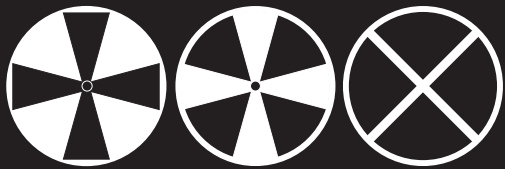


# stay far away from these:



The most dangerous part of a big ship, where the thrusters are, is marked with one of these symbols. The propellers here can suck you in or capsize you.

If you need help or rescue, in an emergency CALL  
**Coast Guard Station  
Cleveland Harbor  
216-937-0140**

Other helpful contacts:

Ohio DNR Division of Watercraft  
(216) 361-1212  
cleveland.watercraft@dnr.state.oh.us  
(For registration and boat safety information. Kayaks and canoes must be registered with ODNR.)  
paddle.ohiodnr.gov/

**YOU PADDLE THE CHANNEL AT YOUR OWN RISK. This pamphlet is only a guide. The publishers accept no liability for injury, death or damage to property.**

# what to do

## if you hear or see a ship approaching

### STAY ALERT

If you have a VHF Marine Radio (and you should,) monitor VHF CHANNEL 16 at all times.

Only hail a large vessel in an emergency.

- State the name of the vessel you are calling.
- If you don't have a radio, slowly and repeatedly raise and lower outstretched arms to each side.

PORT means "LEFT."  
STARBOARD means "RIGHT."

### GET OUT OF THE WAY!

Do not impede a large ship's passage. It has the right of way.

- **PADDLE TO THE NEAREST PASSING ZONE - SEE MAP.**
- **IF YOU CAN'T REACH A PASSING ZONE, KEEP CLOSE TO THE BANK.**
- **NEVER CROSS IN FRONT OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL.**
- **TIGHTEN YOUR LIFEJACKET, PREPARE FOR VERY ROUGH WATER, and HANG ON.**
- **IF SOMEONE ON THE LARGE SHIP TELLS YOU WHERE TO GO, LISTEN! and FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.**

# PADDLE SAFE

The Cuyahoga River is beautiful.

*But the ship channel, where the river flows through the center of Cleveland, is a very dangerous place to paddle.*

The freighters that come through every day are huge – as tall as a building and as wide as the river. The sideways propellers that steer them make giant waves that can capsize a canoe, kayak, or board. **And they can't see you.**

## THINK

The channel is **23 FEET DEEP**, lined with **STEEL WALLS**, with very few places to escape or grab hold.

## LOOK

Be aware of your surroundings and of other vessels. Know where you are and where the nearest passing zones are.

## LISTEN

**5 SHORT BLASTS OF A HORN** mean **DANGER** - a ship is nearby.

## LINK

Use smartphone apps to see what ships are in the area.

How to paddle safely on the Cuyahoga River Ship Channel

# before you paddle...

- Check the weather.
- Always **wear** a lifejacket.
- Have lights on your vessel and turn them on at dusk.
- Charge the batteries on your phone, vhf radio and lights.
- Tie a whistle or air horn to your lifejacket to draw attention.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you'll return.
- Know how to reboard your vessel in deep water.

# look up & link up

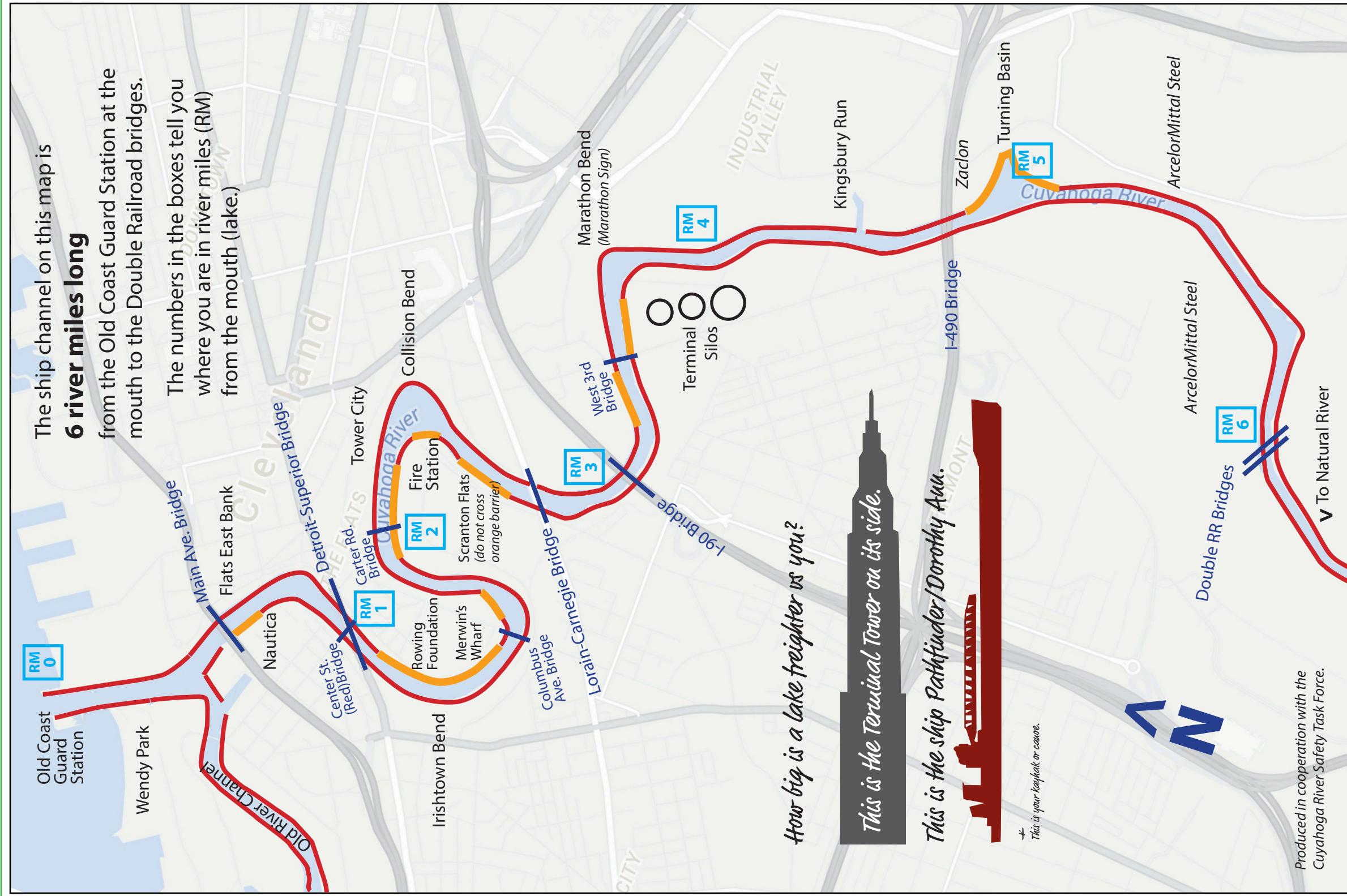
Before you go, check ship traffic websites like boatbeacon.com or marinetraffic.com to see if ships are in the vicinity or on the way.

Use BOAT BEACON or MARINE TRAFFIC apps on your smartphone while on the water.

Note that Information may be delayed, so ships may be closer than they appear on the app.

# The Cuyahoga River Ship Channel

- Red Lines = Danger Zones, do not stop when freighter is in the area
- Orange Lines = Passing Zones, least unsafe place to stop while freighter passes



The ship channel on this map is **6 river miles long**

from the Old Coast Guard Station at the mouth to the Double Railroad bridges.

The numbers in the boxes tell you where you are in river miles (RM) from the mouth (lake.)

*How big is a lake freighter vs you?*

*This is the Terminal Tower on its side.*

*This is the ship Pathfinder/Dorothy Ann.*



*This is your kayak or canoe.*

