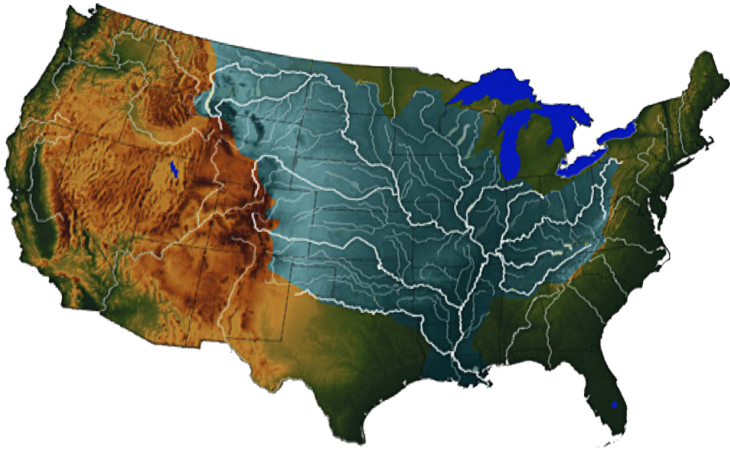


BIG RIVER COALITION



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May 14, 2018

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 51418

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues to respond to the shoaling in Southwest Pass as related to the extended high river stages of early 2018. The MVN has commenced dredging operations on the Crossings Above New Orleans. **Please see below for complete details and note the restrictions on vessel usage in both the White Castle and Belmont Anchorages.**

DRAFT RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREA OF SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

The Bar Pilots established their maximum draft recommendation at 44 feet effective at 1000 hours on Thursday, April 26, 2018.

The Crescent River Port Pilots Association increased their maximum draft recommendation to 44 feet (freshwater) on Monday, April 23, 2018.

The Federal Pilots revised their maximum draft recommendation to 44 feet (freshwater) on Thursday, April 26, 2018.

The controlling draft remains 44 feet freshwater for all three Pilot Associations navigating vessels in the area of SWP.

INDUSTRY HOPPER DREDGES IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

NEWPORT: The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) commenced dredging in SWP on March 11, 2018 under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract No. 2-2018. The NEWPORT is presently dredging in the area of Cubits Gap (Mile 4 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 2 AHP).

BAYPORT: The industry hopper dredge (Manson Construction) commenced dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract No. 3-2018 on Monday, March 12, 2018. The BAYPORT is presently dredging from Mile 2.0 AHP to the Head of Passes (Mile 0).

GLENN EDWARDS: The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) commenced dredging in SWP on April 17, 2018. The GLENN EDWARDS is presently dredging from Mile 10 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 11 BHP.

GOVERNMENT HOPPER DREDGE IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

WHEELER: MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is dredging in the area of Cubits Gap (Mile 3.5 AHP to Mile 2.5 AHP). The WHEELER began dredging on March 31, 2018 and is approved for 60 days of dredging under the Red Flag or Emergency Call Out Procedure in response to no bids being received from the dredging industry to Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Contract No. 4-2018.

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CUTTERHEAD DREDGES IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

G.D. MORGAN: The industry cutterhead dredge G.D. MORGAN continues to respond to Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract No. 2-2018 for Weeks Marine. The cutterhead commenced dredging in SWP on April 17, 2018 and has completed the first assignment from Mile 5 BHP to Mile 6.3 BHP. The cutterhead moved upriver to start on its second assignment on Saturday, May 12, 2018 and continues working from Mile 2.5 AHP to Mile 1.0 BHP. All material removed will be beneficially used and strategically placed to create new land alongside the western boundary of SWP.

ROBERT M. WHITE: The industry cutterhead dredge (Manson Construction) began dredging in SWP under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract No. 1-2018 on March 16, 2018. The cutterhead has completed the assignment from Mile 7.5 BHP to Mile 8.75 BHP and commenced dredging at Mile 16.4 BHP on Friday, May 11, 2018. The cutterhead is now at approximately Mile 16.5 BHP. All material removed will be beneficially used and strategically placed to create new land alongside of SWP.

DUSTPAN DREDGES ON THE CROSSINGS ABOVE NEW ORLEANS:

WALLACE McGEORGE: The industry dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE commenced dredging operations at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 192 AHP) on Friday, May 11, 2018. **The NOBRA and Federal Pilots are prohibiting vessel usage at the White Castle Anchorage (Mile 191.1 AHP to Mile 190.4 AHP) until the dustpan dredge completes this assignment.** The dustpan is expected to be at this location until early June, keeping the anchorage clear promotes navigational safety and allows the dredge to work without interruption.

JADWIN: The Corps' dustpan dredge JADWIN commenced dredging at Belmont Crossing (Mile 154 AHP) on Thursday, May 10, 2018. **The NOBRA and Federal Pilots will work to anchor vessels in the Belmont Anchorage (Mile 154 AHP to Mile 152.9 AHP) "as far east as possible" in effort to keep the Belmont Anchorage accessible while the dustpan dredge is working this location.**

HURLEY: The government dustpan dredge HURLEY is now expected to commence dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) on Wednesday, May 16, 2018.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director