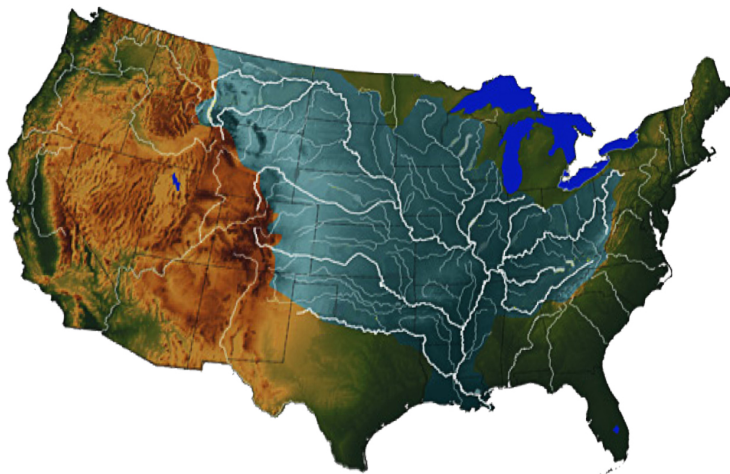


BIG RIVER COALITION



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February 19, 2016

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 21916

Members,

CONTINUING Navigation Restrictions in the Area of Southwest Pass (SWP):

The Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New Orleans (Bar Pilots) continue to recommend a maximum draft of 41 feet for all vessels transiting SWP as first implemented at 1030 hours on Saturday, January 30, 2016. Their previous draft reduction was to 43 feet from 47 feet and went into effect at 1030 hours on January 14, 2016.

The Associated Federal Pilots and Docking Masters of Louisiana, LCC maximum draft recommendation for SWP also remains 41 feet for all vessels (specifically from the Southwest Pass Sea Buoy to the Old Quarantine Anchorage at Mile 3.5 Above Head of Passes [AHP]). This reduced draft recommendation became effective on February 4, 2016. The Federal Pilots often pilot domestic tankers that require significant under-keel-clearances (UKC) in the range of 3 feet (or more) thus in those cases the reduction is effectively down to 38 feet.

Industry Hopper Dredge(s) in Southwest Pass (SWP):

B.E. LINDHOLM: The industry hopper dredge B.E. LINDHOLM continues dredging operations at Cubits Gap (approximately Mile 5 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 2 AHP). The B.E. LINDHOLM began dredging operations on Monday, February 15, 2016.

NEWPORT: The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT is also dredging in the area of the Head of Passes. The NEWPORT's contract (Southwest Pass Hopper #4-2015) was extended until approximately March 1, 2016. The NEWPORT began dredging in the area of Head of Passes on Thursday, December 24, 2015.

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Industry Hopper Dredge(s) in Southwest Pass (SWP) [continued]:

TERRAPIN ISLAND: The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND began dredging the jetty reach of SWP (Mile 18 to Mile 20 Below Head of Passes) on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. The TERRAPIN ISLAND is expected to complete this contract on or about April 30, 2016.

Government Hopper Dredge(s) in Southwest Pass (SWP):

McFARLAND: The Corps' Philadelphia District hopper dredge McFARLAND continues to dredge in the area of the Head of Passes. The McFARLAND began dredging in SWP on Friday, January 22, 2016. The usage of the McFARLAND in SWP was approved for 45 days under the approved Red Flag request (March 7, 2016), in response to no bids from the dredging industry to the solicited contract for Southwest Pass Hopper #1-2016.

WHEELER: The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to begin dredging in the area of SWP on (or around) February 23, 2016. The WHEELER is continuing shipyard repairs and the latest update includes returning to SWP as soon as possible.

Industry Cutterhead Dredge(s) in Southwest Pass (SWP):

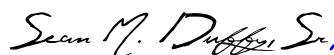
G.D. MORGAN: The industry cutterhead began dredging in SWP on Wednesday, February 17, 2016. The G.D. MORGAN will beneficially utilize all material removed during this channel maintenance contract under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge #2-2015. The cutterhead's first assignment is from Mile 16 BHP to Mile 17.5 BHP on the left descending bank (eastern side).

E.W. ELLEFSEN: The industry cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN is expected to begin dredging in SWP by February 25, 2016. The cutterhead's first assignment is expected to be from Mile 5 BHP to Mile 6.5 BHP on the western side (right descending bank).

Dustpan Dredge(s) on the Crossings Above New Orleans:

WALLACE McGEORGE: The dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE began dredging the central 250 feet of the channel at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP) at 0830 hours this morning (Friday, February 19, 2016). The MVN reports 15-20 feet of shoal material across the majority of the Crossings.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director