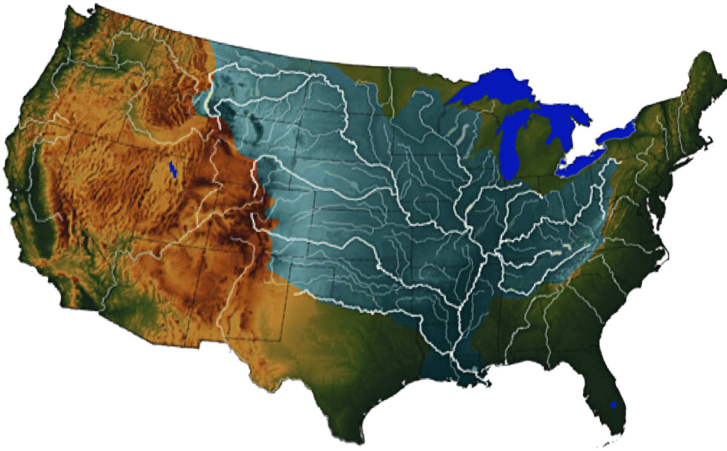


BIG RIVER COALITION



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March 2, 2020

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 3220

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has contracted two cutterhead dredges and two hopper dredges for channel maintenance on the Mississippi River Ship Channel in the area of Southwest Pass. **The MVN has confirmed that Manson Construction's hopper dredge BAYPORT has been delayed but that the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS will replace the BAYPORT.** The most deficient reaches of the Ship Channel according to the latest surveys are along the Jetty End, at the Head of Passes and at Cubits Gap.

SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP) TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS:

The Bar Pilots and Federal Pilots reduced their maximum draft recommendation to 42 feet (freshwater) on February 1, 2020. This maximum draft restriction remains in place for all vessels transiting Southwest Pass and represents the controlling draft for the Mississippi River Ship Channel. Pilots continue to report increased shoaling as the river stage at the Carrollton Gauge is nearing 16.5 feet and is predicted to crest at 16.9 feet on March 5th.

The Crescent River Port Pilots Association's maximum freshwater draft of 46 feet remains in effect as implemented on February 7, 2020. The Crescent Pilots reduction is based on shoaling in their route in the area of Cubits Gap.

HOPPER DREDGE(S) IN THE AREA OF SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

NEWPORT: The hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) continues working under the Gulf Coast Regional Hopper Dredge Contract 2020 on a new assignment at the Head of Passes (Mile 0.5 Above Head of Passes [AHP] to Mile 0.5 Below Head of Passes [BHP]). This is the first utilization of the Regional contract which allows a hopper dredge to respond to shoaling across channels in both the Mobile and New Orleans USACE Districts. The NEWPORT began dredging under the first Gulf Coast Regional Hopper Dredge Contract 2020 on February 1, 2020.

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HOPPER DREDGE(S) IN THE AREA OF SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP): (continued)

GLENN EDWARDS: The Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #13-2019 was awarded to Manson Construction originally the hopper dredge BAYPORT was expected to respond to this contract. However, the BAYPORT has been delayed in the shipyard and the GLENN EDWARDS will respond to this contract and is expected to start dredging in Southwest Pass on March 20, 2020.

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

WHEELER: The MVN hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to begin dredging in Southwest Pass by late March under Readiness Exercise #1-2020. The WHEELER continues repairs in the shipyard and the USACE is working to expedite the WHEELER's repairs.

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

E.W. ELLEFSEN: The cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) completed the assignment from Mile 0.5 BHP to Mile 1.9 BHP on Saturday, February 29, 2020. The cutterhead is presently dredging at Mile 2.7 BHP and is dredging on a new assignment from Mile 2.5 BHP to Mile 3.4 BHP on the western side of the channel. The cutterhead dredge began dredging in SWP on February 4, 2020.

CAPTAIN FRANK: Weeks Marine's cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK has completed the assignment from Mile 9.0 BHP to Mile 12.5 BHP on the eastern side of the channel (left descending bank). The cutterhead is presently dredging at Mile 9.64 BHP and is working on assignment from Mile 9.1 BHP to Mile 10.1 BHP on the west side of the channel. The cutterhead commenced dredging in Southwest Pass on January 24, 2020 under Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #3-2019.

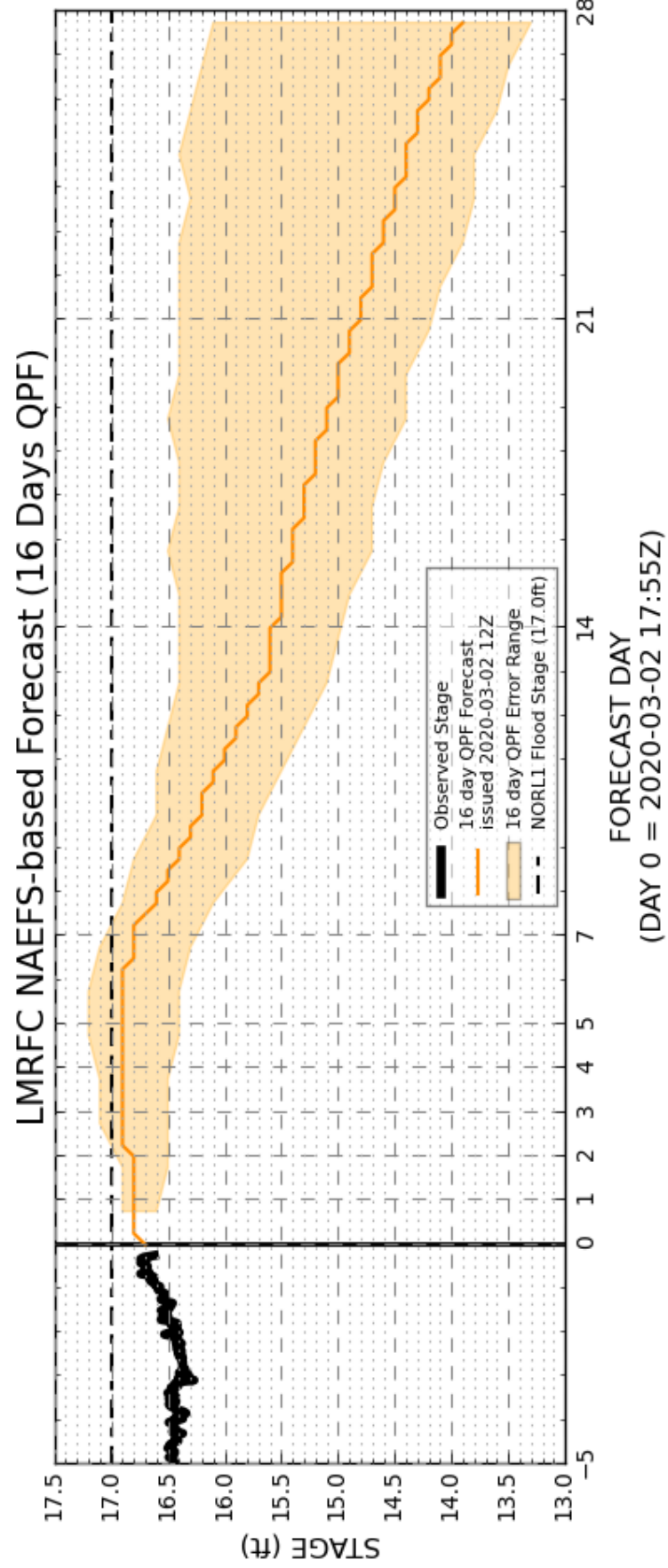
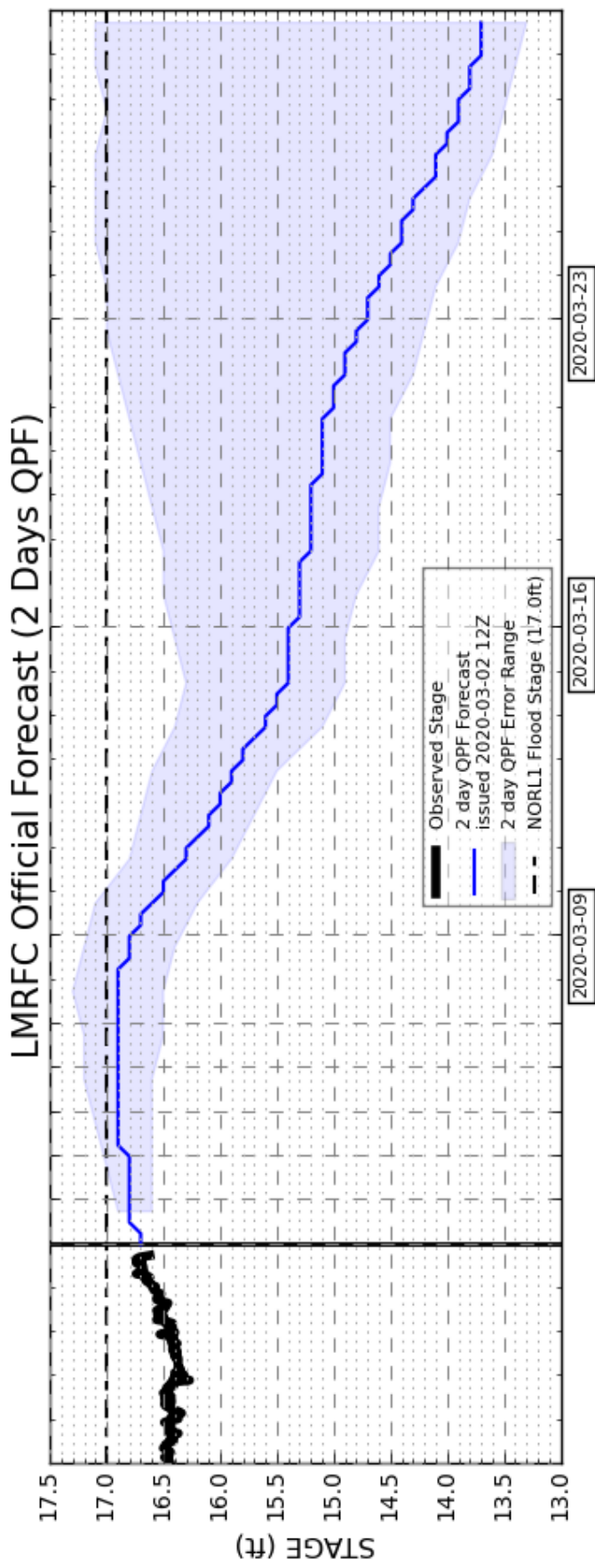
CUTTERHEAD DREDGE(S) IN THE HOPPER DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA (HDDA):

E.W. ELLEFSEN: The cutterhead dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) will return to the HDDA project to beneficially place material in the Pass A Loutre Wildlife Management Area (PALWMA) upon completion of the emergency dredging in SWP. The cutterhead was scheduled to perform dredging in the HDDA but is being utilized to respond to the emergency channel conditions on the Ship Channel first. The cutterhead dredges have already beneficially utilized approximately 13 mcy of material from the HDDA and restored roughly 1,040 acres. When this project is completed later this year, approximately 1,200 acres will have been restored in the PALWMA.

Sincerely,
Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

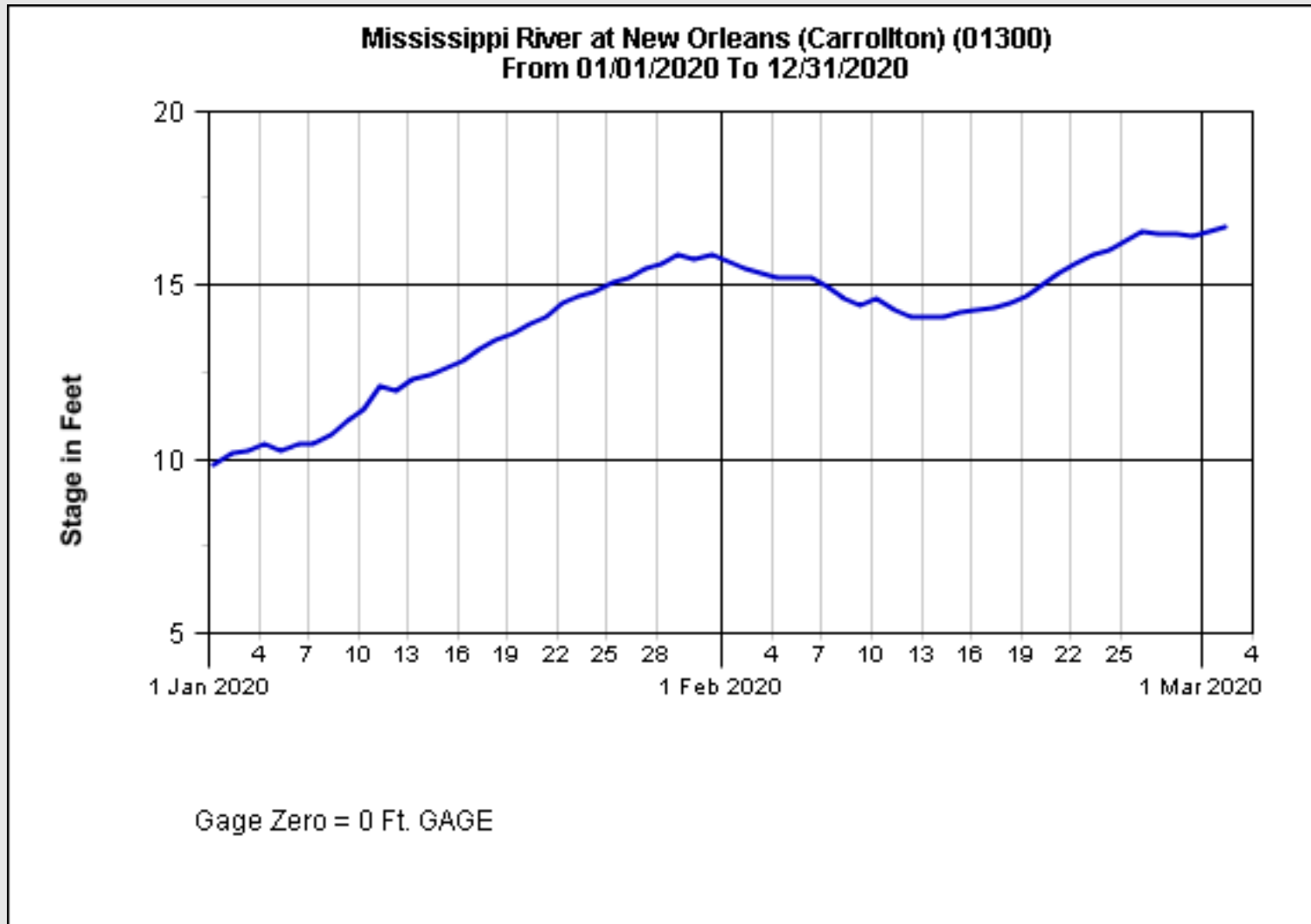
Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

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.

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



- Flood Stage On Off
 - Record High Stage On Off
 - Bank Full Stage On Off
 - Graph Record Low Stage On Off
 - Normal Values On Off
-