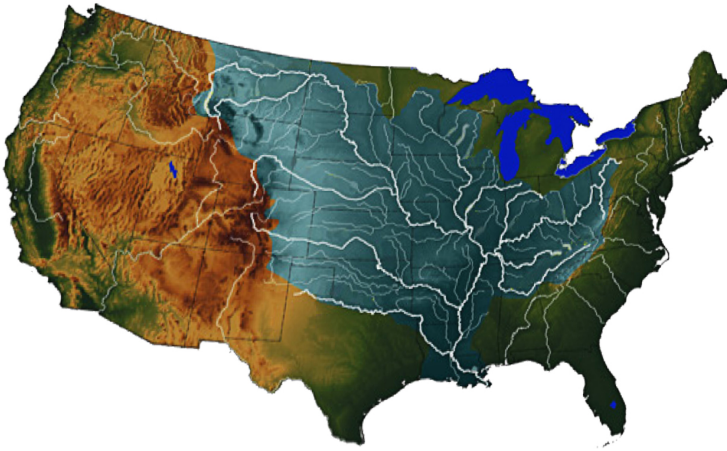


BIG RIVER COALITION



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January 22, 2019

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 12219

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues responding to the active shoaling in Southwest Pass (SWP) deposited during the elevated river stages. The Corps hopper dredge WHEELER was approved for 30 days of work under the Red Flag Emergency Call Out #1-2019 on January 11, 2019. The Red Flag assignment will keep the WHEELER dredging in SWP 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 will advertise Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2019 tomorrow as it continues to pursue all options to secure additional dredges.**

TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT CUBITS GAP:

The Crescent River Ports Pilots Association (CRPPA) continue with their maximum draft recommendation to 45 feet (freshwater) but revised the area for one-way traffic to the Venice Jump. The new reach for one-way traffic for two vessels with drafts over 42 feet not to meet is between Mile 10.5 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 9.5 AHP.

“Maximum freshwater draft 45’00”

One way traffic for 2 vessels over 42’, from 1/2 mile above to 1/2 mile below the Jump MM 10 AHOP”

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):

GLENN EDWARDS: The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is presently dredging on assignment in the area of Cubits Gap from approximately Mile 4.5 AHP to Mile 3 AHP. The GLENN EDWARDS commenced dredging on December 18, 2018 and is working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2018. **The MVN was able to modify the GLENN EDWARDS contract and the hopper dredge will now continue dredging until March 1, 2019.**

NEWPORT: The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is dredging in the area of Pilottown from approximately Mile 3 AHP to Mile 1.5 AHP. The NEWPORT began dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019 in SWP on November 28, 2018. The MVN intends to exercise the options on the NEWPORT's contract to keep the hopper dredge working until approximately May 15th.

WHEELER: The Corp's hopper dredge WHEELER is now dredging two reaches in the area of the Head of Passes from approximately Mile 0.8 AHP to Mile 0.2 AHP and Mile 0.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 1.0 BHP under Red Flag Emergency Call Out #1-2019. 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 30-day Red Flag Call Out.

The latest crest prediction now indicates reaching 15.6 feet tomorrow, January 23rd and then beginning a slow fall on January 26th.

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

R.S. WEEKS: The industry cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) is presently dredging from Mile 5.0 BHP to Mile 6.0 BHP on the western channel edge. The cutterhead was moved from the previous assignment at Mile 10.5 BHP to 17.8 BHP after reaching approximately Mile 13.8 BHP. The MVN moved the cutterhead to address the shoal that was extending further channelward. The cutterhead started dredging in SWP 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.

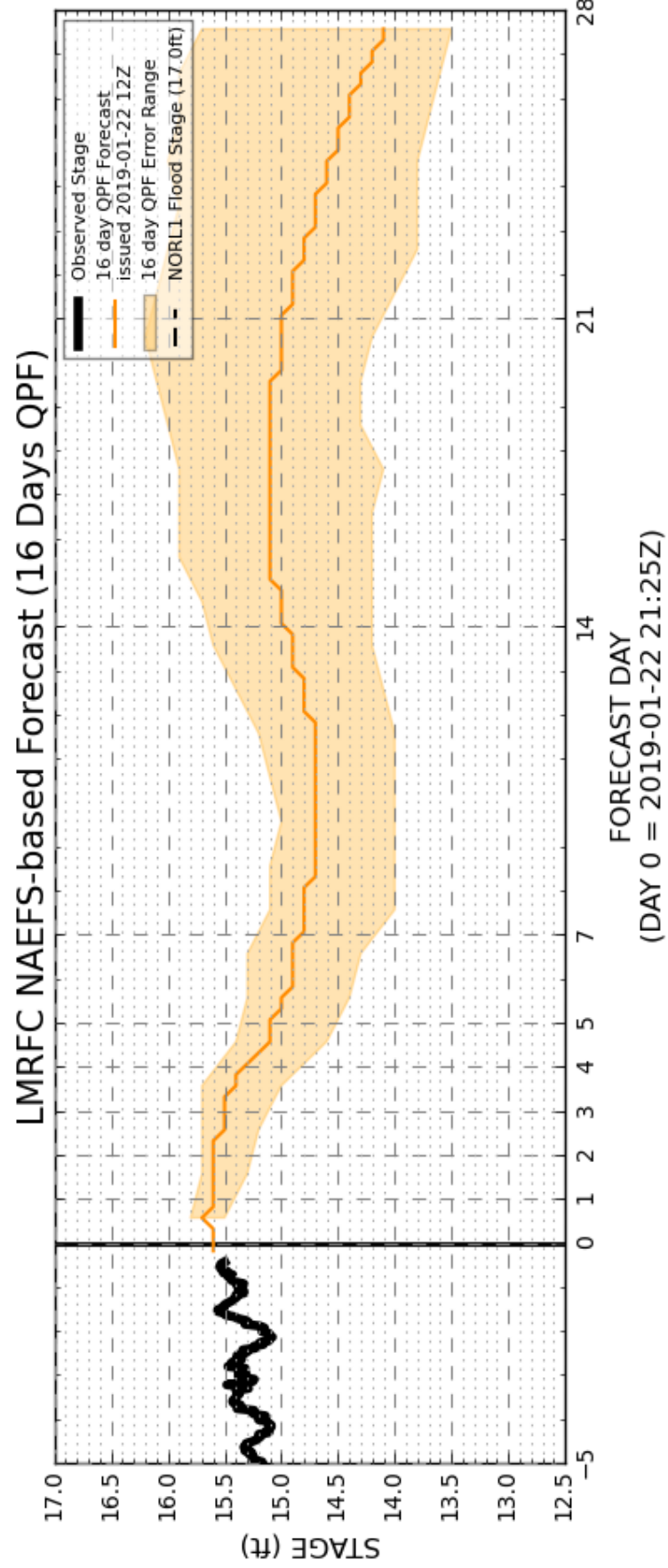
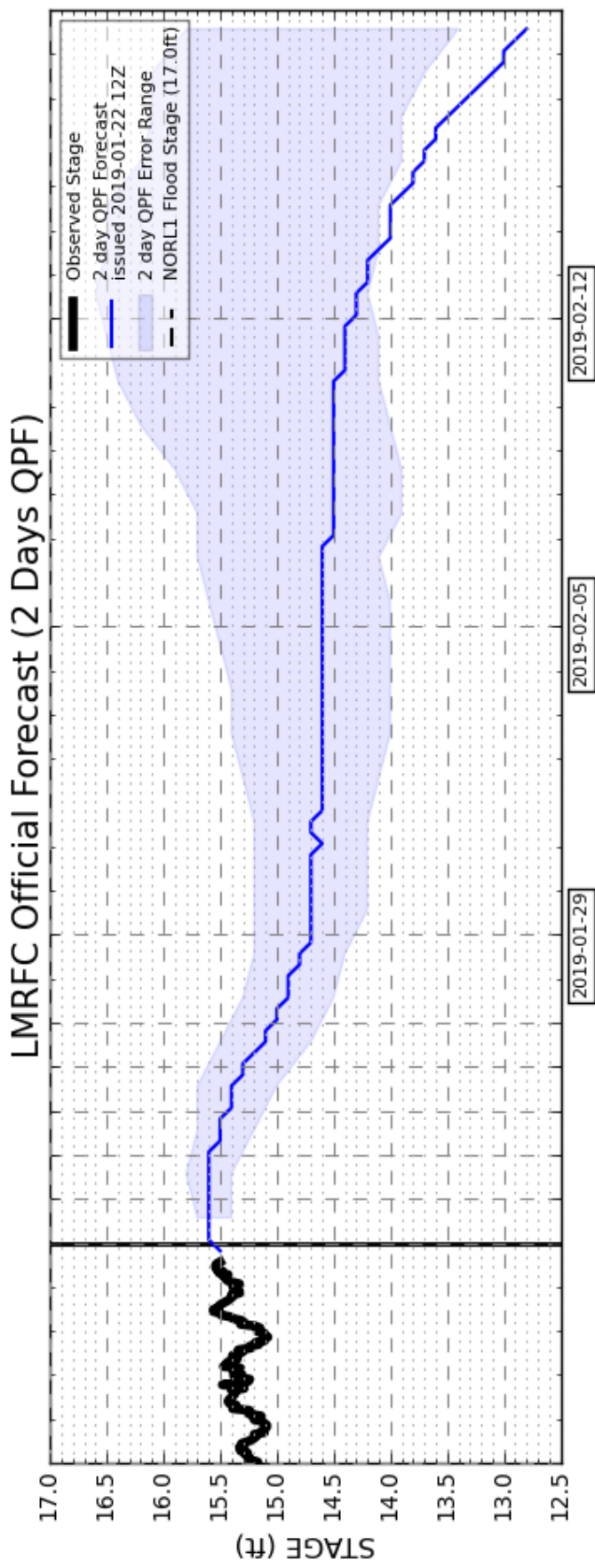
The R.S. WEEKS is expected to return to the HDDA contract in mid-February 2019 when it will be replaced on the SWP contract by the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK.

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
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**4500 York Street, Suite 204
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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.

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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