PART 3
INNER HARBOR
NAVIGATION CANAL
INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET
The Port Authority of New Orleans was established in 1896. They set about promoting the port’s growth.

The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal connecting the Mississippi River and Lake Ponchartrain was constructed between 1918-1923, using dredges and hydraulic fill technology. The IHNC was officially opened on May 5, 1923 (above).
• The prime consultant for the IHNC was the J. F. Coleman Engineering Co.

• From outset (1923), the Port Authority’s stated goal was to lobby federal government to construct a Mississippi River Gulf Outlet channel connecting to the IHNC, to increase shipping capacity.
1947 Flooding Emanating from Inner Harbor Navigation Canal

• In the 1947 flood, a back protection levee broke at Tennessee Street, spilling 10 feet of water into the East Side.
• This was quickly cleaned up.
• Also, lots of flooding in Metarie and Jefferson Parish.
• Flood inundation map published in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*.
Flood inundation caused by Hurricane Betsy - 1965
Flooding from Hurricane Betsy in 1965

- Both sides of the IHNC experienced breaks and overtopping during Hurricane Betsy in Sept. 1965.
- 6,560 homes and 40 businesses were flooded in water up to 7 ft deep on the west side of the IHNC.
- The east side of the IHNC also failed, flooding the west end of St. Bernard’s Parish.
Flood inundation of New Orleans caused by Hurricane Betsy in September 1965.

Both internal levee failures and overtopping occurred along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, and both sides.

The triangles note depth of water above ground surface.
The Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) was originally conceived in 1808, but not authorized by Congress until 1919.

- The ICW was excavated by dredge in the late 1930s to 9’ x 100’ size, and completed between New Orleans and Corpus Christi by mid 1942. This was enlarged to 12’ x 125’ channel and officially completed in June 1949, all the way to Florida.
The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) project was authorized in 1956. C.R. Kolb of USACOE prepared a geology report on the MRGO alignment in 1958. The channel was excavated by dredging with side-cast spoil levees between 1960-65.