National waterways of India

India is the largest peninsula in the world with a coastline of about 6000 kms with 12 major ports and 163 minor / intermediate ports. Nature has given us a more impressive, nearly 14500 kms of navigable and potentially navigable inland waterways - which include a network of rivers, lakes and canals.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an apex body for development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping and navigation has identified ten waterways for initial consideration for development out of which three have declared as National Waterways which are:

National Waterway No 1 (NW-1) - The Ganga (North India)


The NW-1 stretches to more than 1620 Kms of potentially navigable waterways. River conservancy works, dredging, day channel marking and bandalling are carried out on a year-to-year basis. Provisions for 1.5 - 2m depth channels, night navigational facilities are in the process of implementation.

National Waterway No 2 (NW-II) - The Brahmaputra (North-East India)

The river Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri-Pandu (Guwahati)-Tezpur-Neamati-Dibrugarh-Sadiya stretching to about 891 Kms was declared a National Waterway in the year 1988. River conservancy works, dredging, day channel marking and bandalling are carried out on a year-to-year basis. Provisions for 2-meter depth channels, night navigational facilities are under consideration. An inland Water Transport transit and trade protocol exists between India and Bangladesh. The NW-2 connects the North East region with Calcutta and Haldia ports through Bangladesh and Sunderbans waterways.
National Waterway No 3 (NW-III) - The West Coast Canal (South West India)

The West Coast Canal located in Gods Own Country - Kerala runs from Kollam to Kottapuram and was declared a National Waterway in 1993. The dredging of this canal has been finished. The NW-3 is one of the most navigable and tourism potential area in India and has much to offer to the potential tourist.

For further information please visit: http://yachtsindia.com/nationalwaterways.htm