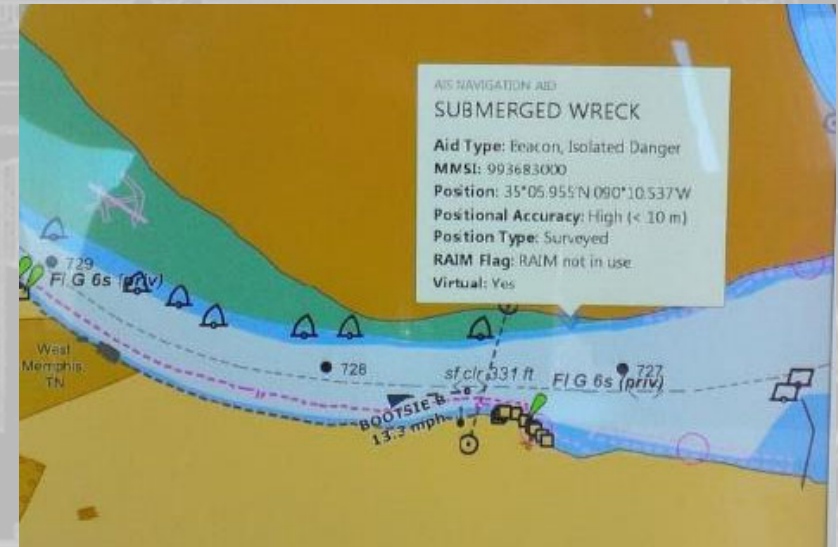
Brian Tetreault

[brian.j.tetreault@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.j.tetreault@usace.army.mil)

Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory

Engineer Research and Development Center

11 May 2021



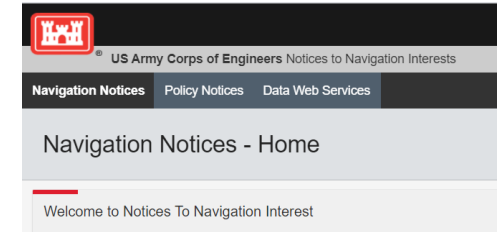
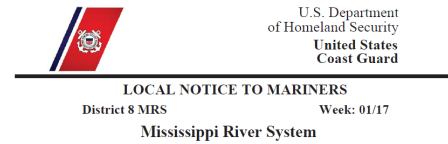
US Army Corps  
of Engineers®





# The situation:

- Navigators rely on charts for baseline information
- However, charts need to be updated
  - ~ every two weeks
- New information in between chart updates is communicated manually: Notices to Mariners, Notices to Navigation Interests, and Broadcast Notices to Mariners
  - Easy to miss; difficult to transfer to nav systems
- Goal is to get new information to mariners/on the chart as quickly as possible
- Secondary use to emphasize information already on the chart



SAFETY/NC - CHERRY POINT OPERATING AREA (CPOA) - HAZOPS - FIREX WEEK 10 - 16 MAY 21, CHANGE TWO/HAZ OPS/CCGD5 BNM 268-21

1. REQUEST THAT THIS NOTICE BE BROADCAST DAILY DURING THE SUBJECT WEEK.
2. FIRING EXERCISES HAZARDOUS TO SURFACE VESSELS WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING THE FOLLOWING TIMES AND LOCATIONS IN THE CPOA DURING THE SUBJECT WEEK:

DATE	TIME (L)	SURFACE GRIDS	AREA BOUND BY
15 MAY	1730-2100	W-122(06,13-14,21,23)	32-39N7 076-50W8 32-12N8 076-50W8 32-12N8 076-49W6 33-55N6 074-24W7 34-15N3 074-47W2 33-55N6 075-14W7 34-01N8 075-19W2 33-00N6 076-42W9 32-39N7 076-42W9
16 MAY	1730-2130		

3. FOR SECTOR NORTH CROLINA, BROADCAST UNTIL CANCELLED.
4. CANCEL AT TIME //170430Z MAY 21//



# AIS is a 2-way system

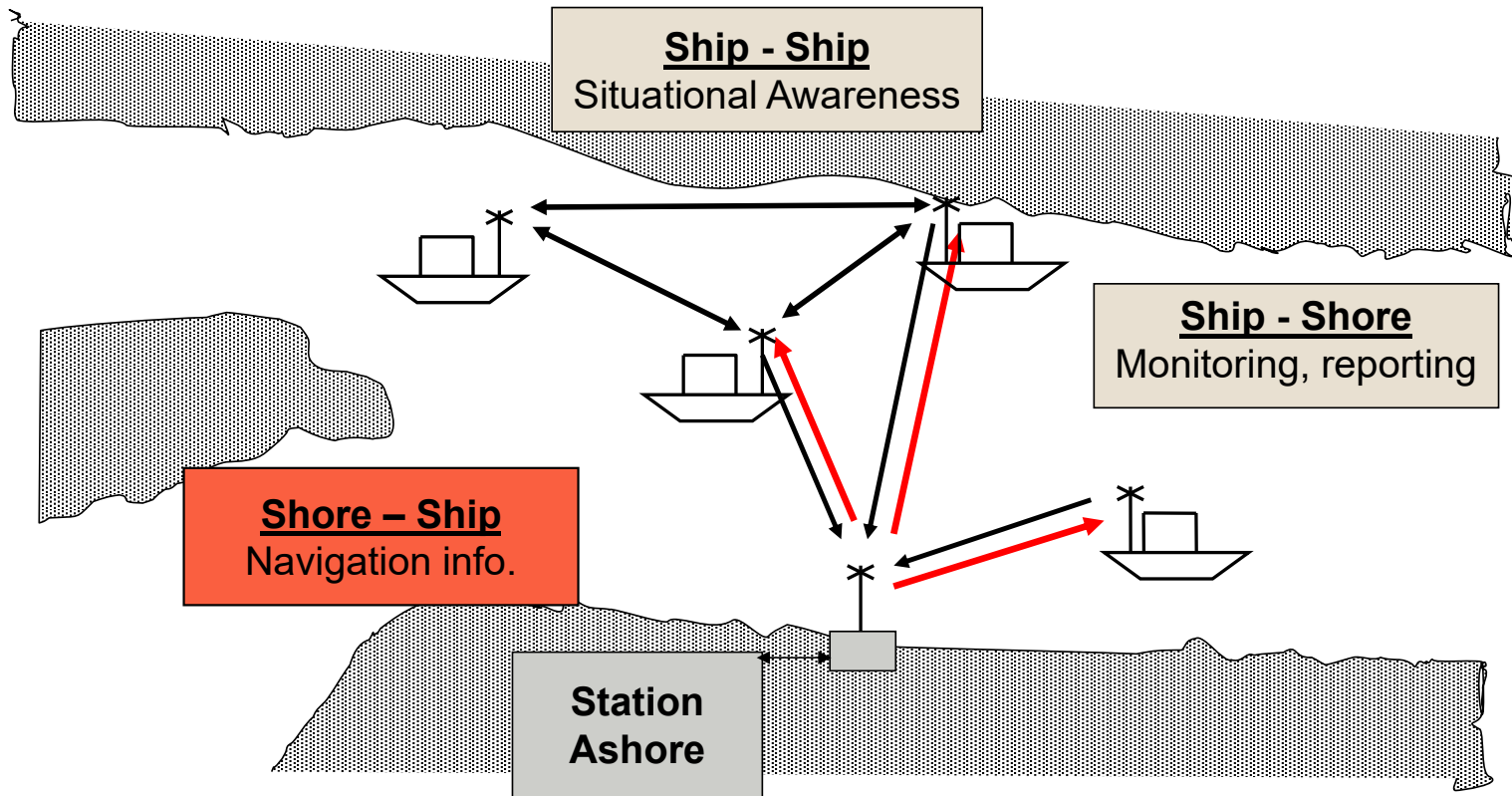




TABLE 46

Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communication state	M/B
1	Position report	Scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
2	Position report	Assigned scheduled position report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	SOTDMA <sup>(9)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
3	Position report	Special position report, response to interrogation; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	1	RATDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	ITDMA	M
4	Base station report	Position, UTC, date and current slot number of base station	1	FATDMA <sup>(3), (7)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	SOTDMA	B
5	Static and voyage related data	Scheduled static and voyage related vessel data report; (Class A shipborne mobile equipment)	4 <sup>(5)</sup>	RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	N/A	M
6	Binary addressed message	Binary data for addressed communication	4	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
7	Binary acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed binary data	1	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
8	Binary broadcast message	Binary data for broadcast communication	4	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
9	Standard SAR aircraft position report	Position report for airborne stations involved in SAR operations, only	1	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup>	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M
10	UTC/date inquiry	Request UTC and date	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
11	UTC/date response	Current UTC and date if available	3	RATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	SOTDMA	M
12	Addressed safety related message	Safety related data for addressed communication	2	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
13	Safety related acknowledgement	Acknowledgement of received addressed safety related message	1	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
14	Safety related broadcast message	Safety related data for broadcast communication	2	RATDMA <sup>(10)</sup> , FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
15	Interrogation	Request for a specific message type (can result in multiple responses from one or several stations) <sup>(4)</sup>	3	RATDMA, FATDMA, ITDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
16	Assignment mode command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station	1	RATDMA, FATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B

ASM

Safety Text

TABLE 46 (end)

Message ID	Name	Description	Priority	Access scheme	Communication state	M/B
17	DGNSS broadcast binary message	DGNSS corrections provided by a base station	2	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B
18	Standard Class B equipment position report	Standard position report for Class B shipborne mobile equipment to be used instead of Messages 1, 2, 3 <sup>(8)</sup>	1	SOTDMA, ITDMA <sup>(1)</sup> , CSTDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M
19	Extended Class B equipment position report	No longer required; Extended position report for Class B shipborne mobile equipment; contains additional static information <sup>(6)</sup>	1	ITDMA	N/A	M
20	Data link management message	Reserve slots for Base station(s)	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA	N/A	B
21	Aids-to-navigation report	Position and status report for aids-to-navigation	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	M/B
22	Channel management <sup>(6)</sup>	Management of channels and transceiver modes by a Base station	1	FATDMA <sup>(3)</sup> , RATDMA <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A	B
23	Group assignment command	Assignment of a specific report behaviour by competent authority using a Base station to a specific group of mobiles	1	FATDMA, RATDMA	N/A	B
24	Static data report	Additional data assigned to an MMSI Part A: Name Part B: Static Data	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
25	Single slot binary message	Short unscheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	RATDMA, ITDMA, CSTDMA, FATDMA	N/A	M/B
26	Multiple slot binary message with Communications State	Scheduled binary data transmission (Broadcast or addressed)	4	SOTDMA, RATDMA, ITDMA, FATDMA	SOTDMA, ITDMA	M/B
27	Position report for long-range applications	Class A and Class B "SO" shipborne mobile equipment outside base station coverage	1	MSSA	N/A	M

AtoN

ASM





# Two general capabilities

- Out of the box:
  - AIS AtoNs
  - Text messages
- Some assembly required:
  - Application-specific messages (ASM)

Safety Text

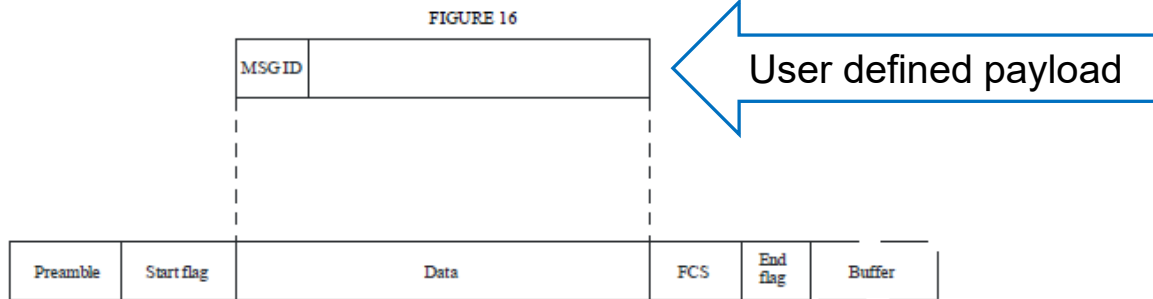
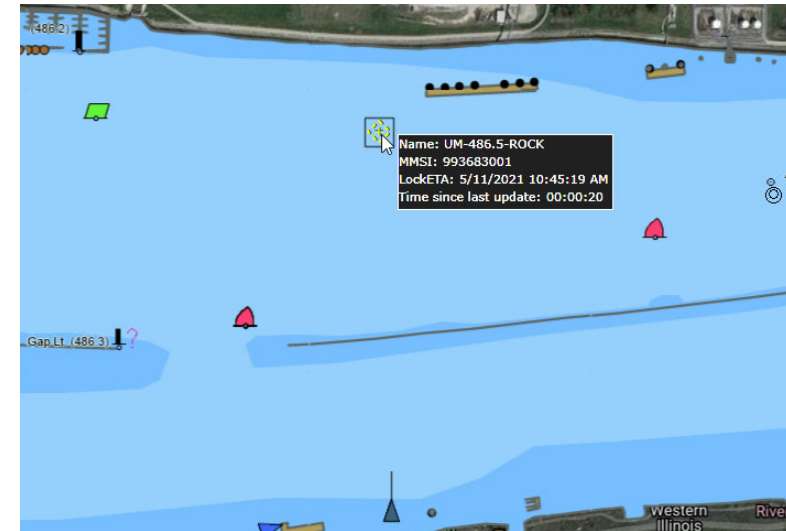
Destination: [dropdown]

Send Broadcast

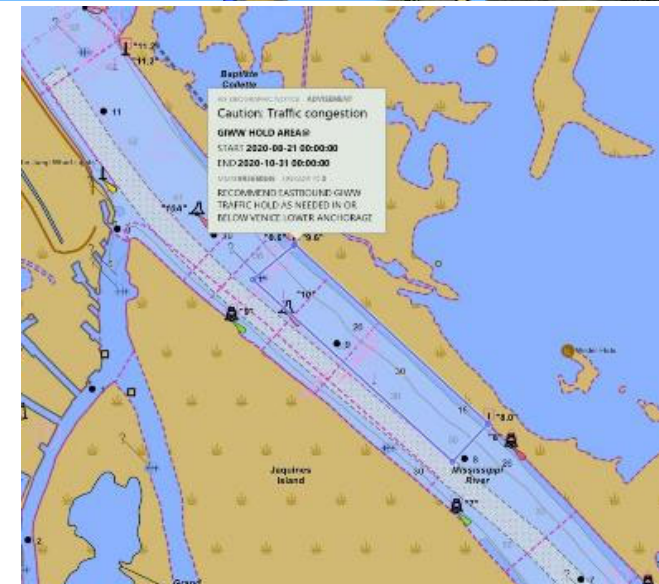
Broadcast Sources: [field]

Message: [text area]

Send

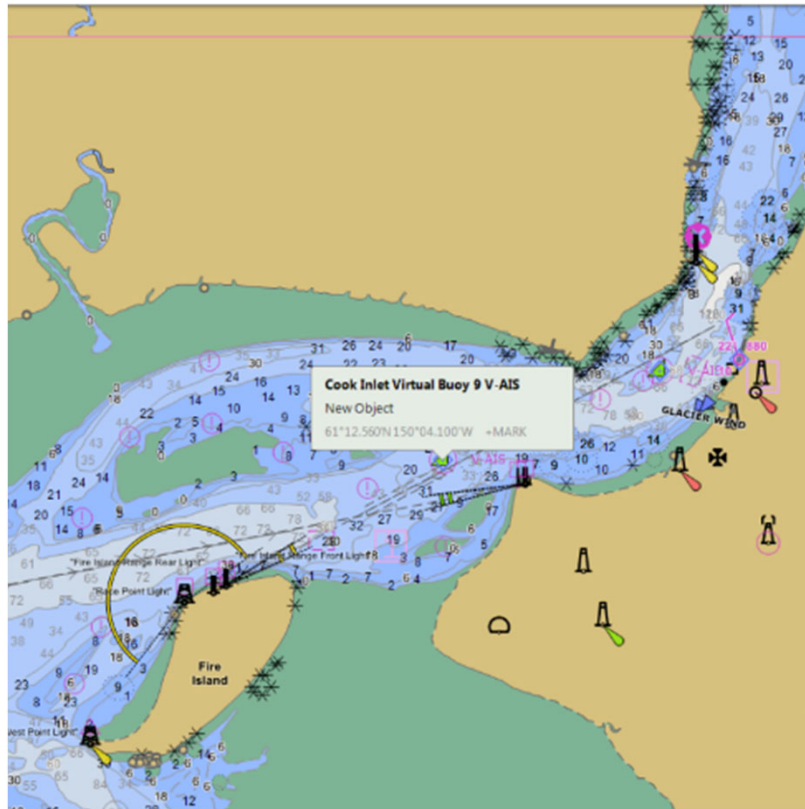


M1371-16





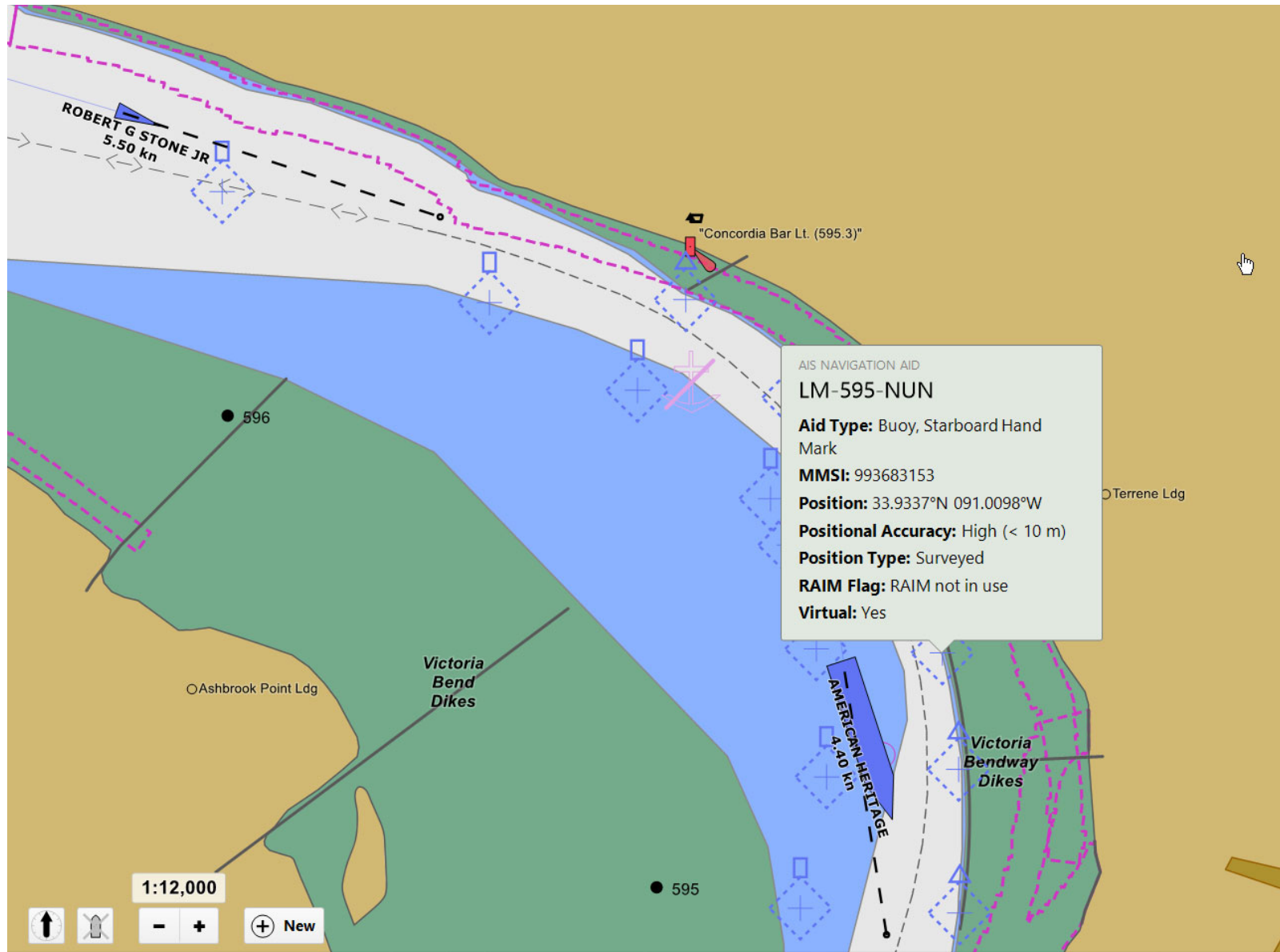
# Virtual AtoN

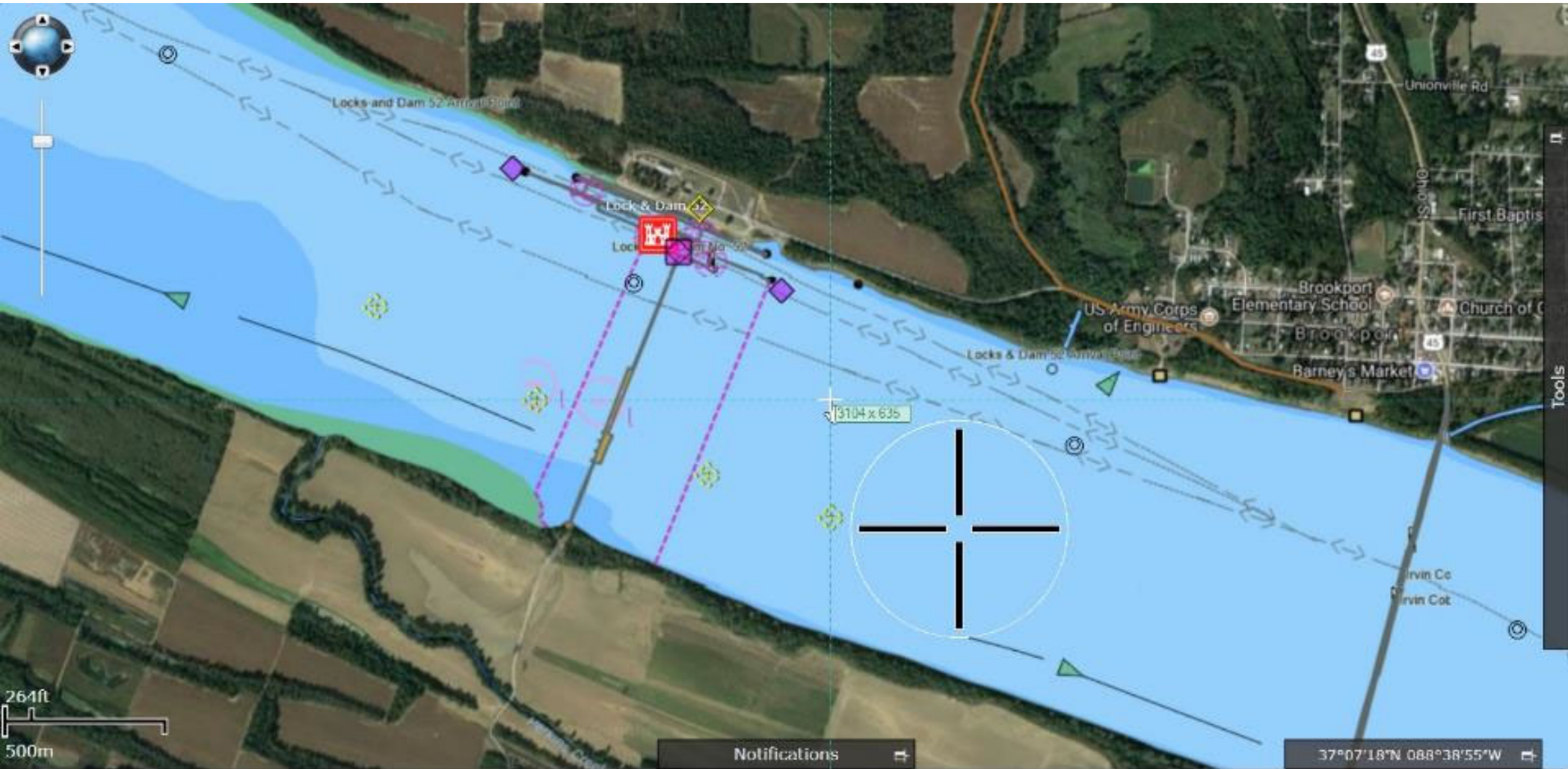


AIS AtoN in area where ice and tidal range prohibit physical AtoN



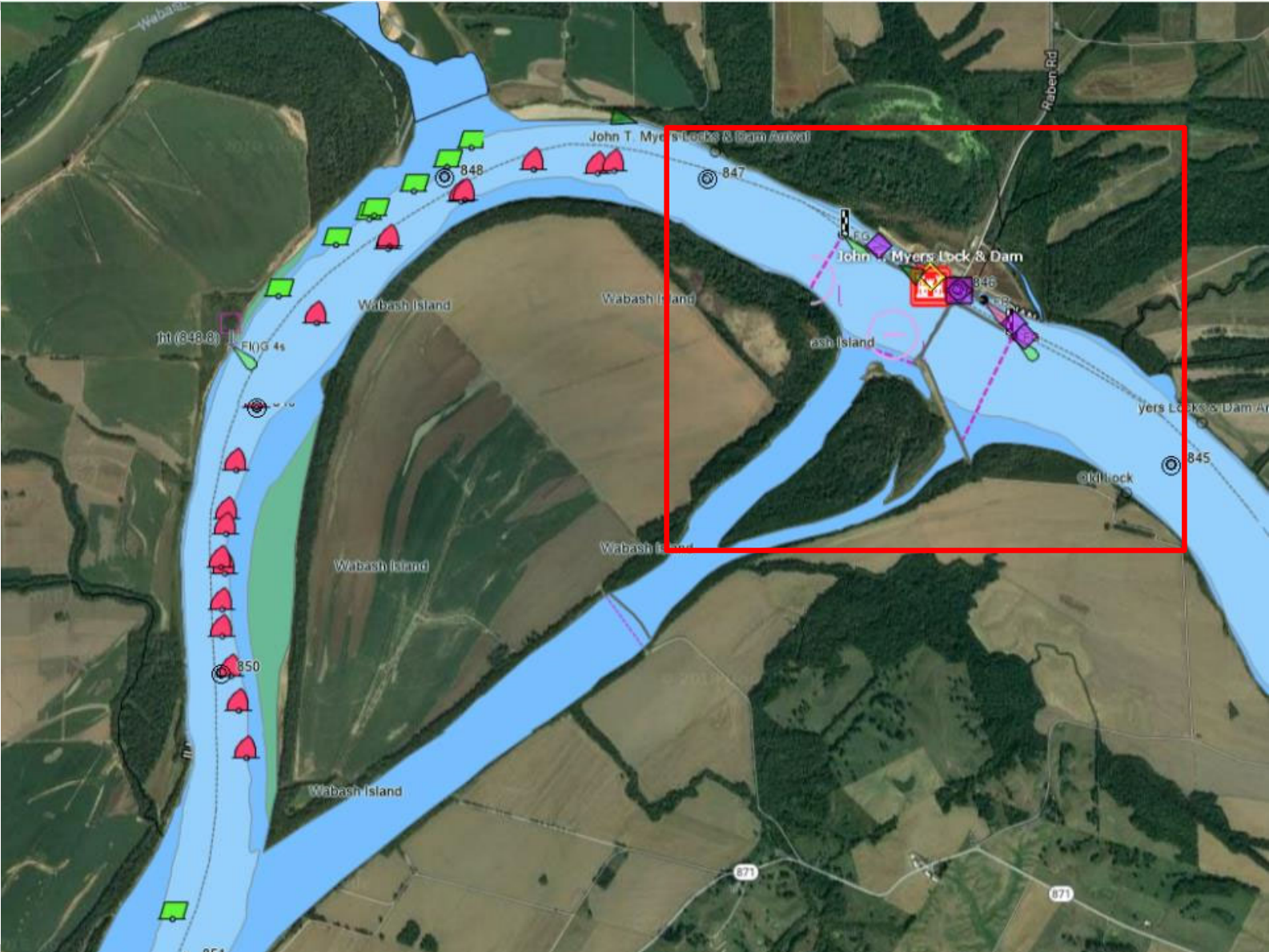
AIS AtoN marking submerged wreck in swift river waters

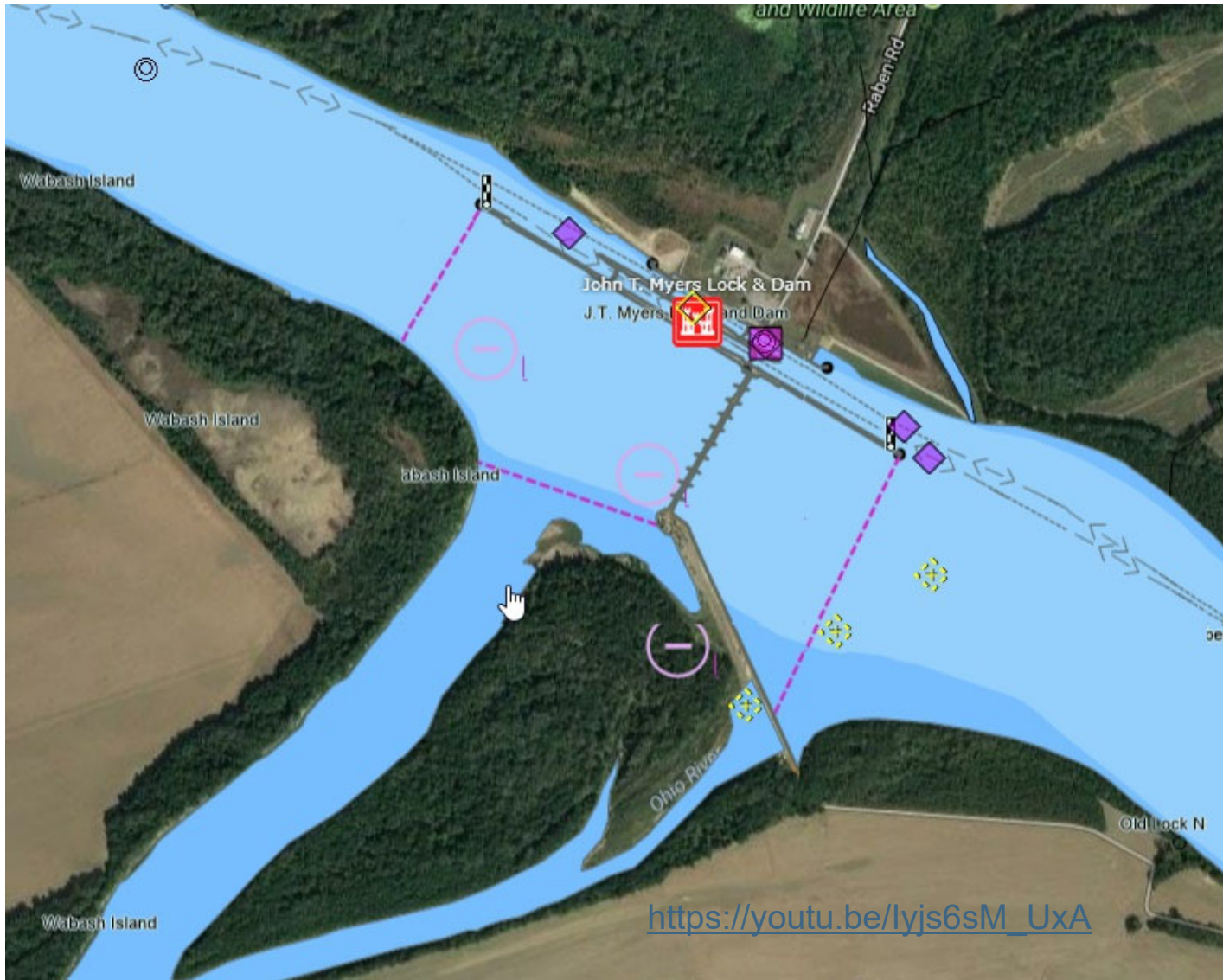










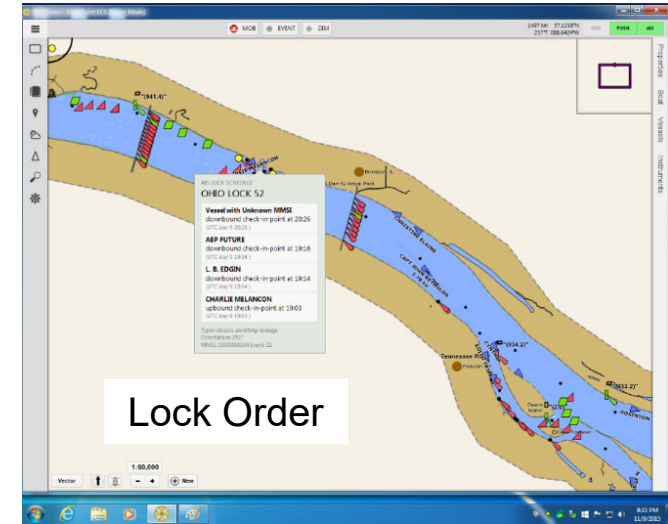
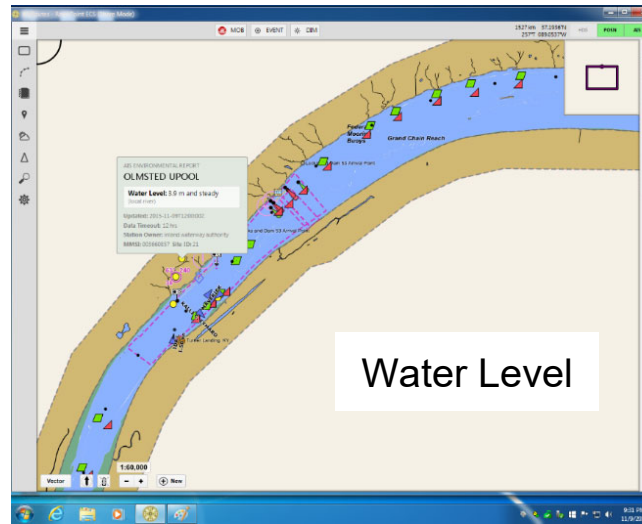
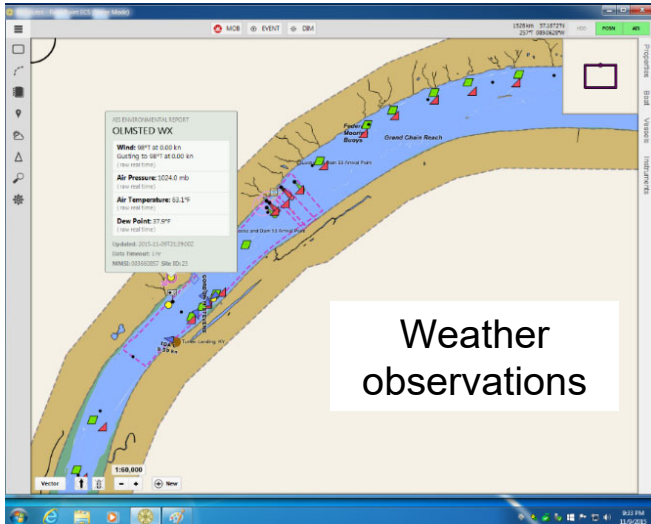


[https://youtu.be/lyjs6sM\\_UxA](https://youtu.be/lyjs6sM_UxA)



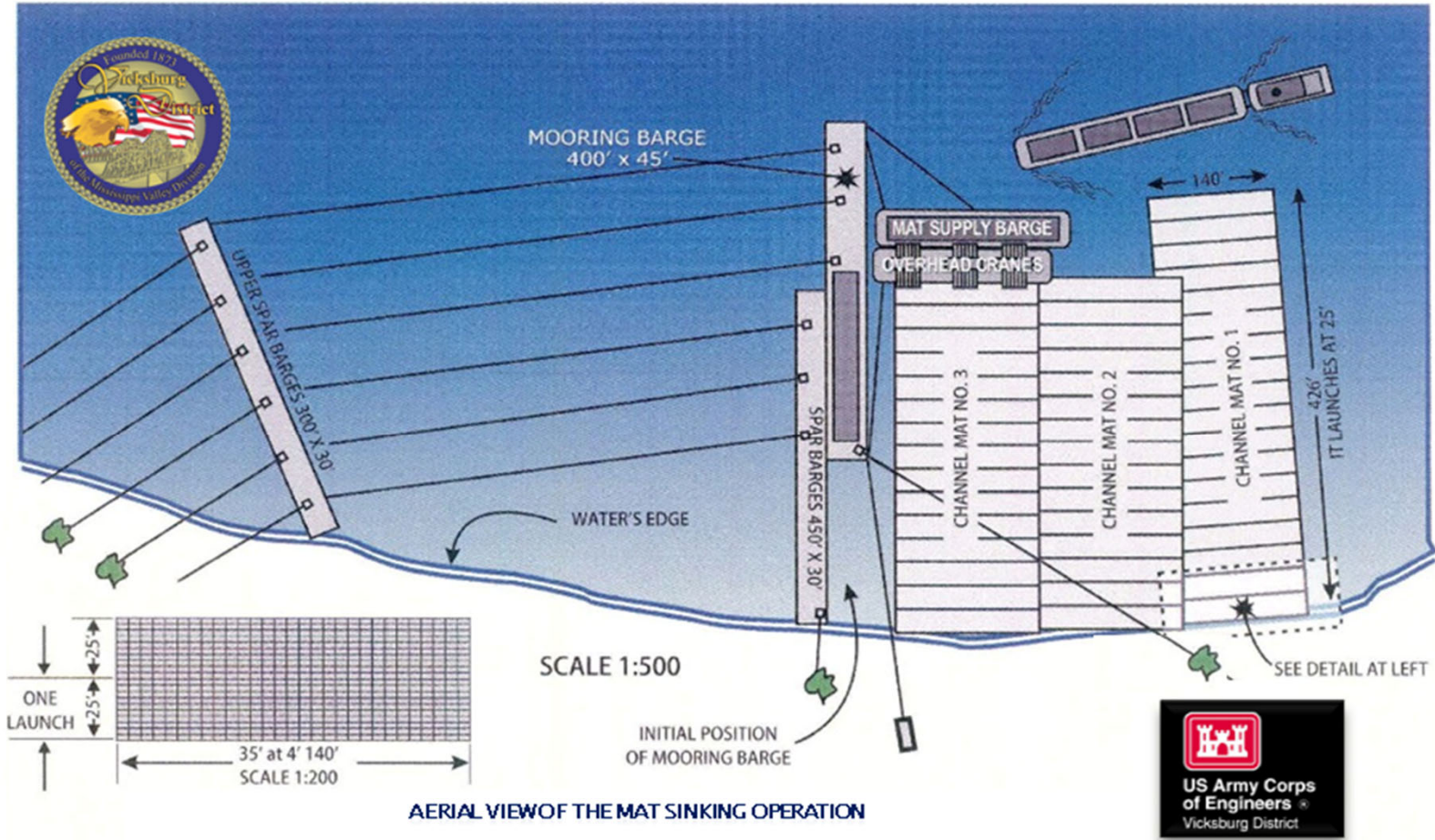


# Information delivered to vessels via AIS





# Mat Sinking Unit operations





Collision between the *Riley Elizabeth* Tow and  
US Army Corps of Engineers Barge Plant  
Mississippi River near Waterproof, Louisiana  
July 18, 2014

NTSB

Marine Accident Report

## 4. Recommendations

As a result of its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board makes the following safety recommendations to the US Army Corps of Engineers:

Specify in the information you provide to the public how far US Army Corps of Engineers projects extend into the waterway. (M-15-13)

Use automatic identification system aids to navigation or application-specific messages to mark potential hazards to navigation. (M-15-14)

### BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

**CHRISTOPHER A. HART**  
Chairman

**ROBERT L. SUMWALT**  
Member



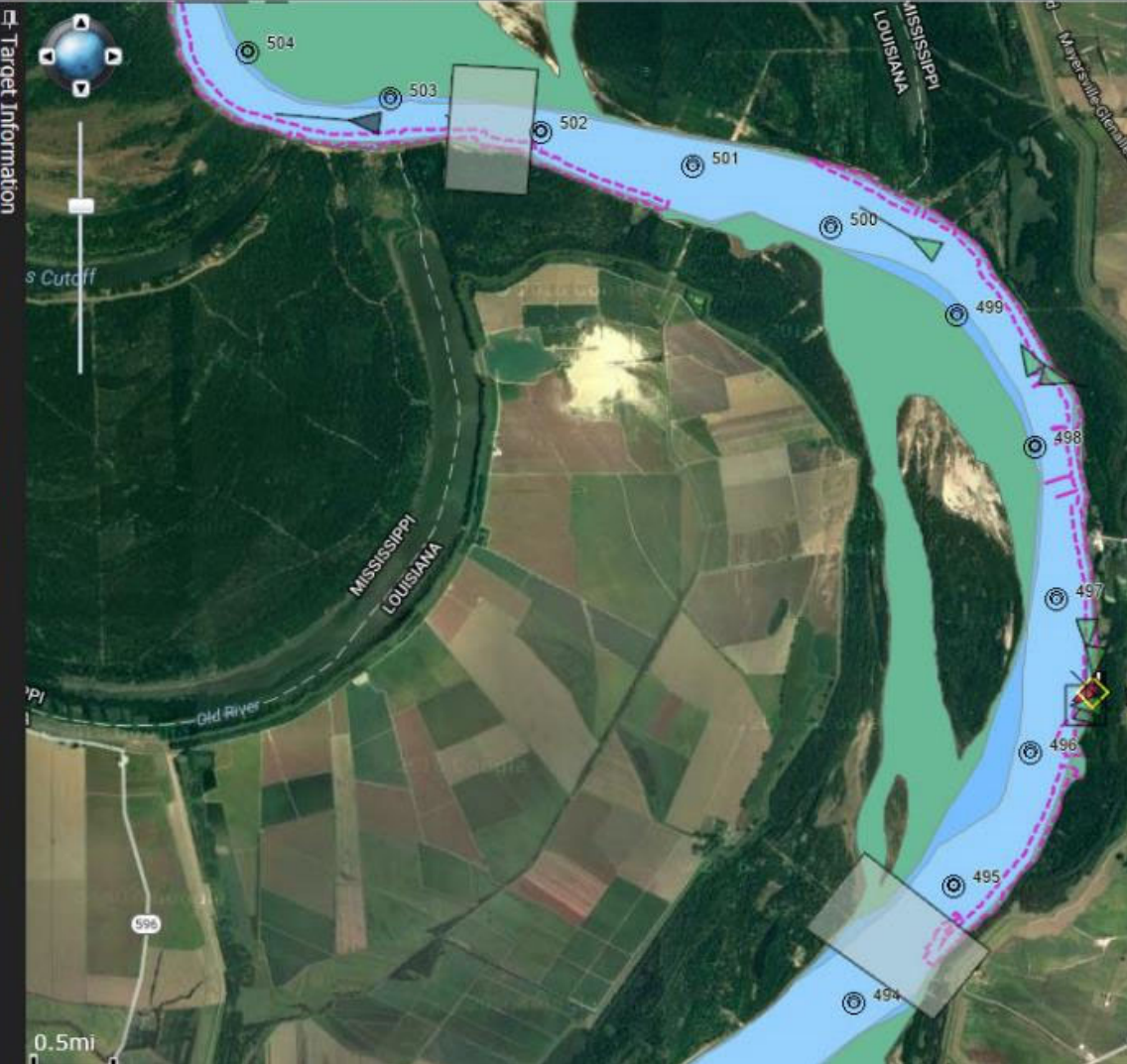
# Lock Operations Management Application (LOMA) v1.1.174 Application Certified for Unclassified

[LPMS](#) | [Support](#) | [Contact](#) | [Logout \(Michael.F.Winkler\)](#)

[Live Plotter](#) | [Playback Plotter](#) | [Zone Configuration](#) | [Zone Reports](#) | [Gadgets](#)

## Target Information

Name	WILLIAM JAMES
MMSI	366999267
Callsign	AAAG
Latitude	32°54'05"N
Longitude	091°03'40"W
SOG	0 mph
Heading	Not available
COG	272°
Nav Status	Moored
Operating Mode	Autonomous
Rate Of Turn	Not available
Length	164.00 ft
Beam	45.92 ft
Type of Ship	Vessel - Towing
Type of Cargo	N/A
CargoType	31
IMO Number	0
Draught	0.00 ft
Nav Sensor	GPS
DTE Status	Available
Nationality	United States of America
Lock	Not available
Mile	496
River	Mississippi River Mouth of Ohio River to Baton Rouge LA
Time since last update	00:03:46









# Geographic notices

## 1 Geographic Notice Message Release Version: 2

Published: 23 March 2015 Release Version: 2

DAC: 367 Fr: 22

Submit any suggested changes to: [gwjohnson@alionscience.com](mailto:gwjohnson@alionscience.com)

Future variant: NUID instead of message linking ID – at least 18 bits and also include ability to link multiple GN's together for even bigger areas.



Table 11: Notice Description

Value	Description
0	Caution: Marine mammal habitat
1	Caution: Marine mammals in area - reduce speed
2	Caution: Marine mammals in area - stay clear
3	Caution: Marine mammals in area - report sightings
4	Caution: Protected Habitat - reduce speed
5	Caution: Protected habitat - stay clear
6	Caution: Protected habitat - no fishing or anchoring
7	Caution: Derelicts (drifting objects)
8	Caution: Traffic congestion

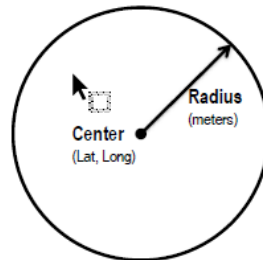


Figure 1: Circle diagram.

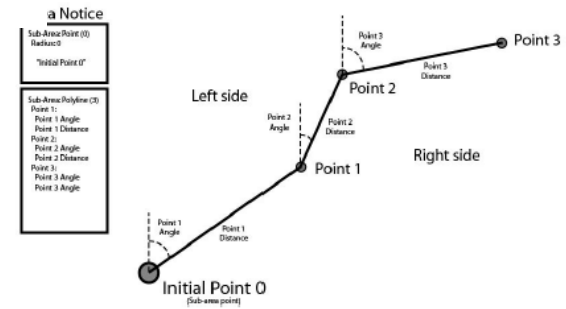


Figure 4 - Graphic description of a waypoint/polyline, showing angle and distance between points. If one side of a polyline is to be a boundary (e.g., edge of ice area), this is defined by the left side of the line in order of sequence from the initial sub-area point (Point 0).

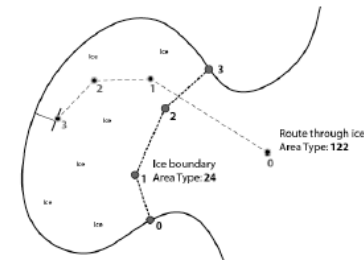


Figure 5 - Graphic depiction of: 1) ice boundary between sea ice and open water, and 2) recommended route through the sea ice area.

34	Restriction: Entry approval required prior to transit
35	Restriction: Entry prohibited
36	Restriction: Active military OPAREA
37	Restriction: Firing - danger area
38	Restriction: Drifting mines
39	Restriction: other (define in associated text field)
40	Anchorage: Anchorage open
41	Anchorage: Anchorage closed
42	Anchorage: Anchoring prohibited
43	Anchorage: Deep draft anchorage
44	Anchorage: Shallow draft anchorage
45	Anchorage: Vessel transfer operations
46	Anchorage: other (define in associated text field)

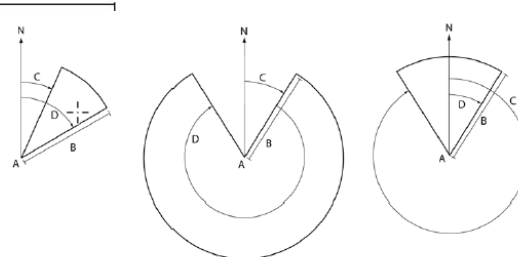


Figure 3- Sector description. a) Center point, b) Sector radius, c) Sector bearings from center point, left boundary, d) Sector bearings from center point, right boundary.

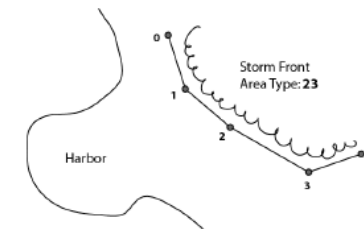


Figure 6 - A graphic depiction of a storm front message.

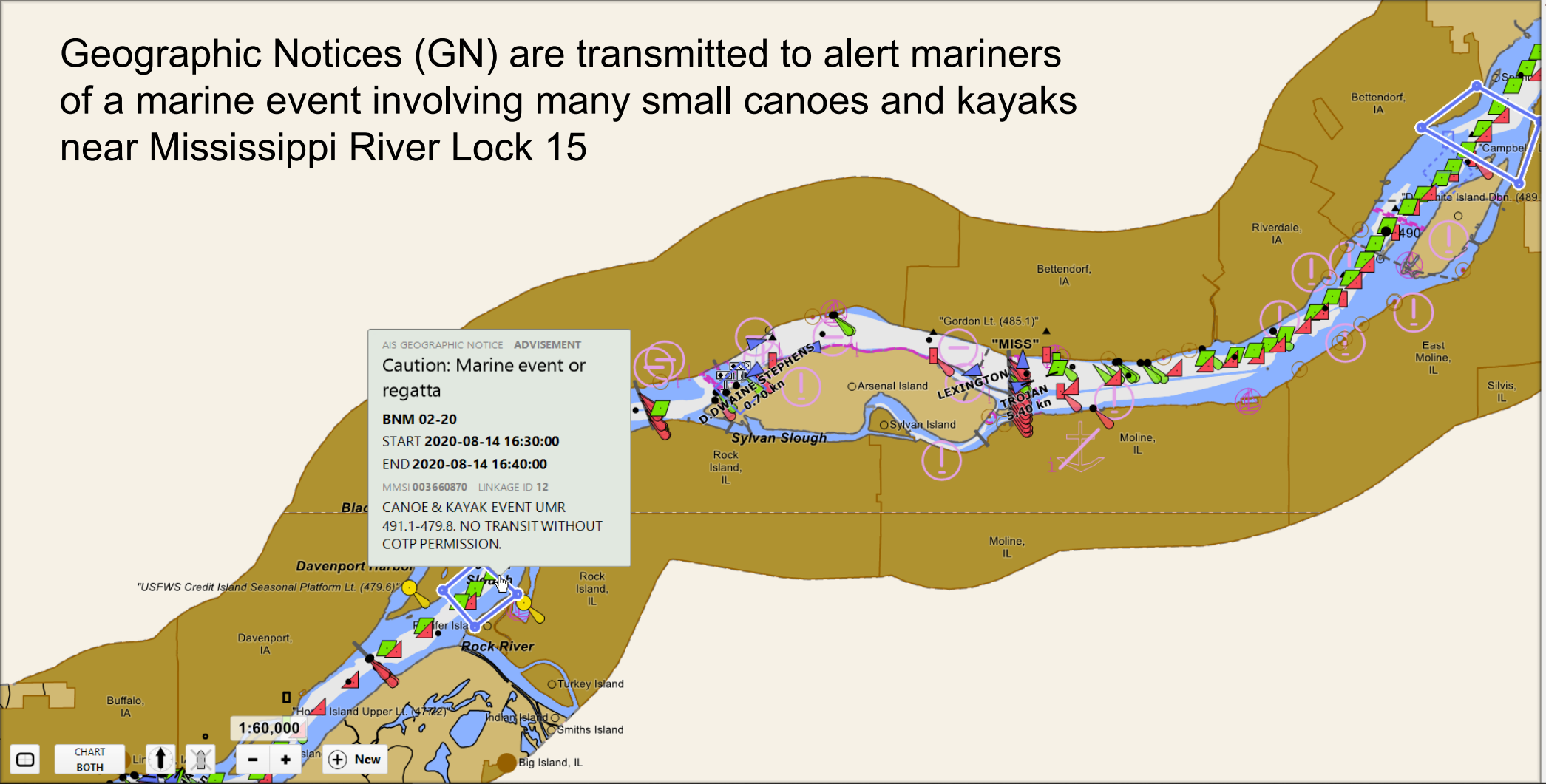
# Geographic Notices (GN) are transmitted to alert mariners of a marine event involving many small canoes and kayaks near Mississippi River Lock 15

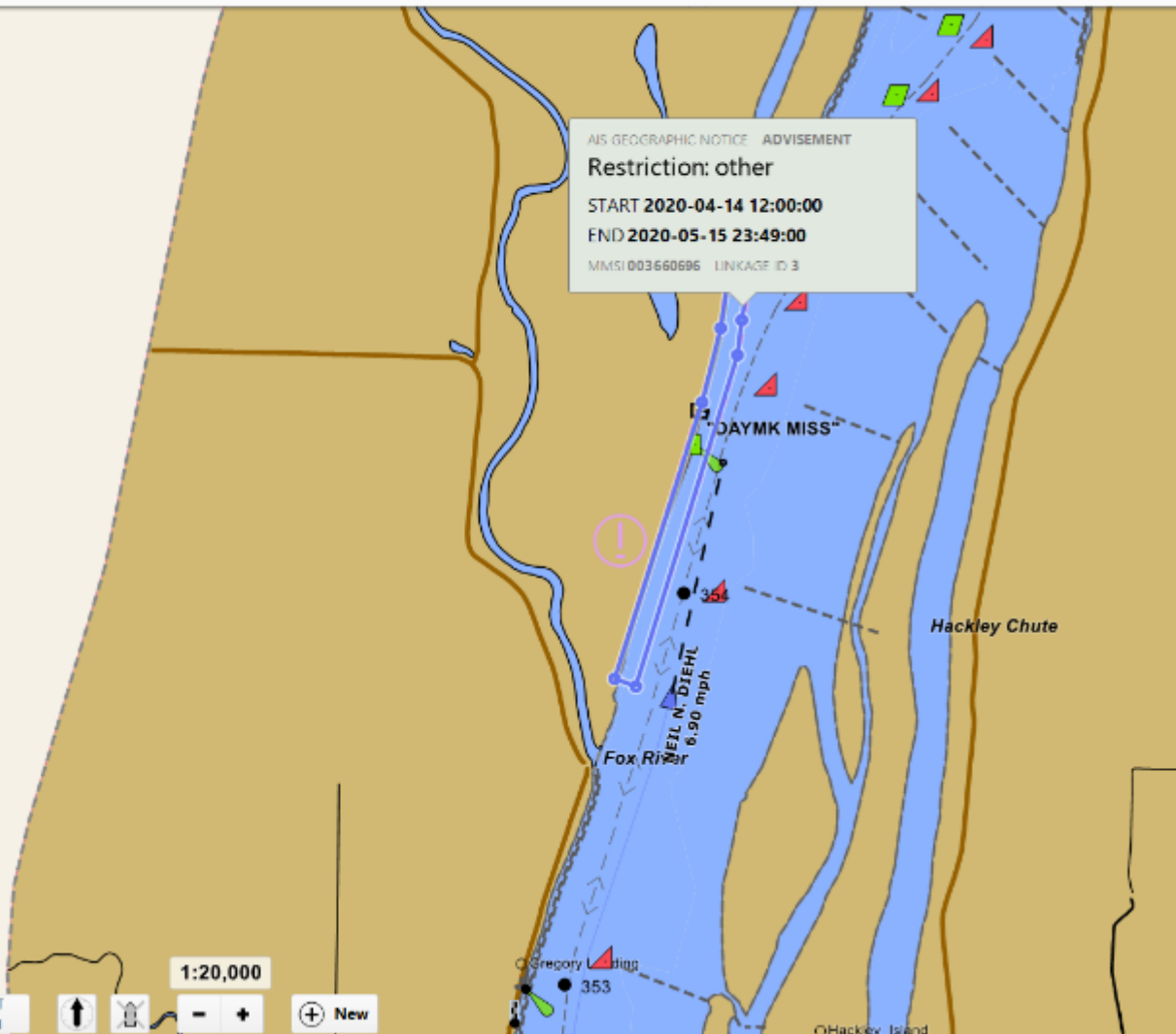
**AIS GEOGRAPHIC NOTICE ADVISEMENT**

**Caution: Marine event or regatta**

**BNM 02-20**  
START 2020-08-14 16:30:00  
END 2020-08-14 16:40:00  
MMSI 003660870 LINKAGE ID 12

**CANOE & KAYAK EVENT UMR**  
491.1-479.8. NO TRANSIT WITHOUT  
COTP PERMISSION.

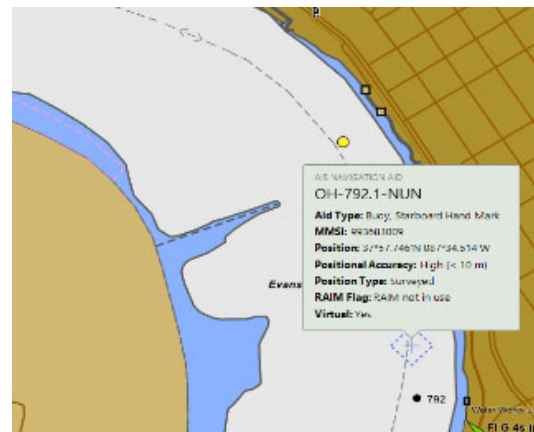






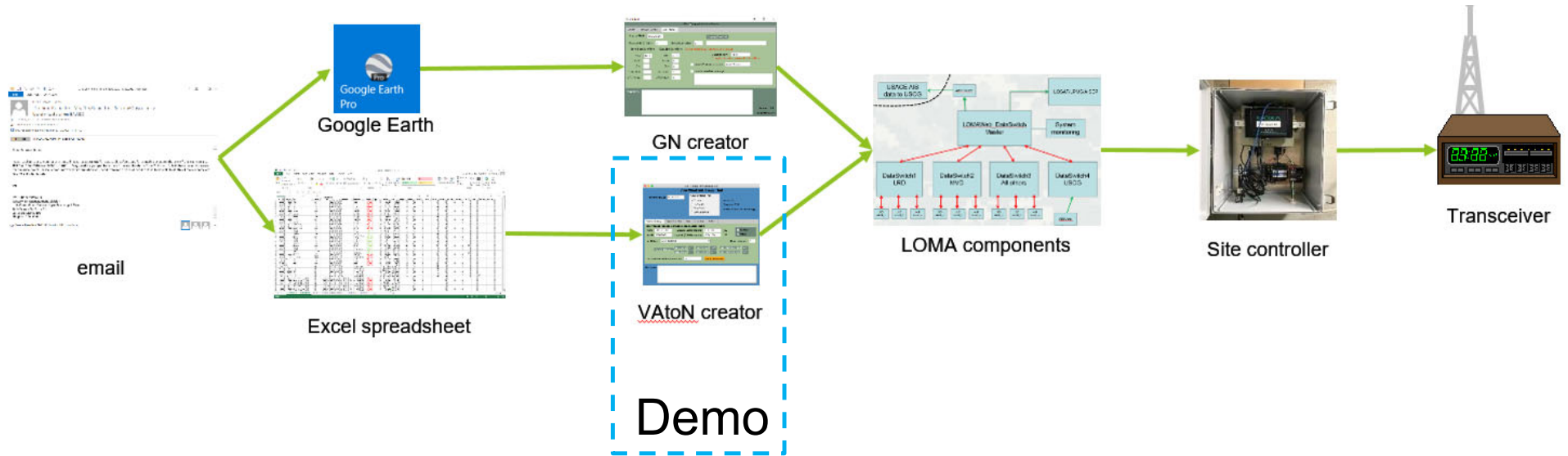
# AIS AtoN/GN procedures

- District identifies need for AIS AtoN/Geographic Notice
    - Permanent or temporary?
    - Added to IENC or not?
    - NTNI/BNM or not?
  - Coordinate/consult with USCG
    - Difference if USACE or USCG is establishing AtoN
  - Determine location of AtoN/geographic notice
  - Provide info to LOMA team – spreadsheet, coordinates, .kml file – lomaadmin@usace.army.mil
  - AtoN programmed, starts transmitting
- 
- “AtoN Dashboard development





# AIS AtoN and GN process





AIS AtoN Request St. Paul District - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Acrobat Tell me what you want to do

Delete Archive Reply Reply Forward All

LOMA To Manager  
Team Email Done  
Reply & Delete Create New

Move Assign Mark Categorize Follow Up  
Policy Unread Tags

Translate Editing Read Aloud Zoom

### AIS AtoN Request St. Paul District



Cottrell, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

To **DLL-LOMA-ADMIN**

Cc DeVaney, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA); LeClaire, Keith R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

Reply Reply All Forward

Wed 5/5/2021 4:43 PM

MVP\_AIS\_AtoN\_-20210505.xlsx 17 KB

UM\_SP\_P08\_20210505\_CS\_6930\_6940.pdf 2 MB

IMG\_0136.JPG 1 MB

All,

Late Monday (3 May) a tow boat intentionally nosed in to a bank due to high winds, in doing so they tipped over the Root River Upper Light at 693.3. The US Coast Guard would like an AIS AtoN Broadcasting on that location. The area is depicted on the attached .pdf as 3 brown circles. It is likely you have the light location in the IENC information as well.

Please broadcast at your earliest convenience, I also attached a picture taken today by our surveyors.

Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Cottrell  
Dredging Manager  
Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District  
Channels & Harbors Project Office  
Fountain City, WI  
Office: 651-290-5155  
Cell: 651-788-0597  
[daniel.j.cottrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:daniel.j.cottrell@usace.army.mil)



RE: AIS AtoN Request St. Paul District - Message (HTML)

File Message Help Acrobat Tell me what you want to do

Delete Archive Reply Reply All Forward

LOMA To Manager  
Team Email Done  
Reply & Delete Create New

Move Assign Mark Categorize Follow  
Policy Unread Tags Up

Translate Editing Read Aloud Zoom

### RE: AIS AtoN Request St. Paul District



Towne, Brady A CIV USARMY CEERD (USA)

To Cottrell, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA); **DLL-LOMA-ADMIN**

Cc DeVaney, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA); LeClaire, Keith R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA)

Reply Reply All Forward

Thu 5/6/2021 9:30 AM

MVP\_AIS\_AtoN -20210505.xlsx 19 KB  
2021\_05\_06\_08\_25\_11\_jpg 210 KB  
2021\_05\_06\_08\_26\_53\_jpg 314 KB

Dan,

This is now transmitting. Updated spreadsheet and screenshots attached.

Respectfully,

Brady Towne

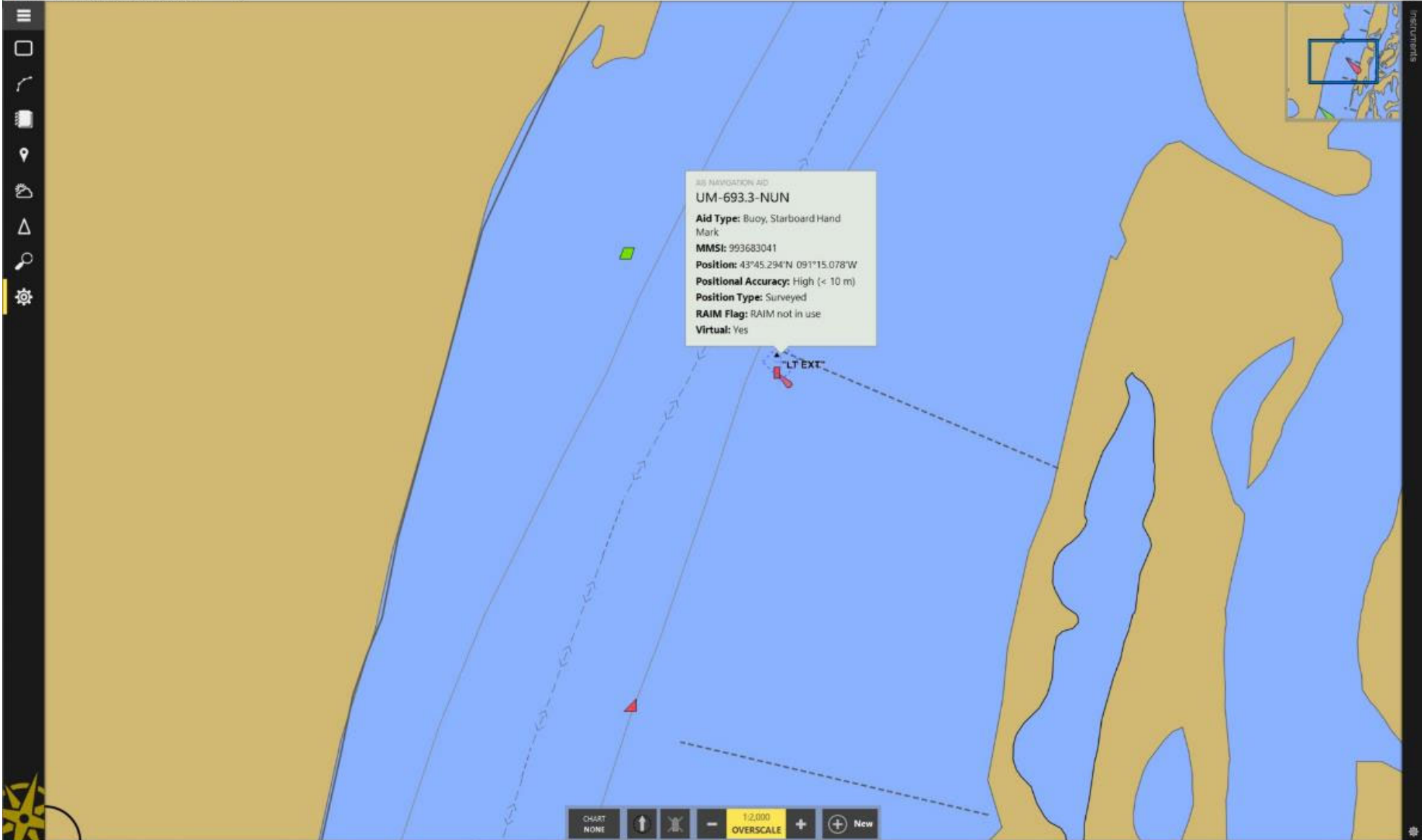
US Army Engineer Research and Development Center  
3909 Hall Ferry Road  
Vicksburg, MS 39180-6199

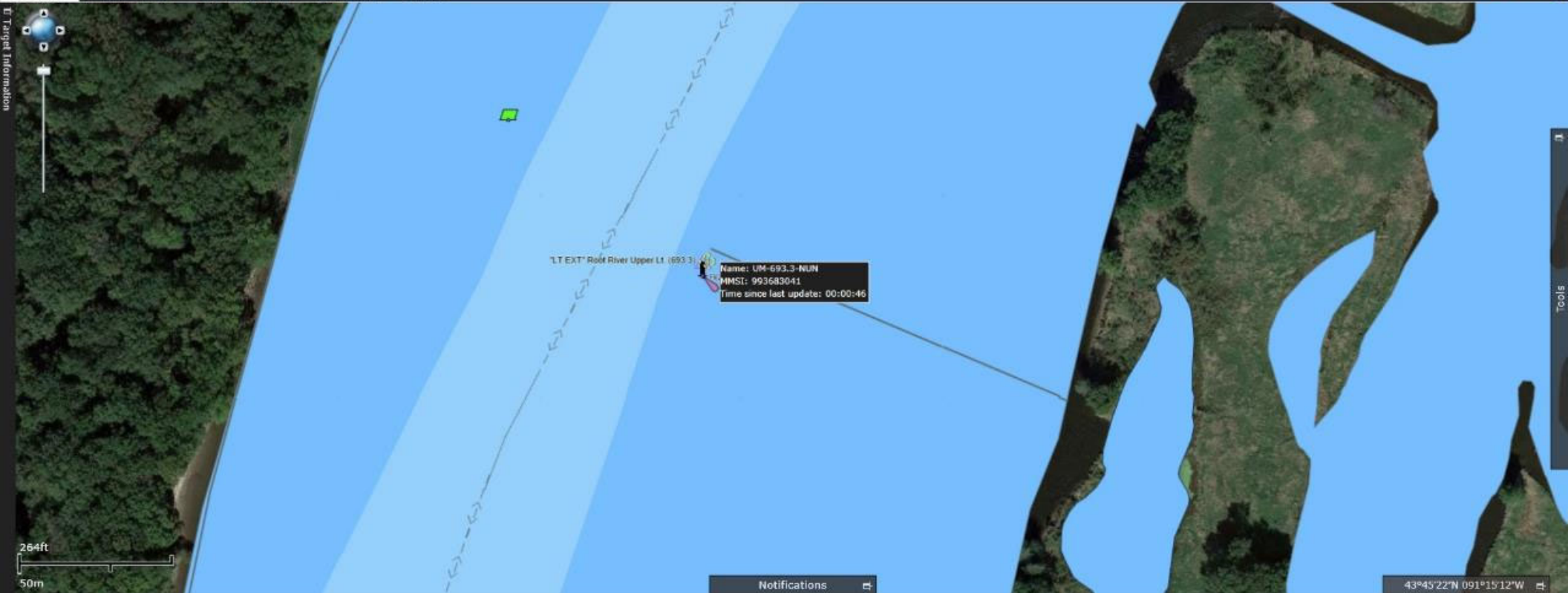
Office: 601-634-5195

**From:** Cottrell, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[Daniel.J.Cottrell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Daniel.J.Cottrell@usace.army.mil)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** DLL-LOMA-ADMIN <[lomaadmin@usace.army.mil](mailto:lomaadmin@usace.army.mil)>  
**Cc:** DeVaney, Daniel J CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[Daniel.J.Devaney@usace.army.mil](mailto:Daniel.J.Devaney@usace.army.mil)>; LeClaire, Keith R CIV USARMY CEMVP (USA) <[keith.r.leclaire@usace.army.mil](mailto:keith.r.leclaire@usace.army.mil)>  
**Subject:** AIS AtoN Request St. Paul District

All,









*Thank you*



Brian Tetreault ERDC-CHL  
brian.j.tetreault@usace.army.mil

