



BIG RIVER COALITION, LLC

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL (MRSC) DREDGING UPDATE 41426

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) started Fiscal Year 2026 channel maintenance dredging on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) with the hopper dredge NEWPORT on February 27, 2026. The river stages are forecast to rise to a crest of 6.4 feet on the Carrollton Gage on April 19, 2026 and then recede. The USACE last measured the toe of the saltwater wedge on March 2, 2026, and identified its location at Mile 23.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP). The USACE will continue to monitor the wedge as river stages fall, higher river stages repel the wedge downriver.

INDUSTRY HOPPER DREDGE(S) WORKING IN SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

GLENN EDWARDS: The USACE awarded the 2026 Early Award #2 to Manson Construction this contract is for a large hopper dredge. Manson responded with the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS that began dredging at the Head of Passes on April 9, 2026. The GLENN EDWARDS is presently working on assignment from Mile 1.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 4.2 BHP.

NEWPORT: The NEWPORT (Manson Construction) dredged on the jetty end, the Head of Passes and from Mile 5.0 Below Head of Passes (BHP) to Mile 7 BHP from February 27 to March 14. The hopper dredge is working under a 2026 Early Award #1 regional hopper dredge contract and is currently on assignment on the Calcasieu Rive (Lake Charles). The NEWPORT is expected to return to SWP when channel conditions require additional dredging.

GOVERNMENT HOPPER DREDGE(S) WORKING IN SOUTHWEST PASS:

WHEELER: The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER is expected to return from shipyard repairs and begin work under Readiness Exercise #1-2026 on April 18, 2026 although this date may fall back. The USACE will utilize the WHEELER with normal Readiness Exercises, the scheduled Exercise dates are not currently available.

HOPPER DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA (HDDA) MAINTENANCE DREDGING:

ALASKA: The cutterhead dredge ALASKA (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) resumed dredging on the HDDA project on March 11, 2026. Great Lakes installed the submerged cross channel submerged dredge pipeline on November 22, 2025. The cutterhead dredge TEXAS worked on the HDDA project from November 26, 2025 to January 27, 2026. The ALASKA has completed the base quantity of 4.0 million cubic yards (mcy) and is working on the options for an additional 1.7 mcy. The ALASKA will have removed approximately 4.5 mcy when it will depart SWP this Thursday (April 16, 2026) and will return later to complete the contract. The completion of the HDDA project will most likely occur this summer. Post completion of dredging operations, Great Lakes will remove the submerged dredge pipeline. The pipeline removal will require at least one coordinated and scheduled 12-hour complete channel closure.

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MAXIMUM DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS PER PILOT ASSOCIATION (UPDATED December 12, 2025 50-feet, the first adjustment since July 7, 2023)

New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA): The NOBRA maximum draft recommendation is 50 feet (freshwater) from Mile 180 AHP to Mile 88 AHP as implemented on December 11, 2025. The maximum draft recommendation from Mile 180 AHP to Mile 233.8 AHP remains 45 feet.

Crescent River Port Pilots Association (CRPPA): The CPPRA maximum draft recommendation throughout their route remains 50 feet (freshwater).

Associated Branch Pilots of the Port of New Orleans (Bar Pilots): The Bar Pilots maximum draft recommendation remains 50 feet (freshwater) throughout their route.

Associated Federal Pilots and Docking Masters of Louisiana (Federal Pilots): The Federal Pilots increased their maximum draft recommendations to the following to match the draft adjustment to 50 feet to Mile 180 on December 12, 2025: **50 feet from Sea Buoy to Mile 180 AHP, 45 feet Mile 180 AHP to 232.4 AHP and 40 feet Mile 232.4 AHP to 233.8 AHP**

The controlling maximum freshwater draft for the MRSC from Mile 180 AHP (Philadelphia Point) to the Southwest Pass Sea Buoy is 50 feet (freshwater) as revised on December 12, 2025.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.

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President and CEO