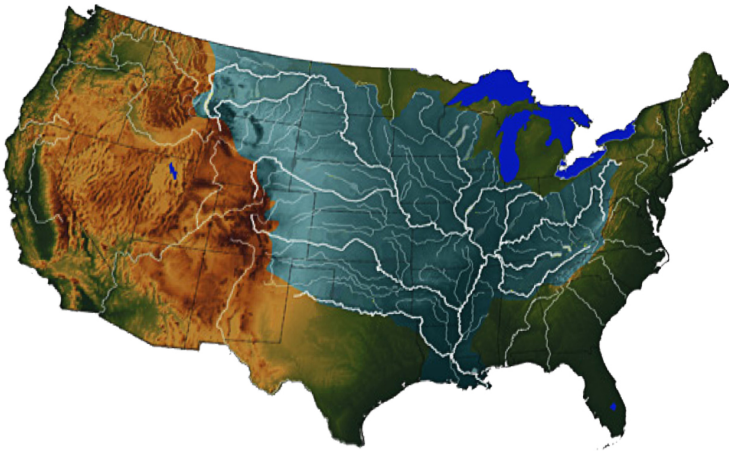


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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)

March 13, 2019

## **Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 31319**

Members,

The Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) continues responding to active shoaling in Southwest Pass (SWP) deposited by high river stages (flood event). There are three industry hopper dredges, two industry cutterhead dredges and one government hopper dredge working in SWP. The MVN continues to operate the Bonnet Carré Spillway to ensure the maximum flow at New Orleans remains below 1.25 million cubic feet per second (206 of the 350 bays have been opened).

### **TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT SOUTHWEST PASS:**

**The Bar Pilots maximum draft recommendation was reduced to 41 feet (freshwater) in response to severe shoaling at the Head of Passes on the evening of Monday, March 4, 2019. This is the controlling draft for all vessels transiting Southwest Pass.**

**The Crescent River Port Pilot Safe Navigation Committee set a maximum recommended draft of 41 feet for their area of responsibility earlier today (March 11, 2019).**

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 presently dredging from Mile 2.5 AHP TO Mile 1.5 AHP. The NEWPORT is working 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 in SWP until early June.

**TERRAPIN ISLAND:** The industry hopper dredge TERRAPIN ISLAND (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) is dredging on assignment at the Head of Passes (Mile 1.0 AHP to Mile 0). The hopper dredge is expected to take on fuel tomorrow. The TERRAPIN ISLAND began dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #5-2019 on February 17, 2019.

**STUYVESANT:** The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT (Dutra Group) is dredging on the jetty end of SWP (Mile 17 Below Head of Passes [BHP] to Mile 19 BHP). The hopper dredge will work the area at the Head of Passes while the TERRAPIN ISLAND is refueling. The STUYVESANT began dredging in SWP on Thursday, March 7, 2019 under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2019.

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

**GLENN EDWARDS:** The industry hopper dredge is expected to resume dredging in SWP on March 27, 2019 in order to complete Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2018.

**BAYPORT:** The industry hopper dredge is expected to begin working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #7-2019 on March 27, 2019.

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

**WHEELER:** MVN's hopper dredge WHEELER is presently dredging at Cubits Gap from Mile 4.0 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 2.5 AHP. The WHEELER began working under Red Flag Emergency Call Out #3-2019 (30-days) on March 1, 2019.

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

**R.S. WEEKS:** The industry cutterhead dredge R.S. WEEKS (Weeks Marine) is presently dredging at Mile 0.73 BHP and is working on assignment from Mile 1.5 AHP to Mile 2.0 BHP on the western side of the channel. The cutterhead is now expected to begin scheduled repairs this weekend, the repairs are expected to last 5-7 days. The cutterhead started dredging in SWP on December 15, 2018.

**CAPTAIN FRANK:** The industry cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK is presently dredging at Mile 15.20 BHP. The cutterhead resumed working on assignment from Mile 10.5 BHP to Mile 17.8 BHP (R.S. WEEKS initial assignment) on February 23, 2019.

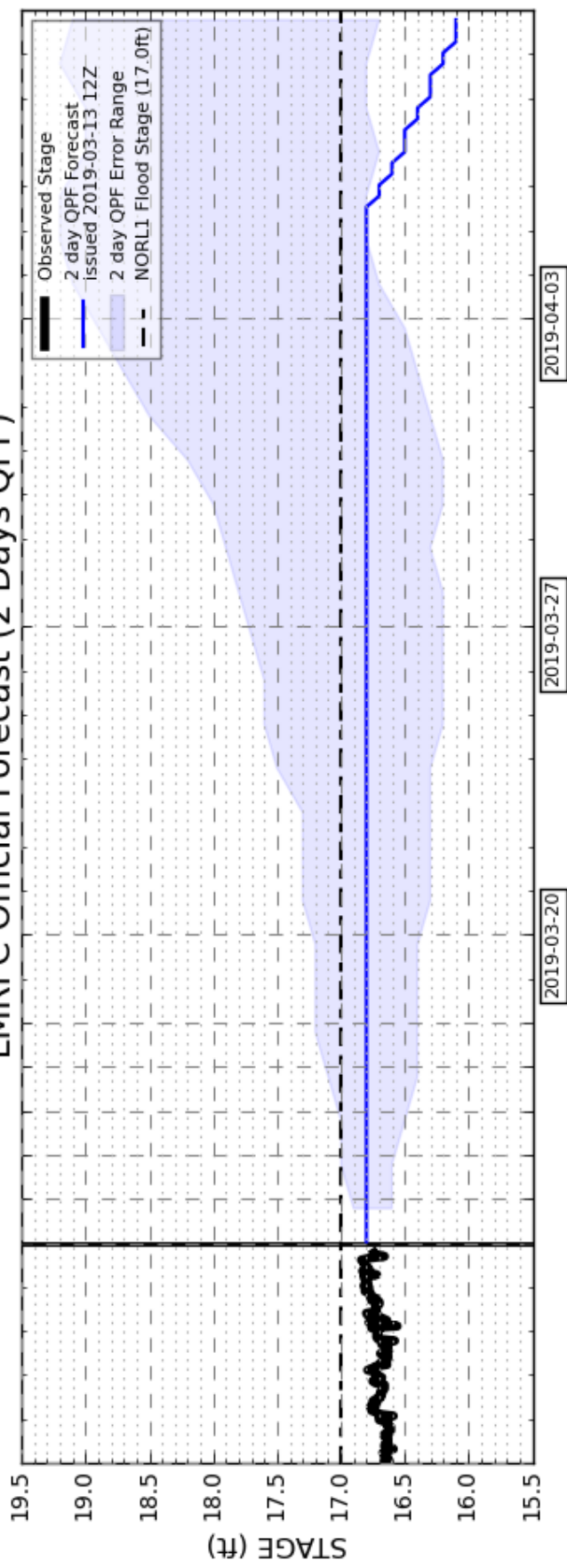
Sincerely,

*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

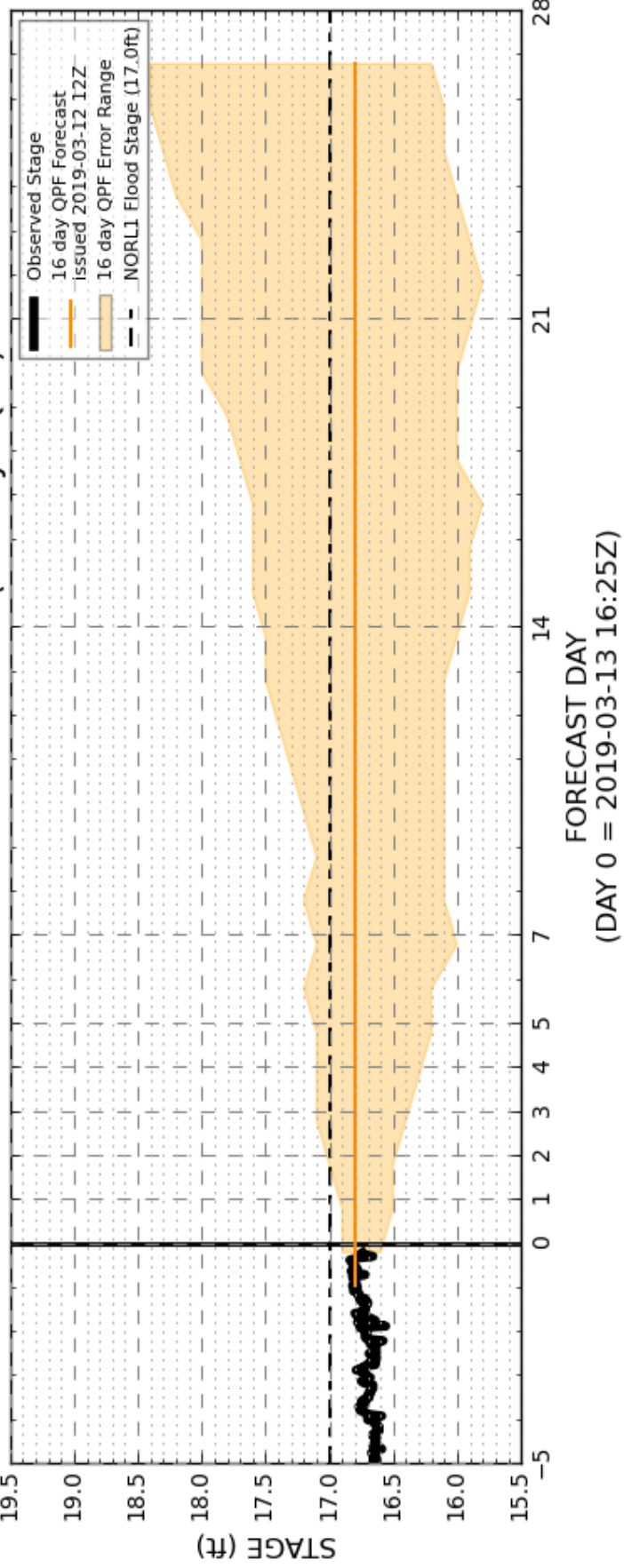
Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Executive Director

# 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.