



BIG RIVER COALITION, LLC

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL (MRSC) DREDGING UPDATE 4926

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 expected to rise to about 6.4 feet on the Carrollton Gage over the next 10 days. The USACE measured the toe of the saltwater wedge on March 2, 2026, and identified its location at Mile 23.7 Above Head of Passes (AHP).

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 is responding with the hopper dredge GLENN EDWARDS that is expected to start dredging at the Head of Passes tonight. The USACE has coordinated with Manson to delay the arrival of the dredge due to SWP being in good condition. The dredge is arriving with a bump in river stages in the forecast.

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 on 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 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. 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 last night. 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 USACE advised the cutterhead will depart the contract next week and return later to complete the contract. The completion will most likely occur in July (2026). Upon completion of dredging operations, Great Lakes will remove the submerged dredge pipeline. The pipeline removal will require at least one 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