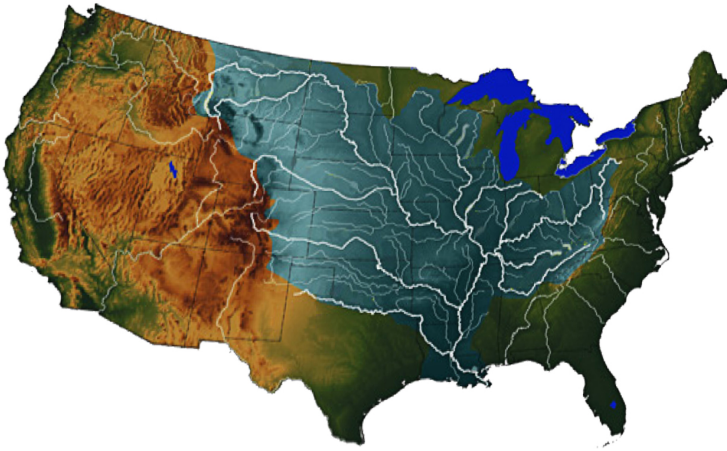


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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](mailto:sean.duffy@bigrivercoalition.org)

February 15, 2019

## Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 21519

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues responding to shoaling in Southwest Pass (SWP) deposited by elevated river stages that began in November 2018. There are two government hopper dredges (WHEELER and McFARLAND) working under Red Flag Emergency Call Outs. The MVN was able to award Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #5-2019, as converted through the Request For Proposal process, to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock. The MVN will advertise a bid opening for Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2019 on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 in an effort to secure another industry hopper dredge.

### UPDATE: TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT SOUTHWEST PASS:

The Crescent River Ports Pilots Association (CRPPA) have raised their maximum draft recommendation to 45 feet (freshwater) with the caveat of high tide transits for vessels over 44 feet. There is also a one-way transit limitation for two vessels with drafts 40 feet or greater between Mile 4.5 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 1.5 AHP.

“-45’ft maximum draft, high tide with anything over 44’ft.

-One way with two vessels of 40’ft or greater between mile 1.5 to 4.5.”

The Bar Pilots maximum draft recommendation remains at 44 feet (freshwater) in response to severe shoaling in Southwest Pass. This remains the controlling draft for all vessels transiting Southwest Pass.

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

**WHEELER:** The Corps’ hopper dredge WHEELER is presently dredging from Mile 4.4 AHP to Mile 3.3 AHP. The WHEELER continues working under Red Flag Emergency Call Out #2-2019 (30 days) and is expected to begin Red Flag Emergency Call Out #3-2019 (30 days) over the weekend.

**McFARLAND:** The Corps’ hopper dredge McFARLAND is dredging from Mile 3.3 AHP to Mile 2.3 AHP under Red Flag Emergency Call Out #2-2019. The McFARLAND began working under Red Flag assignment on February 8, 2019, the Red Flag was approved for 45-days (maximum) after no bids were received to Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2019.

# BIG RIVER COALITION

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

**GLENN EDWARDS:** The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is dredging at the Head of Passes from Mile 1.0 AHP to Mile 0 (Head of Passes). 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 approximately March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**NEWPORT:** The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is dredging between assignments at the jetty end of SWP (from approximately Mile 17 BHP to 18.5 BHP) and Mile 4.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 5 BHP. 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

**TERRAPIN ISLAND:** The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is expected to commence dredging in SWP on Monday, February 18, 2019 under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #5-2019.

## 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 6.6 BHP. The cutterhead is expected to complete the assignment from Mile 5.0 BHP to Mile 6.75 BHP on the western side of the channel over the weekend. The cutterhead's next assignment is from Mile 1.5 AHP to Mile 2 BHP on the western side of the channel. 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 cutterhead started dredging in SWP on December 15, 2018.

**CAPTAIN FRANK:** The industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is expected to commence dredging at Mile 13.8 BHP to resume the assignment from Mile 10.5 BHP to Mile 17.8 BHP on Monday, February 18, 2019.

## MVN HOPPER DREDGE CONTRACTS HISTORY FY 2019:

**The MVN has advertised 6 hopper dredge bids eventually leading to 3 industry hopper dredge contracts and 3 Emergency Red Flag Call Outs:**

- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2018 awarded to Manson Construction (NEWPORT to GLENN EDWARDS).
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019 awarded to Manson Construction (GLENN EDWARDS to NEWPORT).
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #2-2019 no bids, WHEELER on Red Flag Emergency Call Out #1-2019.
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2019 no bids, McFARLAND Red Flag Emergency Call Out #2-2019.
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #4-2019 no bids, WHEELER Red Flag Call Out #3-2019 (30 days).
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #5-2019 one non-awardable bid, converted through the Request for Proposal process and awarded to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (TERRAPIN ISLAND).

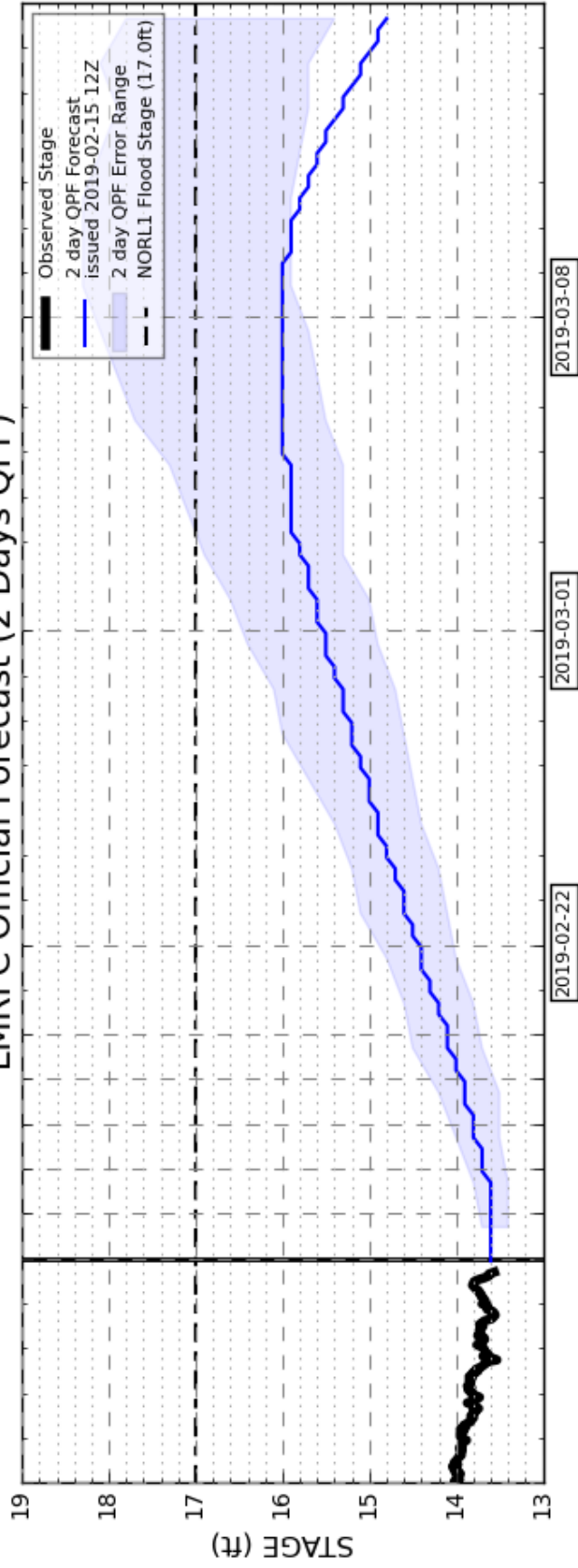
Sincerely,



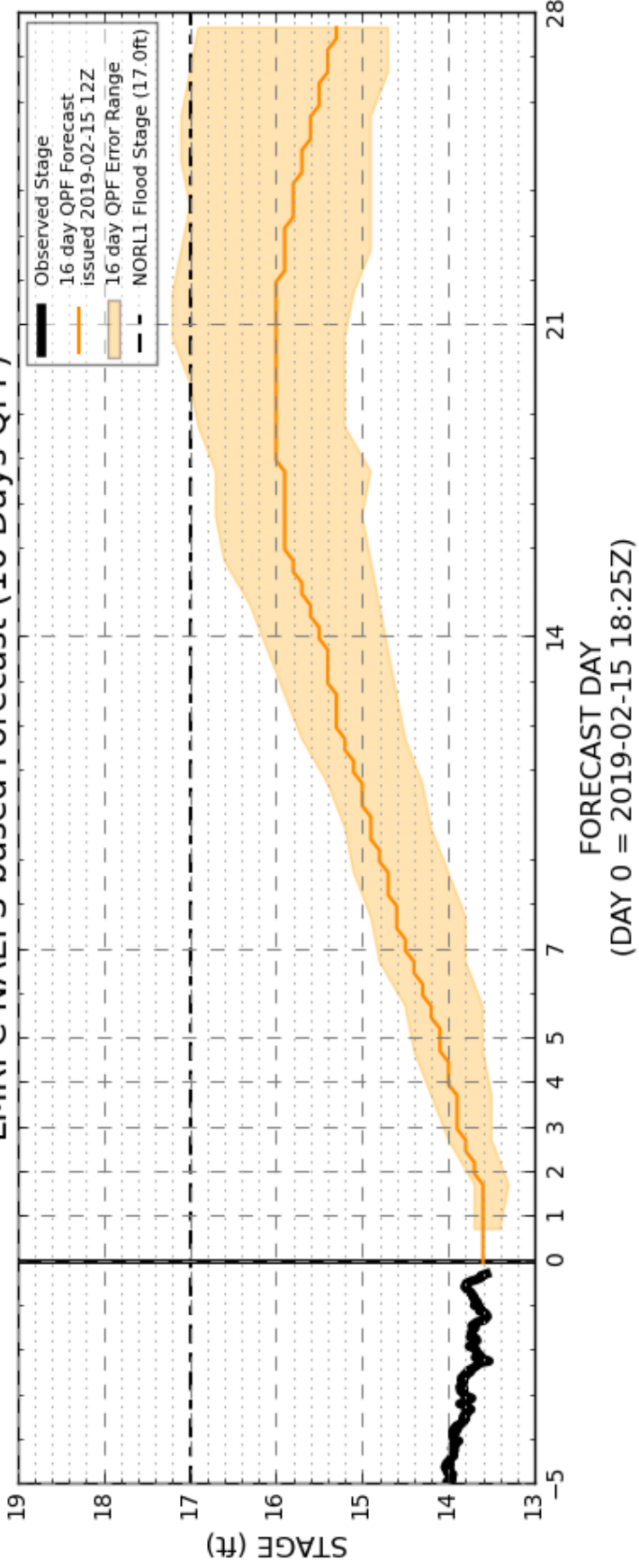
Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Executive Director

# 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.