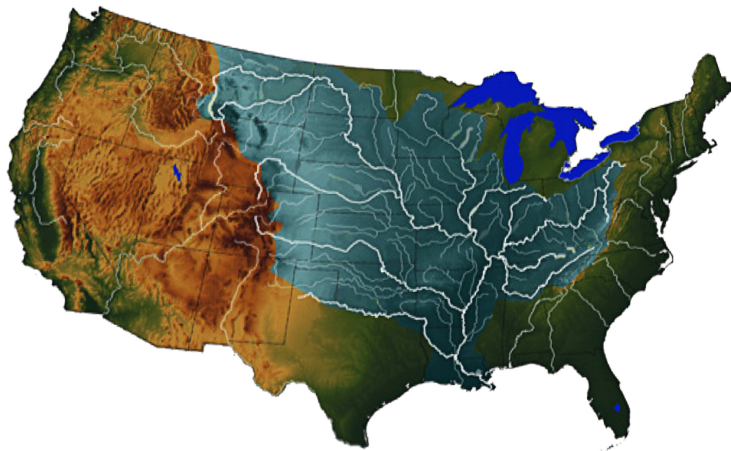


BIG RIVER COALITION



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June 7, 2017

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 6717

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues working to restore the deficient channel in Southwest Pass with the three industry hopper dredges under contract (NEWPORT, BAYPORT and GLENN EDWARDS), the MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER working under an Emergency Call Out (Red Flag Approval) and the industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK. The river has crested and continues the projected slow fall.

Navigation Restrictions in Southwest Pass:

The Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New Orleans (Bar Pilots) implemented a draft restriction of 44 feet (freshwater) for all vessels transiting Southwest Pass effective at 1030 hours on Friday, May 26, 2017. The Bar Pilots will work on a case-by-case basis to move vessels with deeper drafts, but the channel is deteriorating quickly and additional restrictions could indeed be necessary before the channel is recovered.

The Bar Pilots flocculation based transit restriction for all inbound vessels arriving SWP with freshwater drafts of 38 feet or greater remains in effect. Specifically, inbound vessels with a draft of 38 feet or greater shall only enter SWP six (6) hours before until three (3) hours after high tide at SWP to negate the effects of the flocculation in the channel. The flocculation based transit restriction became effective at 1030 hours on Monday, May 15, 2017.

The official notices as released by the Bar Pilots are attached.

BIG RIVER COALITION

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

NEWPORT: The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is now working under Southwest Pass Hopper Rental Contract #3-2017 and is dredging from Mile 2 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 1.5 AHP. The hopper dredge began dredging on May 16, 2017. The NEWPORT is expected to complete this contract on August 4, 2017, although the MVN could exercise options that would extend the contract until September 13, 2017.

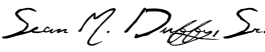
BAYPORT: The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) is dredging at Cubits Gap (Mile 3.5 AHP to Mile 3.0 AHP). The hopper dredge began dredging on Thursday, May 25, 2017, under Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2017. The present contract will keep the BAYPORT here until July 25, 2017, although the Corps could exercise options that would extend the contract until September 28, 2017.

WHEELER: The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER's began working 30 days under the Emergency Call Out procedure or Red Flag approval on the night of Friday, June 2, 2017. The Red Flag work is expected to keep the WHEELER working in SWP until July 3, 2017.

GLENN EDWARDS: The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) started working under Hopper Dredge Contract #1-2017 (taken over for the NEWPORT) on Saturday, June 3, 2017. The GLENN EDWARDS is now dredging (agitation dredging) near the jetties in SWP (Mile 18 Below Head Of Passes [BHP] to Mile 19.5 BHP). The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to complete this contract on July 8, 2017.

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

CAPTAIN FRANK: The industry cutterhead dredge (Weeks Marine) is dredging at approximately Mile 17 BHP on the third assignment from Mile 16 BHP to Mile 18 BHP on the eastern side of the channel. The cutterhead will soon have to shut-down for some schedule repairs (approximately 5 days), but the contractor is attempting to complete the present assignment first. The cutterhead is expected to complete this contract July 14, 2017 but the MVN has options that would keep the cutterhead working until mid-August. Upon completion of this contract the CAPTAIN FRANK would move to resume the work on the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (Head of Passes). All material removed under this contract will be beneficially used.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director