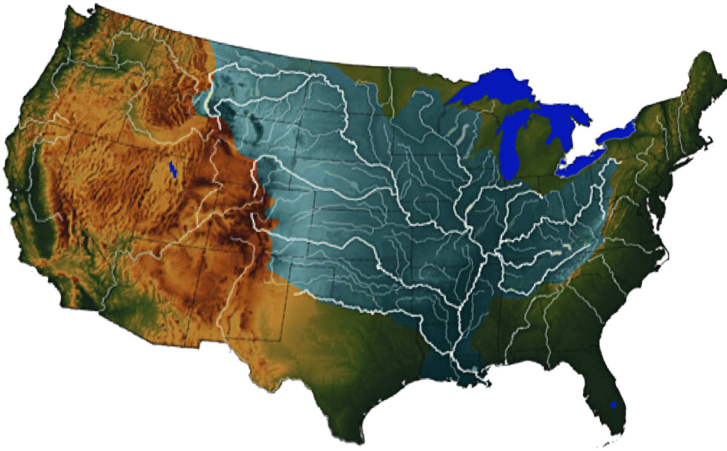


BIG RIVER COALITION



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director
4741 Utica Street, Suite 200
Metairie, LA 70006

Office (504) 833-4190 x 805
Cellular (504) 338-3165
sean.duffy@bigrivercoalition.org

January 15, 2019

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 11519

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) is responding to shoaling in Southwest Pass (SWP) deposited in the extended period of elevated river stages. **Red Flag Emergency Call Out #1-2019 was approved for 30 days on January 11, 2019 and will allow the Corps hopper dredge WHEELER to continue working until approximately February 10, 2019.** There are three hopper dredges (including the WHEELER) and one cutterhead working to restore and maintain the Ship Channel in the area of SWP. **The MVN continues to pursue all options to keep the dredges working to restore federally authorized channel dimensions.**

TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT CUBITS GAP:

The Crescent River Ports Pilots Association (CRPPA) increased their maximum draft recommendation to 45 feet (freshwater) and established one-way traffic for two vessels with drafts over 42 feet meeting between Mile 4.5 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 2.5 AHP. The revision went into effect at approximately 2000 hours on Monday, January 14, 2019:

“Maximum freshwater draft 45’00”

One way traffic for 2 vessels over 42’, from 1 mile above to 1 mile below Old Quarantine Light 3.5”

TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

The Bar Pilots continue to utilize the flocculation-based transit restriction for all inbound vessels arriving Southwest Pass with a freshwater draft of 38-feet or greater. **Inbound vessels with a draft of 38-feet or greater are only allowed to enter SWP “between 3 hours after low tide, to 3 hours after high tide at SWP.”** The restriction became effective at 1000 hours on, Monday, November 26, 2018. The official notice as released by the Bar Pilots is attached, please refer to it for complete details.

The Federal Pilots implemented a similar flocculation-based restriction for inbound vessels with a draft of 38-feet or greater on November 27, 2018. The official notice is also attached.

BIG RIVER COALITION

HOPPER DREDGE(S) IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

WHEELER: The Corp's hopper dredge WHEELER is now dredging in the area of Cubits Gap from approximately Mile 3.5 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 2.5 AHP under the Red Flag Emergency Call Out. The WHEELER worked under Readiness Exercise #1-2019 from Monday, January 7, 2019 until 1530 hours on Friday, January 11, 2019 before switching over to the Red Flag Call Out assignment.

GLENN EDWARDS: The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is presently dredging on assignment from Mile 17.8 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 19 BHP. The GLENN EDWARDS commenced dredging on December 18, 2018 and is working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2018. The GLENN EDWARDS is expected to complete its current contract on January 26, 2019. **However, the Corps is working to extend the GLENN EDWARDS contract until March 1, 2019, to help restore authorized channel dimensions with the latest crest predicted to reach 15.5 feet on Monday, January 21, 2019.**

NEWPORT: The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is dredging from Mile 19 BHP to Mile 20 BHP. The NEWPORT began dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019 in SWP on November 28, 2018. The MVN will most likely extend the NEWPORT's contract by exercising full options, that would keep the hopper dredge working until approximately May 15th.

CUTTERHEAD DREDGE(S) IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

R.S. WEEKS: The industry cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) is presently dredging at approximately Mile 13.25 Below Head of Passes (BHP) on the eastern channel edge. The cutterhead's extended assignment is from Mile 10.5 BHP to 17.8 BHP, the cutterhead started dredging on December 15, 2018. The R.S. WEEKS removed 2 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) before being released from that contract (remove a total of 12 mcy from the HDDA) to respond to Southwest Pass Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019.

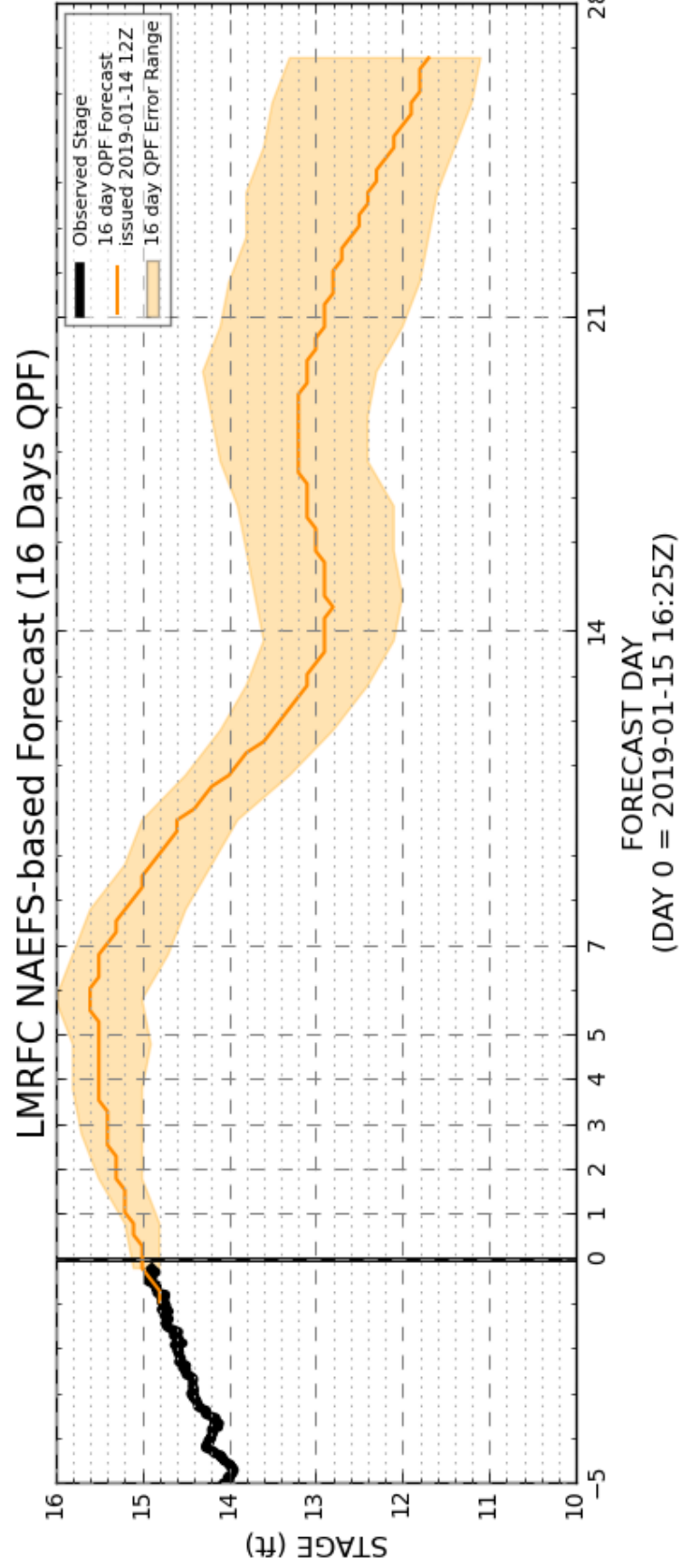
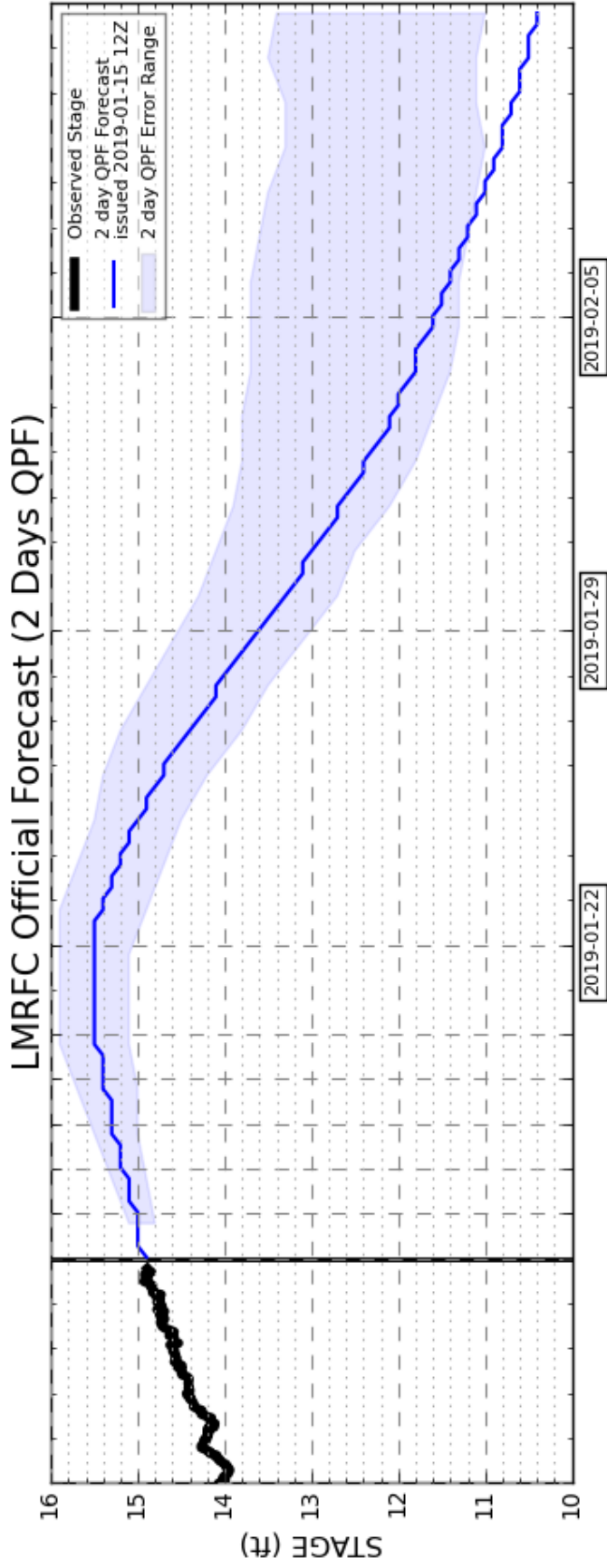
The R.S. WEEKS is expected to return to the HDDA contract by February 2019 when it will be replaced on the SWP contract by the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

NORL1 Forecast and Experimental Uncertainty



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.

**Associated Federal Pilots and
Docking Masters of Louisiana, LLC**
Telephone (504) 456-0787



**4500 York Street, Suite 204
Metairie, Louisiana 70001**
Fax (504) 456-0987

November 27, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to the presence of flocculation; effective immediately, The Federal Pilots of Louisiana recommend that any inbound vessels with a fresh water draft of 38' or greater shall enter SWP 3 hours after low tide to 3 hours after high tide.

Respectfully,

Gregory Bush

Gregory Bush, President
Associated Federal Pilots &
Docking Masters of Louisiana, L.L.C.

TELEPHONE: 504-831-6615
FAX: 504-831-4536

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MICHAEL T.D. MILLER, PRESIDENT
KEVIN P. LEVINE, VICE PRESIDENT
JEFFREY R. ROBICHAUX, SECRETARY
CHARLES B. DEMETZ
STEPHEN B. MOTT

ASSOCIATED BRANCH PILOTS
(BAR PILOTS)
PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
SUITE 100
3813 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD.
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70002

November 26, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: SOUTHWEST PASS, TRANSIT RESTRICTION DUE TO FLOCCULATION

The Bar Pilots for the Port of New Orleans restrict inbound vessels with a deep fresh water draft of Thirty-Eight feet (38') or greater to transit Southwest Pass from the Sea Buoy (Entrance Lighted Whistle Buoy "SW") to mile 1.5 above Head of Passes "between 3 hours after low tide, to 3 hours after high tide at SWP".

The restriction becomes effective at **1000 hours on November 26, 2018.**

Nothing in the recommendations should be construed as limiting a pilot in the exercise of their judgment.

ASSOCIATED BRANCH PILOTS

Michael T. D. Miller

Michael T.D. Miller
President