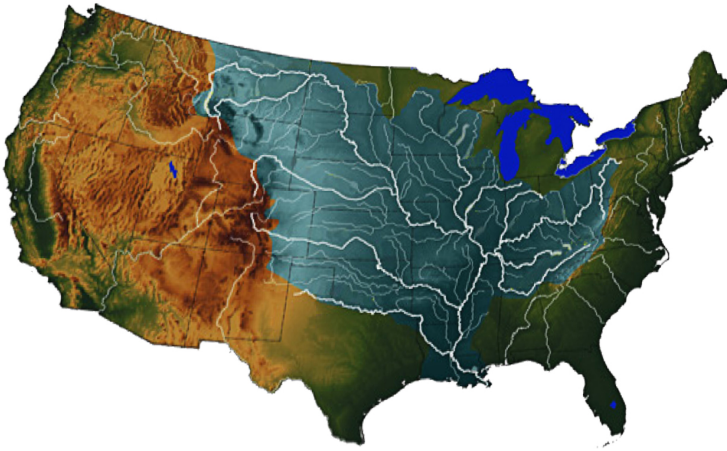


BIG RIVER COALITION



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

January 5, 2019

Lower Mississippi River (LMR) Dredging Update 1519

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 two industry hopper dredges and one industry cutterhead dredge working to restore and maintain the Ship Channel in SWP. The M/V ANGLO ALEXANDRIA (bulk carrier) went aground yesterday at approximately 0900 hours at Mile 3.29 Above Head of Passes (AHP) and was refloated at 1742 hours yesterday afternoon.

TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS AT CUBITS GAP:

The U.S. Coast Guard's Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River (VTS LMR) established a VTS measure limiting sea-going deep draft vessels to a maximum allowable freshwater draft of 42 feet and implemented one-way traffic from Mile 4 AHP to Mile 2 AHP. The VTS Measure was put in place after the M/V ANGLO ALEXANDRIA was refloated and new channel surveys were made available to show the extreme shoaling at Cubits Gap. The VTS measure was established at 2200 hours on Friday, January 4, 2019 (attached).

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

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) on the western channel edge. The NEWPORT is dredging under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #1-2019 in SWP on November 28, 2018.

GLENN EDWARDS: The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) is dredging at Cubits Gap from approximately Mile 3.5 AHP to Mile 2.5 AHP. The hopper dredge's assignment includes the area of the M/V ANGLO ALEANDRIA's grounding yesterday. The GLENN EDWARDS commenced dredging on December 18, 2018 and is now 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 12.41 Below Head of Passes (BHP) on the eastern channel edge. The cutterhead began dredging on assignment from Mile 10.5 BHP to 14 BHP on December 15, 2018. The R.S. WEEKS removed 2 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) before being released from that contract (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 in February 2019 when it is relieved by the cutterhead dredge CAPTAIN FRANK.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director