

Mariners may call into DeIDOT's Office of Public Relations at 1-800-652-5600 to receive updated information about the bridge project, form traveler clearance levels, etc. This is the message mariners will currently receive:

If you are calling for the Indian River Inlet Notice to Mariners, please press 6

This message was updated Friday, July 22, 2011 at 10:30am.

As the mainspan construction of a new cable stay bridge continues over the main channel of the Indian River Inlet, mariners should be aware of the following conditions. The new bridge construction utilizes a form traveler system, which is partially suspended beneath the new bridge. As the construction advances from both sides of the inlet, these form travelers will temporarily encroach upon the existing navigable channel beneath the existing bridge. At this time, the clear channel width between the north and south form travelers measures approximately 88 feet. This clear distance is slightly offset from the normal navigable channel and is located just south of the centerline of the inlet. Along this clear channel the existing bridge underclearance varies between 32 and 35 feet above the mean high water elevation of 0.84 feet.

For mariner's operating in the area during nighttime hours, the form travelers will be illuminated. Please visually identify the travelers and use caution while navigating through this area.

Mariners should avoid navigating beneath the form travelers and are reminded to keep the channel clear to other boaters. All anglers are asked to avoid fishing under and around the form travelers at all times.

On or about Friday, July 29, 2011, the north form traveler will advance an additional 24 feet horizontally towards the south side of the inlet. Upon the completion of this launching operation, the remaining clear channel width will be approximately 64 feet. The existing bridge underclearance along this clear channel will continue to measure between 32 and 35 feet above the mean high water elevation.

Based on the current construction schedule, the north form traveler construction is expected to be completed by early to mid-August. Once this portion of the bridge work is complete, the north side traveler will be lowered onto a barge and shipped off site. It is anticipated that this operation will require a brief 2-5 hour closing of the entire Indian River Inlet waterway to allow for the safe removal of this 300 ton form system. These activities will be closely coordinated with and assisted by the United States Coast Guard. The waterway closure is expected to occur on or about August 11th. Please note construction progress is heavily weather dependent and is subject to change on short notice. As this critical construction activity nears, additional and more frequent updates regarding the anticipated time and date of this anticipated waterway closure will be posted on this line. If you expect to be navigating in or around the Indian River Inlet, please be sure to check this line frequently for updates between now and mid-August.

Thank You.