

Project Title: Economic Impact of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on the States It Serves
Project Abstract (Brief Description): We are proposing to research the economic impact of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) on the 5 states it serves (TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL). In many respects, it will be similar to a recent study sponsored by the National Waterways Foundation for the entire inland waterway system. This analysis will focus on the economic importance of the GIWW to the various states and assume only sufficient investment to maintain current system performance. The underlying methodology will evaluate what an abandonment (or closure) of the canal would mean in terms of economic impact. It will compare the transportation and related supply-chain costs faced by current waterway users to the costs they would face if the GIWW were to become permanently unavailable and they had to use the next best transportation alternative.
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes: We plan to distribute the report to stakeholders such as the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, National Waterways Foundation, National Waterways Council, State DOTs and private industry representatives that express an interest. We will seek opportunities to present the findings at meetings of the various associations and at transportation research forums.
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation: Stakeholders will have factual information to use as they attempt to acquire funding and/or increase the priority level of potential infrastructure or marine highway projects.
Web Links: martrec.uark.edu
Budget (Funding) Amounts & Source(s) (US DOT +Match(s) =Total Costs): \$89,477 from MarTREC and \$49,710 from matching funds for a total of \$139,187
Project Start and End Dates: September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018
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Principal Investigator Institution (University): Texas A&M Transportation Institute