At its headwaters in Northern Minnesota, you can walk across the Mississippi River. When the River reaches its destination at the Gulf of Mexico, it is a mile wide. Like the river, St. Bernard Port started on a small scale and has grown into the economic power-house it is today.

In 1960, the St. Bernard Port, was set into motion by state legislation enabling its creation, but was not operating as a working port at that time.

Since then, the rest is history. In 1981 the Port’s Board of Commissioners was reconstituted and work begun to develop the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District. The Port purchased a small parcel of land on Bayou Bienvenue and started marine operations with a fireboat service provided by the vessel Mr. Jake. Subsequently, the 216 acre Kaiser Aluminum site was acquired by the Port in 1989 which is now known as the Chalmette Terminal. The Terminal contains the only calm water, deep draft slip on the lower Mississippi River. The property later merged into Norfolk Southern Railway System and was eventually purchased by the Port in 1993. Today, the Arabi Terminal features a 40,000 sq. ft. dry bulk storage warehouse, five ship berths, mooring dolphins and 186,000 sq. ft. of dockside transit sheds. There are an additional 200,000 square feet of general warehousing on site and Class-1 rail service along with convenient interstate connectivity.

The Violet Terminal site originally operated a coal chute in the early 1900’s and was near the intersection of the Violet Canal Locks and the Mississippi River. In 2012 the Port acquired this site and has made improvements to the 72 plus acres of land and 4,300 linear feet on the Mississippi River. There are midstream operations occurring at Violet and in Meraux, with one set of mooring buoys capable of accommodating Cape Verde sized ocean going vessels carrying over 80,000 tons of cargo.

Building on the foundation of our successful past, it is with the mindful efforts of our Board of Commissioners, legislative delegates, private enterprises and the Port’s employees and administration that we have created a team that works diligently to enable the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District to advance competitively into the future.

Robert J. Scafidel, Executive Director
The Port is the **Economic Engine** of St. Bernard.

*Fire boat Mr. Jake patrols MRGO in 1986.*
Cargo off-loaded at the Port is shipped across the nation by **Barges, Rail Cars, and Trucks.**
Over centuries, from sailing ships, flatboats and paddlewheelers to barges and ocean going vessels the Mississippi River has witnessed the evolution of nautical transportation. Today it’s the busiest shipping corridor in the world.

St. Bernard Port is strategically located on the lower Mississippi ideally situated for the transfer of raw materials by deep draft ocean going vessels to barge throughout the United States. The Port is truly intermodal, connected on land by six class one railroads and interstate highways I-10, I-610 and I-510. The Port moves more rail cars than any terminal in the southeastern U.S.

Metallic ores and minerals, ferro alloys, petroleum coke, zinc concentrates, coal, fertilizers and steel are just some of the important raw materials unloaded at the Port. Destinations for cargos headed to industrial plants throughout the country are as far north as St. Paul, Indianapolis, Chicago and Pittsburg. Cargo is also transported to Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and states throughout the southeastern U.S.

Just like the river, the Port runs non-stop, day in and day out, year round.
The Maritime Security Center makes the Port one of the Nation's Most Secure.

Port Security has always been a top priority. As the challenges have increased over time, the experienced team of Port security professionals has equipped itself with the most sophisticated surveillance and monitoring technology available today. The Port's Maritime Security Operation Center (MSOC), headquartered in the Administration Complex, works 24/7 with national, state and local law enforcement to maintain security.

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Kaiser workers, 1951.
The Port and its leasees have created more than **2,000 Direct and Indirect Jobs** in the region.

Over the past 25 years there is a direct correlation between the Port’s growth to economic opportunity and job creation. St. Bernard Port has become the economic engine of the parish providing 18% of the jobs in St. Bernard. There are over 800 full time employees working the Port’s terminals. 48 different businesses located at the Port create an additional 1,200 jobs linked to the Port’s lessee related activities. Each year the Port, its tenants and users of port facilities are placing an estimated $325 million into the local economy.

Beyond the great location and infrastructure, the past, present and future success of St. Bernard Port is attributable to the continued efforts of the dedicated people who are employed here and their hard work building a better life for their families and their community.
Sen. J.P. Morrell
Rep. Ray Garofalo
Harold J. Anderson
Cheri Chestnut Quigley
Elton J. LeBlanc

The St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District Board of Commissioners

The Administration of the St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District

Commissioners are unpaid public servants appointed by the Governor.

Robert J. Scafidel
Executive Director

Drew M. Heaphy
Director of Administration

Jerry V. Graves, Sr.
Director of Operations