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.

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

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

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

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

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 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.)

Produced in cooperation with the Cuyahoga River Safety Task Force.