



# LOUISIANA MARITIME ASSOCIATION

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Issue Date: February 3, 2021

Members,

## **RE: USACE MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE FORUM MEETING NOTES**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) holds monthly meetings to discuss channel conditions and related issues directly with the maritime industry. These meetings are usually scheduled for 0900 hours on the first Wednesday of the month. Today's meeting was conducted via teleconference only based on the social distancing requirements of COVID-19. The agenda provided by the MVN is attached.

### **Maintenance Forum Notes February 3, 2021**

#### **1) Introductions**

#### **2) Southeast Waterways Update:**

**Tiger Pass:** The MVN awarded a cutterhead dredge rental contract to dredge Tiger Pass to Crosby Dredging on September 28, 2020. The cutterhead dredge CROSBY DREDGER is now expected to start work under this contract later this month. The Tiger Pass contract is for the removal of approximately 1.9 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the deficient shallow-draft channel. The contract was originally expected to restore a depth of 12 feet by 150 feet across the length of the channel but based on some challenges related to current shoaling levels the MVN expects to restore channel dimensions of 11 feet by 150 feet. Tiger Pass was last dredged in 2012.

**Baptiste Collette:** The MVN updated information on several large shoals across Baptiste Collette between Mile 1.5 and Mile 5.6 and encouraged mariners transiting this shallow-draft channel utilize the latest online channel surveys. The surveys are a bit dated but new surveys are expected to be posted over the next few weeks. The MVN is developing plans to dredge Baptiste Collette later in Fiscal Year 2021, that dredging will most likely occur after the next highwater event (mid-2021). The MVN included an update on the authorization to deepen Baptiste Collette to 26 feet as federal funds were made available in the Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan to begin the Engineering and Design phase.

#### **3) Mississippi River Conditions Update:**

##### **New Orleans Gauge (Carrollton Gauge) stage reading this morning was: 5.0 feet**

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 8.5 feet on February 11, 2021 and then a slow fall to 6.8 feet on March 3, 2021.

##### **Baton Rouge Gauge stage reading this morning was: 18.1 feet**

- Today's long-range projections predict a rise to 26.5 feet on February 10, 2021 and then a slow fall to 21.2 feet on March 3, 2021.

#### **A. Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans:**

The latest survey details for the Crossings Between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are included in the attached agenda. The USACE completed dredging on the Crossings for Fiscal Year 2020 on January 9, 2021.

#### **B. New Orleans Harbor:**

The MVN plans to dredge in the New Orleans Harbor during low water conditions in Fiscal Year 2021 although shoaling is noted at the Julia Street Cruise Terminal and at the Napoleon Avenue Container Terminal Complex.

#### **C. Southwest Pass (SWP):**

There are presently no dredges working on channel maintenance in Southwest Pass and the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) is in good condition. However, three cutterhead dredges and one hopper dredge are actively working under the three contracts for the historic Ship Channel deepening project (50 feet).



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## **C. Southwest Pass (SWP): (continued)**

The CAPTAIN FRANK (Weeks Marine) began work on the historic deepening project on September 11, 2020. The cutterhead dredge is presently undergoing repairs but expected to resume dredging soon on assignment from Mile 2.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 6.0 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel. The E.W. ELLEFSEN (Weeks Marine) is also working under the same deepening contract on assignment from Mile 6.0 BHP to Mile 9.0 BHP on the western side of the Ship Channel. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE (Manson Construction) is working on assignment from Mile 9.0 BHP to Mile 13.0 BHP on the eastern side of the Ship Channel.

The hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) began dredging on the Ship Channel deepening project on January 14, 2021. The hopper dredge is working on assignment from Mile 2.0 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 0 (Head of Passes) on the eastern side of the channel. The GLENN EDWARDS is also under contract for channel maintenance and will be moved between the two contracts by the MVN dependent upon relevant channel conditions.

## **D. Head of Passes, Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA):**

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock was awarded Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. Great Lakes is responding this contract with the cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS. The installation of a submerged dredge pipeline to place the removed dredge material in the West Bay Receiving Area was completed on January 19, 2021. The pipeline crosses the Ship Channel between Mile 1.4 AHP to Mile 1.2 AHP from the eastern side of the channel into the West Bay. The contract includes the removal of 10 million cubic yards (mcy) in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy.

The ILLINOIS commenced dredging in the HDDA on January 27, 2021. The project is expected to be completed late this year (2021). The submerged pipeline will have to be removed upon completion and the retrieval will require at least one complete channel closure in the immediate vicinity (Mile 2.0 AHP to Mile 0 – the Head of Passes).

## **E. Southwest Pass Stone Foreshore & Jetty Repairs:**

The MVN awarded the contract to place foreshore rock in SWP to EFT Diversified, Inc. The MVN confirmed the rock work began on December 19, 2020 and that several subcontractors are working on the rock placement.

## **F. South Pass:**

The MVN awarded South Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contact #1-2020 to Manson Construction. Manson is expected to begin this contract with the ROBERT M. WHITE after it completes work on the MRSC deepening project. The contract is expected to remove approximately 10.5 mcy. The dredge is expected to restore a depth of 17 feet with 3 feet of advanced maintenance (20 feet). The MVN confirmed that Manson has already started setting up dredge pipeline in South Pass and expects dredging to start no later than May (2021). The material will be beneficially used in the PALWMA and should restore approximately 800 acres of critical marsh and wetland habitat. South Pass was last dredged in 2007.

## **4) Next Meeting:**

The next Forum meeting is scheduled for 0900 hours on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 and is also expected to be conducted via conference call (COVID-19).

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