

BIG RIVER COALITION



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Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 82615

Members,

The Corps' Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues to address the shoaling carried down river by the extended high water on the LMR. Since the record crest of 15.64 feet on the July 29, 2015 the stage level at the Carrollton Gauge (New Orleans) has dropped over 10 feet.

White Castle Anchorage: The dustpan dredge JADWIN will move to Alhambra Crossing (Mile 191 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) on Friday, August 28, 2015. **While the JADWIN is working at Alhambra Crossing the White Castle Anchorage (Mile 191.1 to Mile 190.4 AHP) will be off limits to allow the JADWIN to work uninterrupted and to increase navigational safety.** Once the dredge arrives at Alhambra new surveys will be run to determine the amount of material to be removed. Based on past experience the Anchorage will most likely be off limits for vessel usage for approximately two weeks.

Lower Mississippi River Stage:

The MVN indicated the Carrollton Gauge at New Orleans read 5.4 feet at 1300 hours this afternoon (Wednesday, August 26, 2015). The Baton Rouge Gauge read 16.48 feet at 1300 hours this afternoon with a 24-hour change of -0.75 feet. The National Weather Service's 28-Day Forecast (Extended Streamflow Prediction) indicates the stage at New Orleans will remain near 5 feet over the next week and slowly fall to 4.5 feet on September 23, 2015. The Baton Rouge gauge is predicted to read 13.5 feet on September 23, 2015.

Navigation Transit Recommendation(s) on the Crossings Above New Orleans:

The New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA) Pilots have implemented a maximum draft restriction of 40 feet for all vessels transiting above Mile 210 AHP. This restriction was implemented on Friday, August 21, 2015 in response to the shoaling at Red Eye Crossing and rapidly falling stage levels. NOBRA continues to monitor the channel in this area and expects to move a test vessel through this area on Friday (August 28, 2015) as the MVN continues to address the identified shoals.

Navigation Transit Recommendation(s) in Effect at SWP:

The Bar Pilots were forced to implement a reduced draft restriction, limiting all vessels transiting Southwest Pass to a maximum draft of 45 feet. The draft restriction went into effect at 1030 hours on Friday, August 7, 2015. The maximum draft recommendation of 45 feet is a reduction of 2 feet and is due to the inability to maintain full channel dimensions. The official Notice for the Bar Pilots is attached.

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Industry Hopper Dredge(s) on the Crossings Above New Orleans:

NEWPORT: The NEWPORT is dredging at Baton Rouge Front (Mile 230.5 AHP) and will be replaced by the industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS this Friday (August 28, 2015). The GLENN EDWARDS will begin dredging at Medora Crossing (Mile 212 AHP) and is expected to complete this contract in early September.

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

HURLEY: The dustpan dredge continues dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP). The dustpan began dredging on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

WALLACE McGEORGE: The dustpan dredge is dredging at Bayou Goula Crossing (Mile 198 AHP). The dustpan returned to dredging on August 13, 2015 after remaining idle during the elevated river stage.

JADWIN: The dustpan began dredging at Smoke Bend Crossing (Mile 189 AHP) on Thursday, August 20, 2015. **The dustpan will be moving to Alhambra Crossing on Friday, August 28, 2015 and the White Castle Anchorage will be unavailable for vessel usage for about two weeks.**

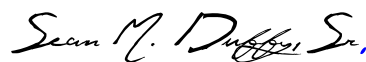
Government Hopper Dredge(s) in SWP:

WHEELER: The MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is dredging from Mile 15 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 18 BHP. The WHEELER is dredging under Emergency Call Out #5-2015 authorized by Red Flag approval until September 7, 2015. The WHEELER also has one remaining Readiness Exercise that is tentatively scheduled from September 15 to September 28, 2015.

Cutterhead Dredge(s) at the New Orleans Harbor:

MARION: The cutterhead dredge is expected to begin dredging tomorrow (August 27, 2015) on the New Orleans Harbor contract in the area of the Julia Street Cruise Terminal (Mile 95.7 AHP). The MARION is expected to complete this contract by the end of September.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director