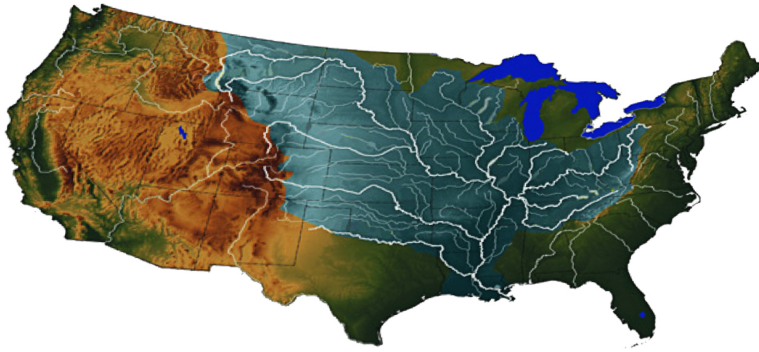


BIG RIVER COALITION



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director
5600 Janice Avenue
Kenner, LA 70065

Cellular (504) 338-3165
sean.duffy@bigrivercoalition.org

January 29, 2024

RE: USACE 2023 REVETMENT SCHEDULE AND TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS 12924

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) 2023/2024 Mississippi Riverbank stabilization program schedule for revetment operations is attached. The applicable navigation restrictions and updated scheduled of work are detailed in the table below. The USACE commenced revetment operations on the Mississippi River Ship Channel with the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) at the Manchac (Mile 214.2 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) location on January 21, 2024. There are four revetment locations between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and two locations below New Orleans. Higher river stages could impact other dates of work and possibly listed restrictions.

The Corps' Bank Stabilization Division, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), applicable Pilot Associations and navigation representatives, have reviewed the scope of bank stabilization efforts and developed the listed transit restrictions. During times of actual revetment work, the MSU extends from approximately 300 to 900 feet channelward from the bank. When the Unit is not folded in, it extends about 480 feet from the bank channelward. When it is folded in, the MSU extends 250 feet from the bank. The Corps agreed to Industry's request to fold in the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) at night on revetment locations that warranted concern. **The Pilots and Coast Guard's Lower Mississippi River Vessel Traffic Service will utilize the Contact Pilot on the MSU to coordinate vessel movements transiting through the revetment locations.**

2023/2024 Corps' Revetment Schedule and Restrictions Locations Below Baton Rouge

Locations	Mile (Right or Left)	2024 Scheduled Work Dates	Transit Restrictions
Manchac	Mile 214.2 LDB	January 21 – January 26 January 29 - February 2	*No deep-draft vessel transits during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.
St. Gabriel	Mile 199 LDB	February 3 - February 9 February 12 - February 13	*No deep-draft vessel transits during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.
Avondale	Mile 108 RDB	February 14 - February 23 February 26 - March 1	All vessel transits limited to one-way traffic and a slow bell during working hours. The MSU will not fold in and will extend 600 feet from the bank channelward during non-working hours.
Poydras	Mile 84.3 LDB	March 12 – March 19	Transits with slow bell during working hours. MSU not required to fold in at night.
Neptune Pass	Mile 23.1 LDB	March 2 - March 8	Deep-draft transits on a slow bell during working hours. MSU not required to fold in.
Vacherie	Mile 149.4 RDB Mile 148.7 RDB	March 20 - March 22 March 25 – March 30	One-way transit restriction during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.

***Please see the attachment for the New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association adjustment to move deep-draft traffic through at night around the revetment operations at Manchac and St. Gabriel to accommodate the required nighttime transits.**

BIG RIVER COALITION

The USACE will work revetment locations based on the prioritized list detailed in the table above. The scheduled working times for the MSU are from 0600 hours to 1900 hours daily, although working hours may be adjusted slightly with work to be completed slightly before or after 1900 hours. Transits on scheduled no work weekends may offer the USACE an opportunity to open the channel earlier than 1800 hours but movements must be coordinated with the noted contact pilots or the USACE first. This communication will ensure the MSU has completed revetment operations and is safely folded-in prior to allowing vessels transits at locations with no transit or one-way transit restrictions.

The Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) as released by the U.S. Coast Guard is attached. The USCG will utilize the Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River 5-Day Outlook broadcasts to address the adjustments for the actual dates of work. The dates of work listed in the MSIB are no longer valid, but the transit restrictions are correct unless adjustments are required based on actual working conditions and the impact of river stages. All vessels shall transit at the slowest safe speed when transiting past the MSU during working hours.

The BRC will notify our members of any changes; however, please keep in mind that changes may occur with short notice to industry. Due to bank stability concerns the USACE will work Neptune Pass prior to the Poydras and Vacherie locations otherwise the order of work is from upriver to downriver. During the bank stabilization operations changes based upon river stages and experience with vessel transits should be expected. The Corps, Coast Guard, Pilots and BRC will work closely with industry to ensure that changes are noted and broadcast when warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean M. Duffy, Sr." in a cursive style.

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director