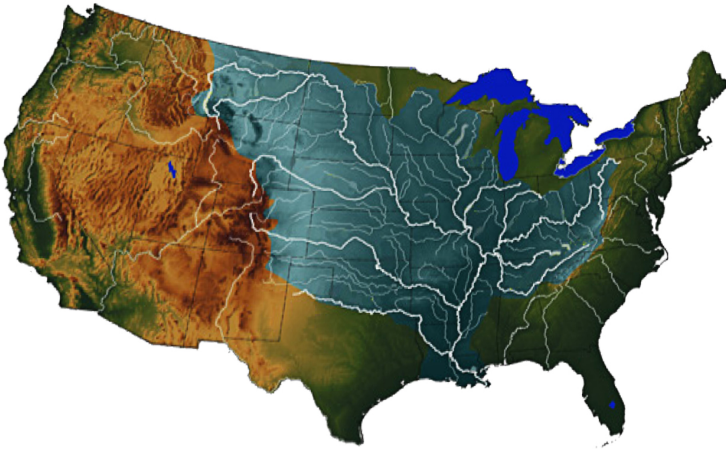


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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January 9, 2019

## Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 1919

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) is responding to shoaling in Southwest Pass (SWP) created by the elevated river stages. There are three hopper dredges and one cutterhead working to restore and maintain the Ship Channel in the area of SWP. The MVN will advertise a hopper bid opening tomorrow, Thursday, January 10, 2019, in an attempt to secure an additional industry hopper dredge. The Crescent, Bar and Federal Pilots continue to coordinate moving vessel convoys in one direction at a time on the Mississippi River in an effort to reduce the queue of backlogged vessels.

### TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT CUBITS GAP:

The Crescent River Ports Pilots Association (CRPPA), based on the latest MVN channel surveys, recommend a maximum draft recommendation of 47 feet (freshwater) with one-way traffic for 2 vessels over 40 feet from 1 Mile above to 1 Mile Below the Lower Gap Light. The CRPPA, Bar Pilots and Federal Pilots continue to move vessels in and out of the Mississippi River in convoys focusing on inbounds and followed by outbound convoys.

### 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):

**NEWPORT:** The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is dredging from Mile 0.75 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 0.5 AHP. The NEWPORT began dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019 in SWP on November 28, 2018.

**WHEELER:** The Corp's hopper dredge WHEELER continues dredging at Cubits Gap from Mile 3.5 AHP to Mile 2.5 AHP under Readiness Exercise #1-2019. The Readiness Exercise began on Monday, January 7, 2019 and is expected to last until approximately January 19, 2019.

**GLENN EDWARDS:** The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is expected to resume dredging later tonight. The dredge has been undergoing repairs in the Venice Anchorage but will soon resume dredging operations on assignment from the Head of Passes (Mile 0) to Mile 1 BHP. The GLENN EDWARDS commenced dredging on December 18, 2018 and is working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2018.

## 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 12.7 Below Head of Passes (BHP) on the eastern channel edge. The cutterhead began dredging on assignment from Mile 10.5 BHP to 17.8 BHP on December 15, 2018. The R.S. WEEKS previously removed 2.5 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) before being released from that contract (to remove a total of 12 mcy from the HDDA) to respond to Southwest Pass Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019.

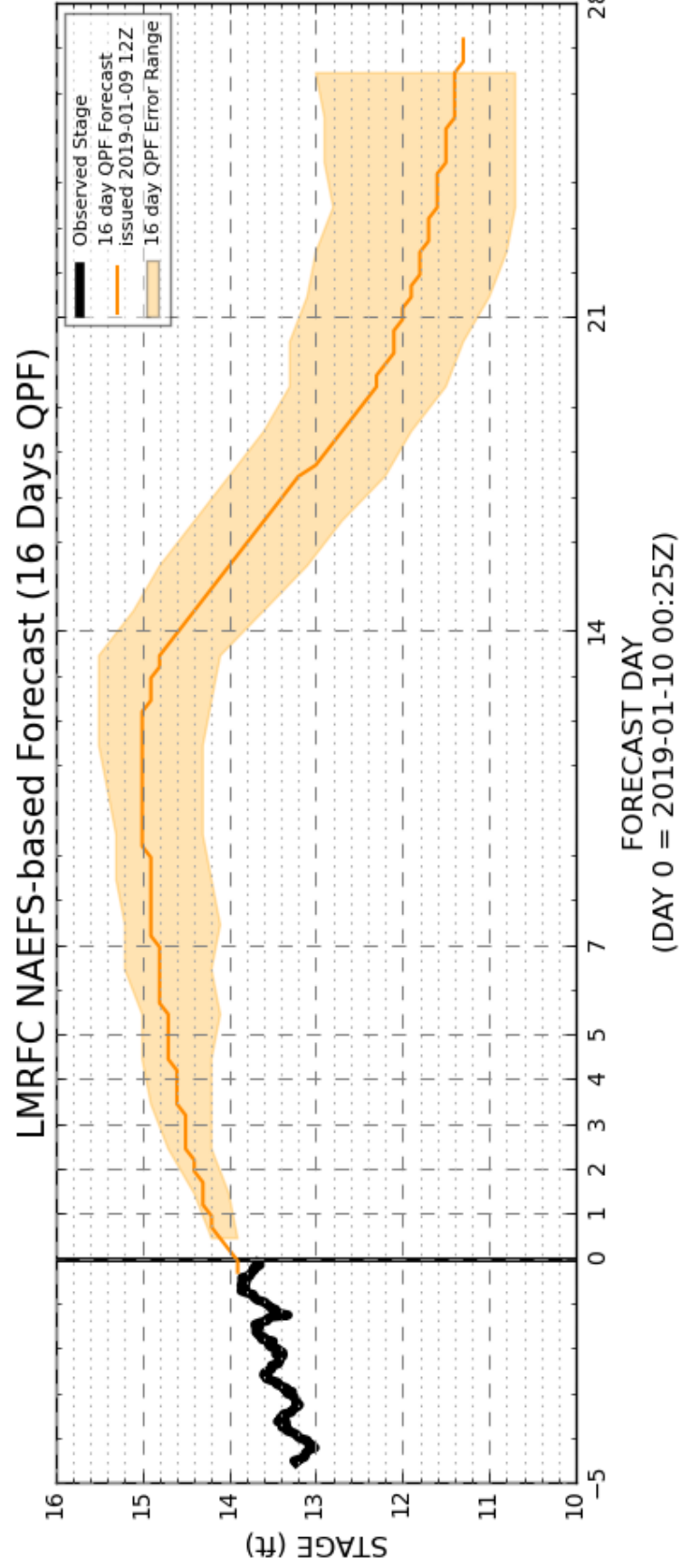
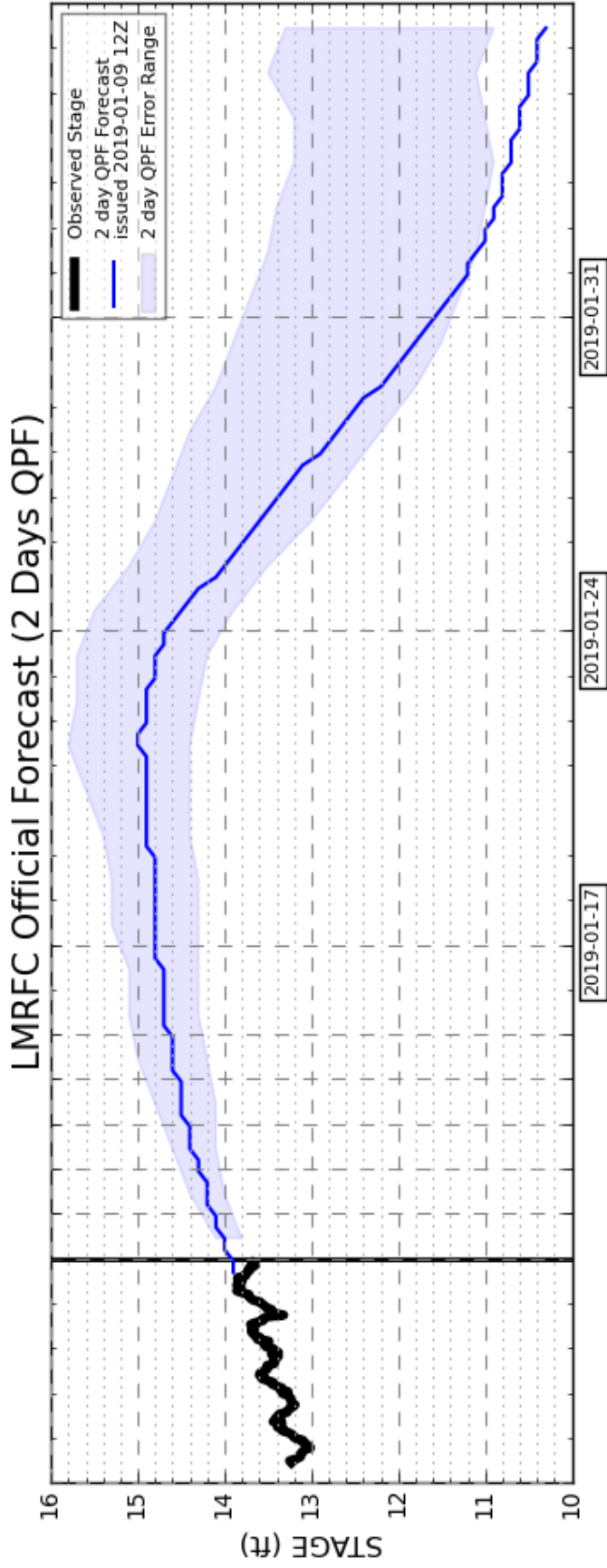
The R.S. WEEKS is expected to return to the HDDA contract later this month when the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK will replace it on this assignment in SWP (Mile 10.5 to Mile 17.8 BHP).

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.

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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.

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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