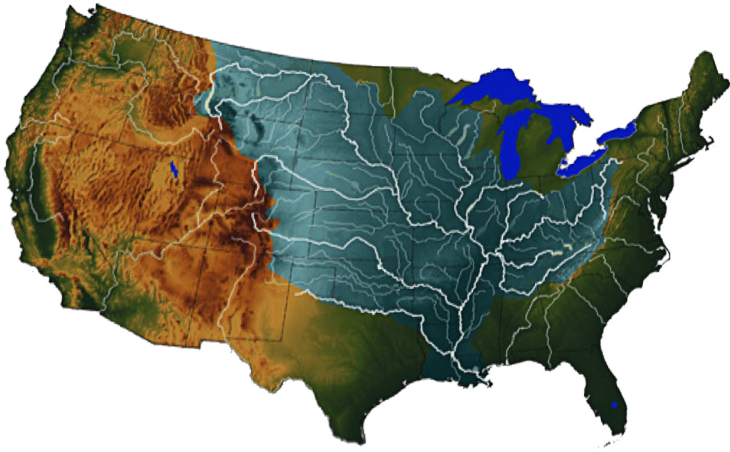


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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March 9, 2018

## Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 3918

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) opened eight (8) bays on the Bonnet Carré Spillway yesterday (Thursday, March 8, 2018) as the target flow of 1.25 million cubic feet per second (cfs) was reached. The MVN indicated it is going to open an additional thirteen (13) bays today, the average flow per bay is between 500 to 1,000 cfs or a total estimated maximum of 21,000 cfs presently being diverted. The Corps expects to continue to open a few bays each day over the next week (or so) as it monitors the flow to ensure the trigger point is not exceeded below the structure.

### HOPPER DREDGES IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

**NEWPORT:** The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) is expected to arrive in SWP by Sunday (March 11, 2018) morning and commence dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract No. 2-2018. The NEWPORT will begin dredging in the area of Cubits Gap (Mile 3.5 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 2.5 AHP).

**BAYPORT:** The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) is expected to arrive in SWP by Tuesday, March 13, 2018 and commence dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract No. 3-2018. The location will be determined based on the greatest need upon the BAYPORT's arrival in SWP.

### CUTTERHEAD DREDGES IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

**ROBERT M. WHITE:** The industry cutterhead dredge (Manson Construction) is expected to begin dredging in SWP under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract No. 1-2018 on March 16, 2018. The cutterhead dredge will commence dredging from Mile 6 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 8.75 BHP along the western side upon arrival. All dredged material removed will be beneficially used and strategically placed to create new land alongside the western boundary of SWP.

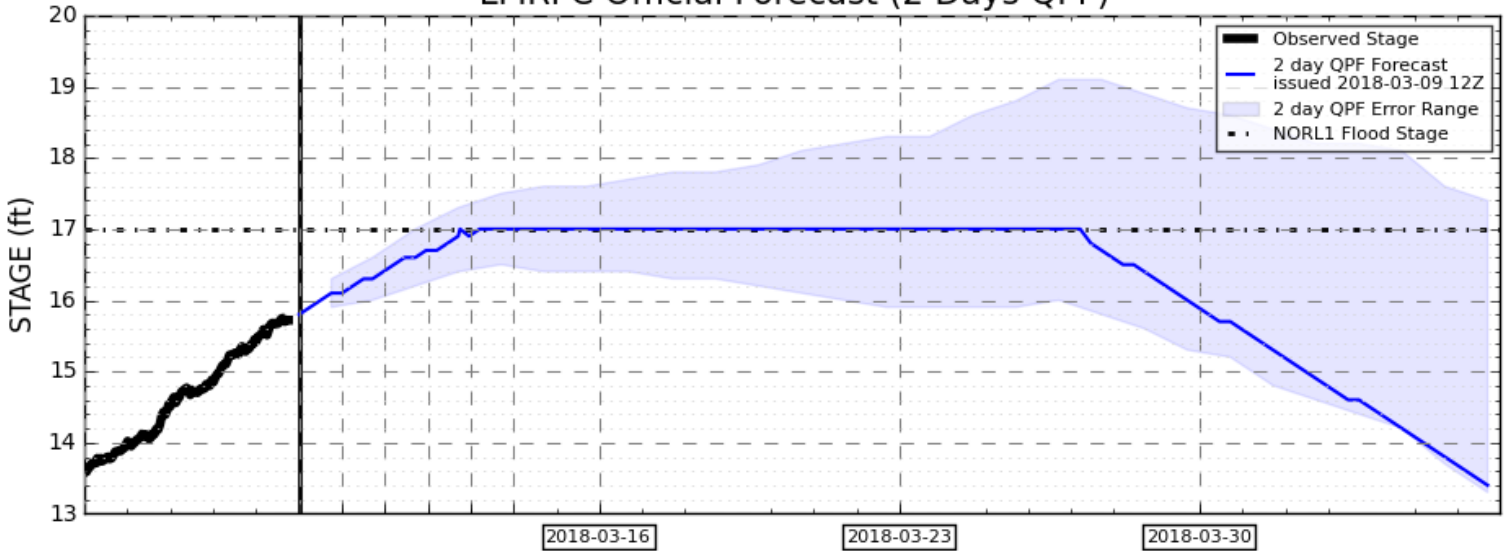
The MVN announced that it will solicit Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Contract No. 4-2018 on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 in an effort to secure an industry hopper dredge to respond to active shoaling in SWP. MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is also expected to arrive in Southwest Pass to begin dredging on March 19, 2018.

The following graph is reproduced from the NWS website and represents an experimental product based on the complexity of accurately predicting long-range precipitation. These forecast project stage levels based on expected precipitation for 2 days (top) and 16 days (bottom) and was developed within the North American Ensemble Forecast System (NAEFS) computer model and highlights Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF). Along with the forecasts, a shaded area is also provided to indicate uncertainty for the forecast each day in the future. These plots are experimental and not an official forecast product.

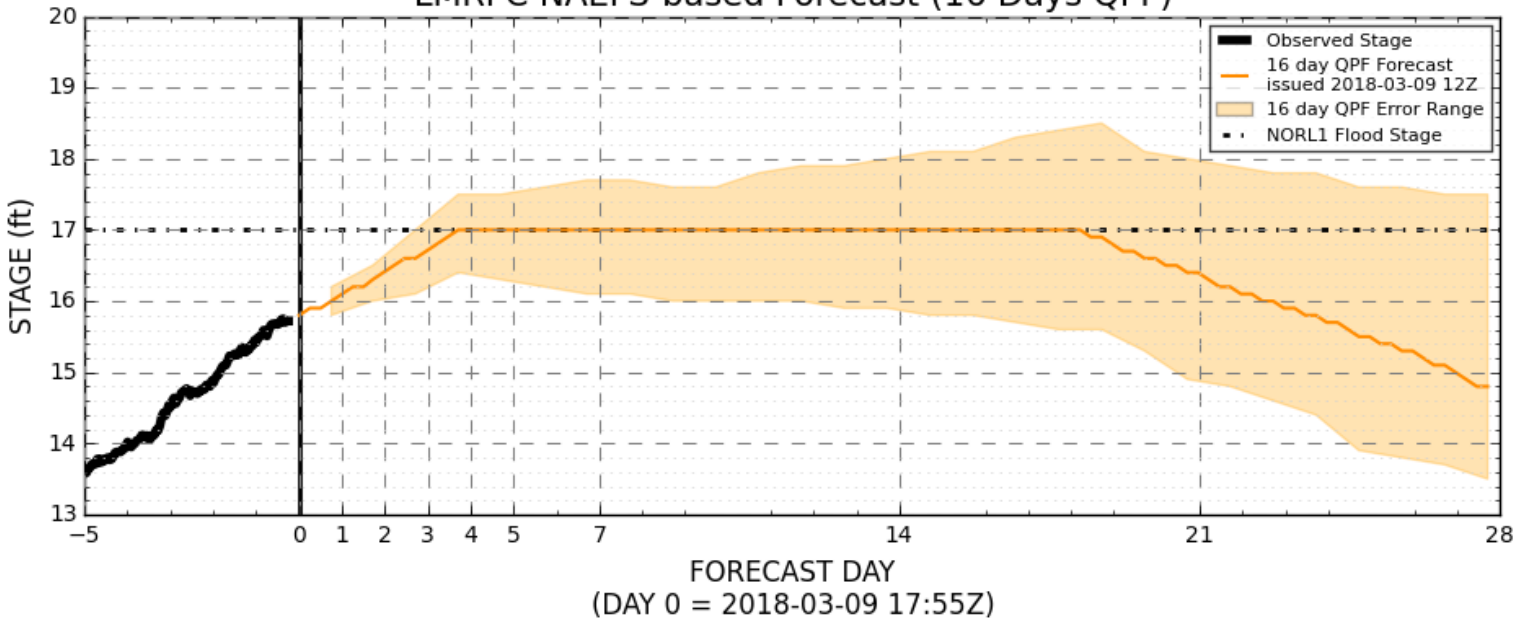
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## NORL1 Forecast and Experimental Uncertainty

LMRFC Official Forecast (2 Days QPF)



LMRFC NAEFS-based Forecast (16 Days QPF)



The shaded areas show probable future river stage based on the present forecast and past forecast skill. The shaded areas capture 2/3 of past forecast errors, centered on the median error.

### Bonnet Carré Spillway Historic Operations:

Historic Openings Years	Dates Open	Number of Bays Opened	Maximum Flow cfs
1937	January 28 to March 16	285	211,000
1945	March 23 to May 18	350	318,000
1950	February 10 to March 19	350	223,000
1973	April 8 to June 21	350	195,000
1975	April 14 to April 26	225	110,000
1979	April 17 to May 31	350	191,000
1983	May 20 to June 23	350	268,000
1997	March 17 to April 17	298	243,000
2008	April 11 to May 8	160	160,000
2011	May 9 to June 20	330	316,000
2016	January 10 to January 31	210	203,000
<b>2018</b>	<b>March 8</b>	<b>8 +</b>	<b>8,000</b>

The Coalition continues to work closely with the Corps and will issue updates as new information on the dredges scheduled for SWP and the Bonnet Carré Spillway operations are available.

Sincerely,

*Sean M. Duffy Sr.*

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Executive Director