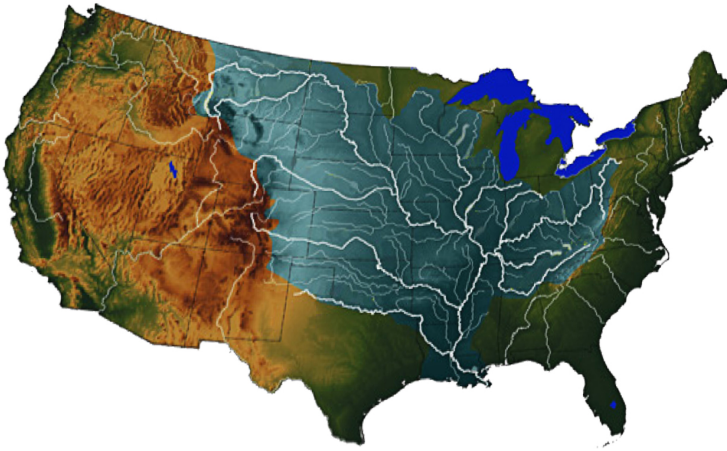


BIG RIVER COALITION



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February 19, 2019

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 21919

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 will advertise a bid opening for Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2019 tomorrow, Wednesday, February 20, 2019 in an effort to secure another industry hopper dredge.

TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT SOUTHWEST PASS:

The Crescent River Ports Pilots Association (CRPPA) maximum draft recommendation remains 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.

The Bar and Federal 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 can only allowed enter SWP “between 3 hours after low tide, to 3 hours after high tide at SWP.”

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

NEWPORT: The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) is dredging at the Venice Jump (Mile 10.5 AHP to Mile 10 AHP) under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019. The NEWPORT began dredging 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.

GLENN EDWARDS: The industry hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is dredging from Mile 1.0 AHP to Mile 1.5 Below Head of Passes (BHP). 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 4th.**

BIG RIVER COALITION

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

TERRAPIN ISLAND: The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) began dredging on the jetty end of SWP on Sunday, February 19, 2019 under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #5-2019.

GOVERNMENT HOPPER DREDGE(S) IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP): RED FLAG CALL OUTS

McFARLAND: The Corps' hopper dredge McFARLAND is dredging from Mile 4.5 AHP to Mile 3.5 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.

WHEELER: The Corps' hopper dredge WHEELER is presently dredging from Mile 3.5 AHP to Mile 2.0 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) tomorrow (Wednesday, February 20, 2019).

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

R.S. WEEKS: The industry cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) is now dredging from Mile 1.5 AHP to Mile 2.0 BHP on the western side of the channel. 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 13.5 BHP later today. The cutterhead will resume the assignment from Mile 10.5 BHP to Mile 17.8 BHP.

Weeks Marine will determine which of the two cutterheads will return to complete the assignment at the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (Head of Passes) after the present assignments are completed.

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).
- Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2019, bid opening tomorrow February 20, 2019.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF
ENGINEERS

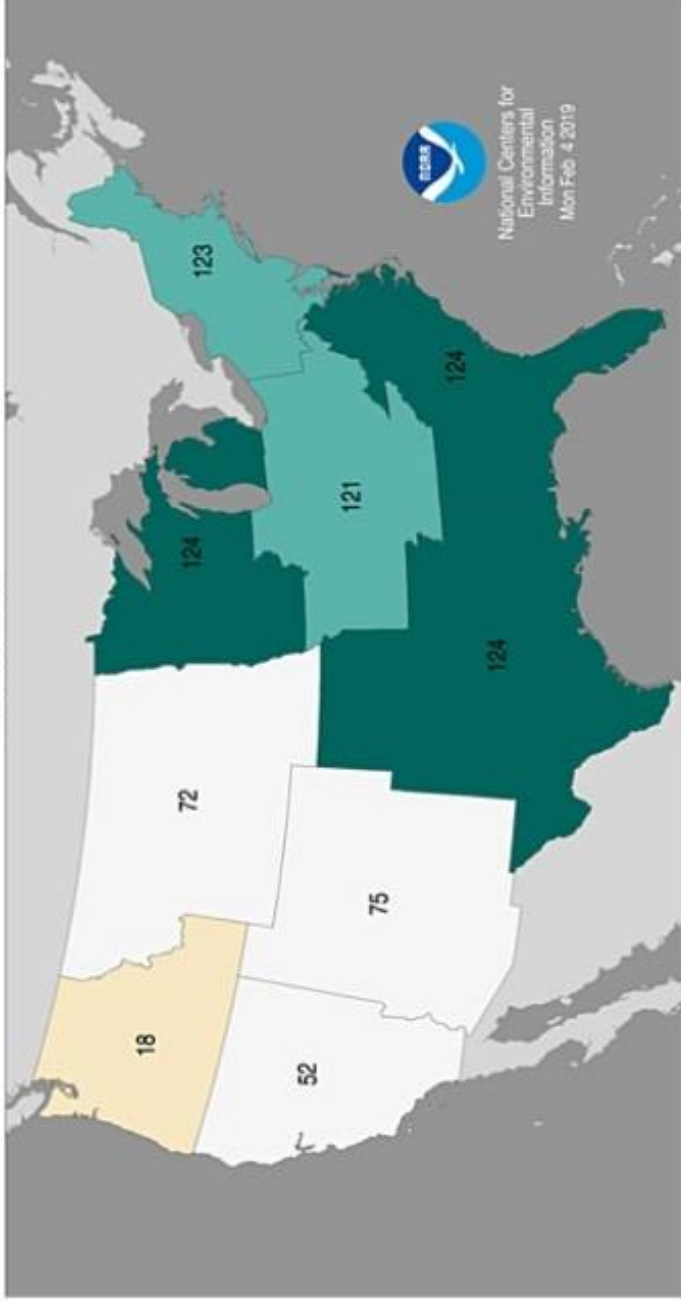
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
DIVISION

#STAYRIVERSTAGEAWARE

Regional Precipitation Ranks

August 2018–January 2019

Period: 1895–2019



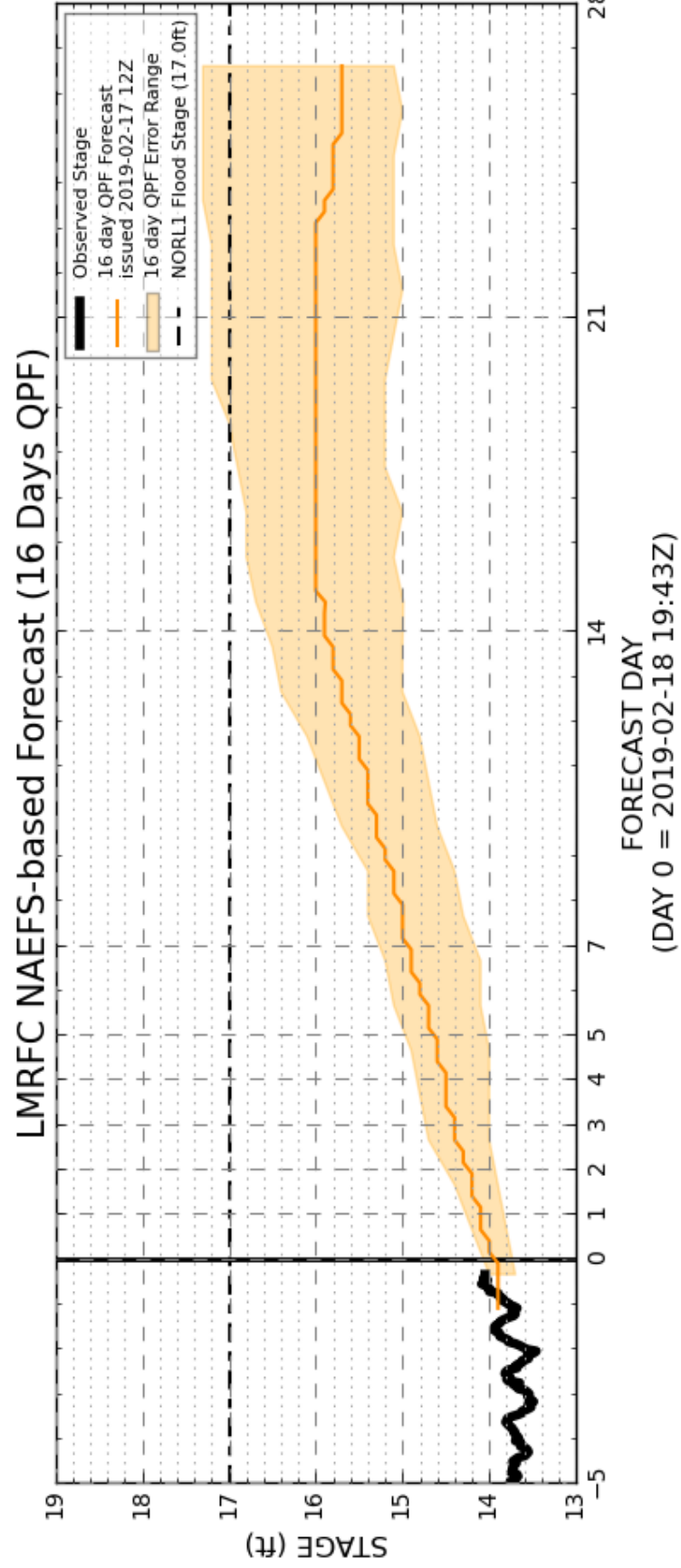
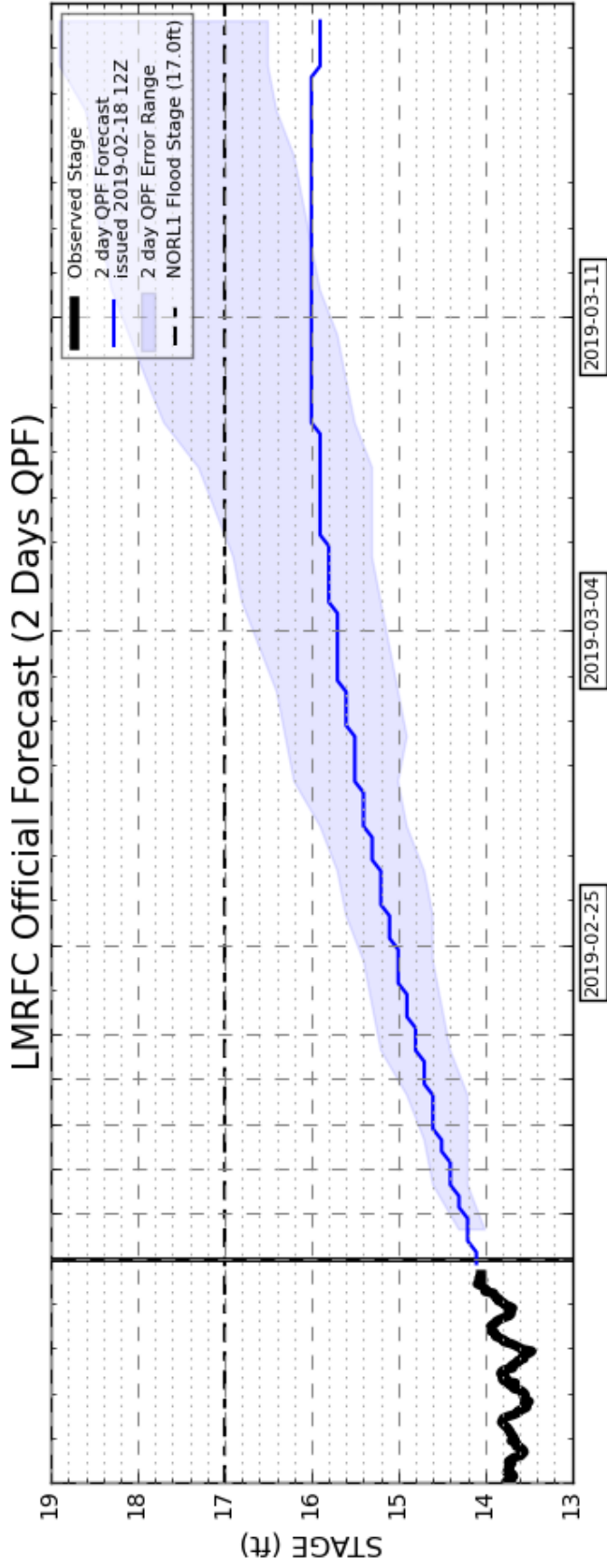
The majority of the Mississippi Valley is wetter now, than it has been in the past 124 years. Be prepared. Stay river stage aware.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



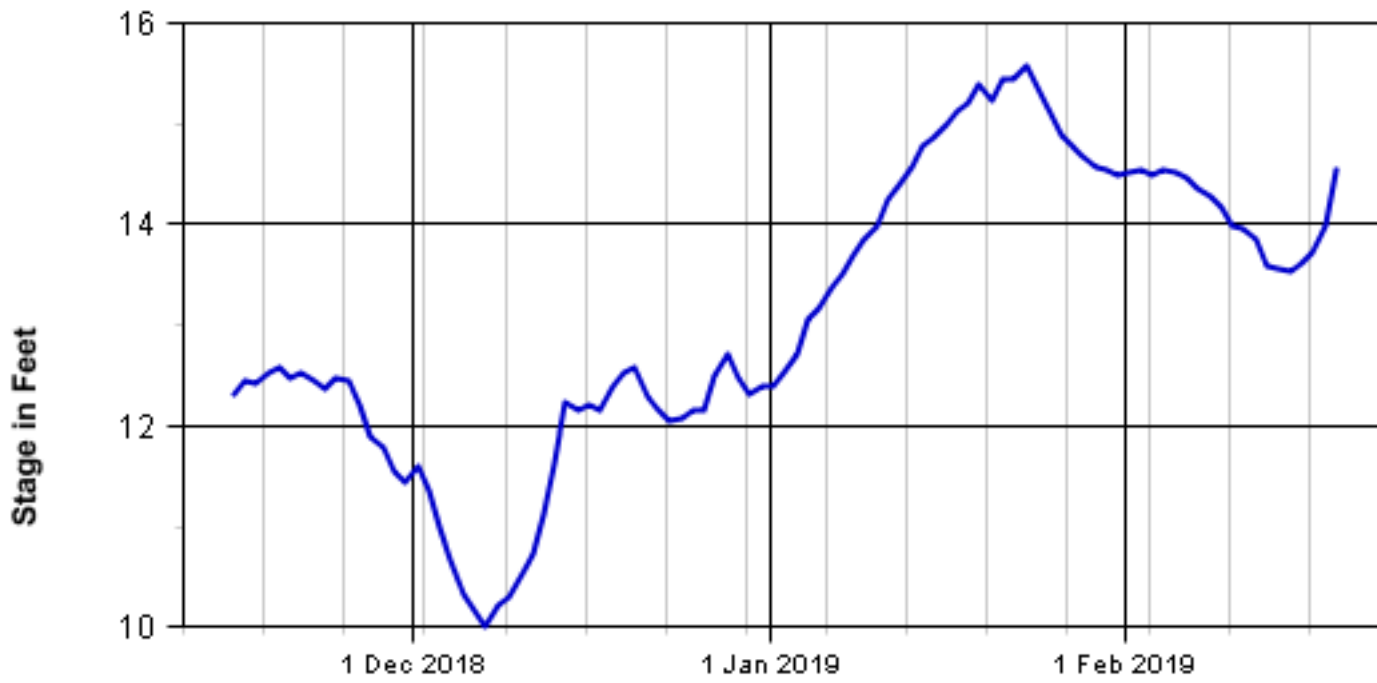
NORL1 Forecast and Experimental Uncertainty



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.

Mississippi River at New Orleans (Carrollton) (01300)
(08:00 Central)

Mississippi River at New Orleans (Carrollton) (01300)
From 11/15/2018 To 02/19/2019



- Flood Stage On Off
- Record High Stage On Off
- Bank Full Stage On Off
- Graph Record Low Stage On Off
- Low Water Reference On Off

[View Graph](#)

Gage Zero = 0 Ft. GAGE

Evaluation Use Only

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