

# LOCKING THROUGH on the MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## LOCK OPERATOR

The lock operator at each dam is there to assure that rules and regulations established to safely expedite traffic are followed and that the locks function properly.

## RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

At least one half hour before arrival (or as soon as radio contact can be made) vessels equipped with marine VHF-FM radio should contact the appropriate channel from the list below:

Lock 1	Marine Radio 14	(612)724-2971
Lock 2	Marine Radio 14	(651)437-3150
Lock 3	Marine Radio 14	(651)388-5794
Lock 4	Marine Radio 14	(608)685-4421
Lock 5 A	Marine Radio 14	(507)452-2789
Lock 5	Marine Radio 14	(507)689-2101
Lock 6	Marine Radio 14	(608)534-6774
Lock 7	Marine Radio 14	(507)895-2170
Lock 8	Marine Radio 14	(608)689-2625
Lock 9	Marine Radio 14	(608)874-4311
Lock 10	Marine Radio 14	(563)252-1261
Lock 11	Marine Radio 14	(563)582-1204
Lock 12	Marine Radio 14	(563)872-3314
Lock 13	Marine Radio 14	(815)589-3313
Lock 14	Marine Radio 14	(563)332-0907
Lock 15	Marine Radio 14	(309)794-5266
Lock 16	Marine Radio 14	(309)537-3191
Lock 17	Marine Radio 14	(309)587-8125
Lock 18	Marine Radio 14	(309)873-2246
Lock 19	Marine Radio 14	(319)524-2631
Lock 20	Marine Radio 14	(573)288-3320
Lock 21	Marine Radio 14	(217)222-0918
Lock 22	Marine Radio 14	(573)221-0294
Lock 24	Marine Radio 14	(573)242-3524
Lock 25	Marine Radio 12	(636)566-8120
Melvin Price	Marine Radio 14	(618)462-1713
Lock 27	Marine Radio 12	(618)452-7107

## ENTER and EXIT SIGNALS

Signal lights are located outside each lock gate. When the green light is on, vessels may enter. When the red light is on, vessels must stand clear. In addition to the visual signals, the lock operator may signal the lock is ready for entry by sounding one long blast on an air horn or ready for exit by sounding one short blast.

## PRECEDENCE AT LOCK

The order of passage through the lock is at the discretion of the lock operator. The boat arriving first usually will be locked through first, but there are exceptions. Commercial vessels will take precedence. *Recreational vessel schedules are in effect at some locks.* Call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for more information.

## SIGNAL STATIONS

Boaters without radios should look for signs to direct you to pull cord signals and intercoms located upstream and downstream from the lock. Pull the cord to signal the lock operator. Speak directly to the lock operator over the intercom.

## SPEED AND FOLLOWING DISTANCE

Speed should be reduced to a minimum (no wake) consistent with safe navigation. When entering, please remain at least 61 meters (200 feet) astern of the vessel ahead.

## PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT

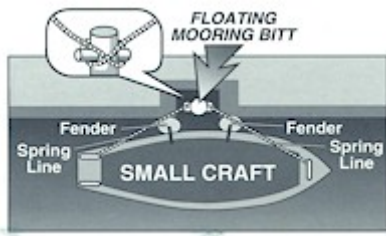
Neither passengers nor freight may be loaded or unloaded at locks.

**Keep clear of barge traffic.  
Obstructing commercial traffic is  
unsafe and unlawful.**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# HOW TO LOCK THROUGH



1. Receive permission to enter the lock either verbally from the lock operator or from horn and signal lights. Proceed into the lock and tie up at the mooring bitt designated by the lock operator. *Make sure you secure your vessel to the **FLOATING MOORING BITT** and not to a ladder or other immovable device.*

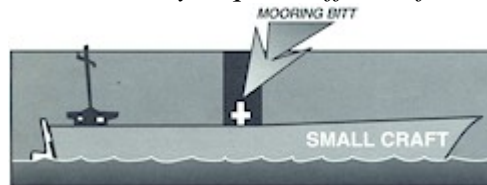


2. Due to lock design, safety factors, etc., the lock operator will often request a specific mooring bitt be used by small craft.

3. Place fenders fore and aft on side of vessel- *usually at widest point on either side of mooring bitt.*



4. If yours is among several vessels in the lock, you may need to tie alongside a craft already secured to one of the mooring bitts or use an alternate bitt. *This may require different fender placement.*



5. Position your vessel so the mooring bitt is located amidship.

6. Use two spring lines, one from your bow to the mooring bitt and one from your stern to the mooring bitt.



7. Secure both lines around the mooring bitt so they may be released quickly, *in case the bitt gets stuck.* Keep careful watch throughout the lockage. *In case of emergency, you could be told to quickly release your vessel from the mooring bitt.* Please remain secured to bitt until told to proceed.

**ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET**