

AREAS	VESSELS TO WHICH SYSTEM APPLIES	VHF PROCEDURES
<p>Houston / Galveston Vessel Traffic Services Zone encompasses United States waters as shown on Page HOU 2.</p> <p>Sectors as shown on Pages HOU 2 and HOU 4.</p>	<p>Note 1: This is a MANDATORY SYSTEM</p> <p>Note 2: A VTS may issue directions to enhance navigation and vessel safety and protect the marine environment. During conditions of vessel congestion, restricted visibility, adverse weather, or other hazardous circumstances, a VTS may manage traffic, by specifying times of entry, movement, or departure to, from, or within a VTS Area</p> <p>Note 3: US Regulations state "The owner, operator, charterer, master, or person directing the movement of a vessel remains at all times responsible for the manner in which the vessel is operated and manoeuvred, and is responsible for the safe navigation of the vessel under all circumstances."</p> <p><b>Procedures apply to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALL vessels of 40 m and over in length</li> <li>2. ALL vessels certificated to carry 50 or more passengers for hire and engaged in trade</li> <li>3. ALL commercial vessels of 8 m and over in length engaged in towing another vessel</li> </ol>	<p>Houston/Galveston VTS Area is divided into two sectors:</p> <p>Sector 1: VHF CH 12 HOUSTON TRAFFIC</p> <p>Sector 2: VHF CH 11 HOUSTON TRAFFIC</p> <p>When transiting system, vessels must keep watch on designated Sector frequency.</p> <p>Permission to change frequency or to end VHF watch must be obtained from HOUSTON TRAFFIC.</p> <p>Note: The requirement to keep a VHF watch on the designated Sector frequency also applies to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ALL vessels of 20 m and over in length</li> <li>2. ALL dredges, and floating plants</li> </ol>