Big River Coalition Members,

This comprehensive river stage update was prepared with data made available by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the collective National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The update details present river stage forecasts with future precipitation from Cairo (IL) downriver to the Mississippi River Ship Channel (Baton Rouge to the Gulf). **River stages are forecast to continue a slow rise at New Orleans (Carrollton Gage) with a crest of 7.8 feet predicted on June 6 and to then resume a slow fall to 4.1 feet on June 26 (2026).**

*__Future stage forecasts could increase along the Basin over the next few days based upon the precipitation forecasts (below), the National Weather Service has provided the following synopsis from its Climate Prediction Center:__

" Synopsis: **El Niño is likely to emerge soon (82% chance in May-July 2026) and continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2026-27 (96% chance in December 2026-February 2027)."**

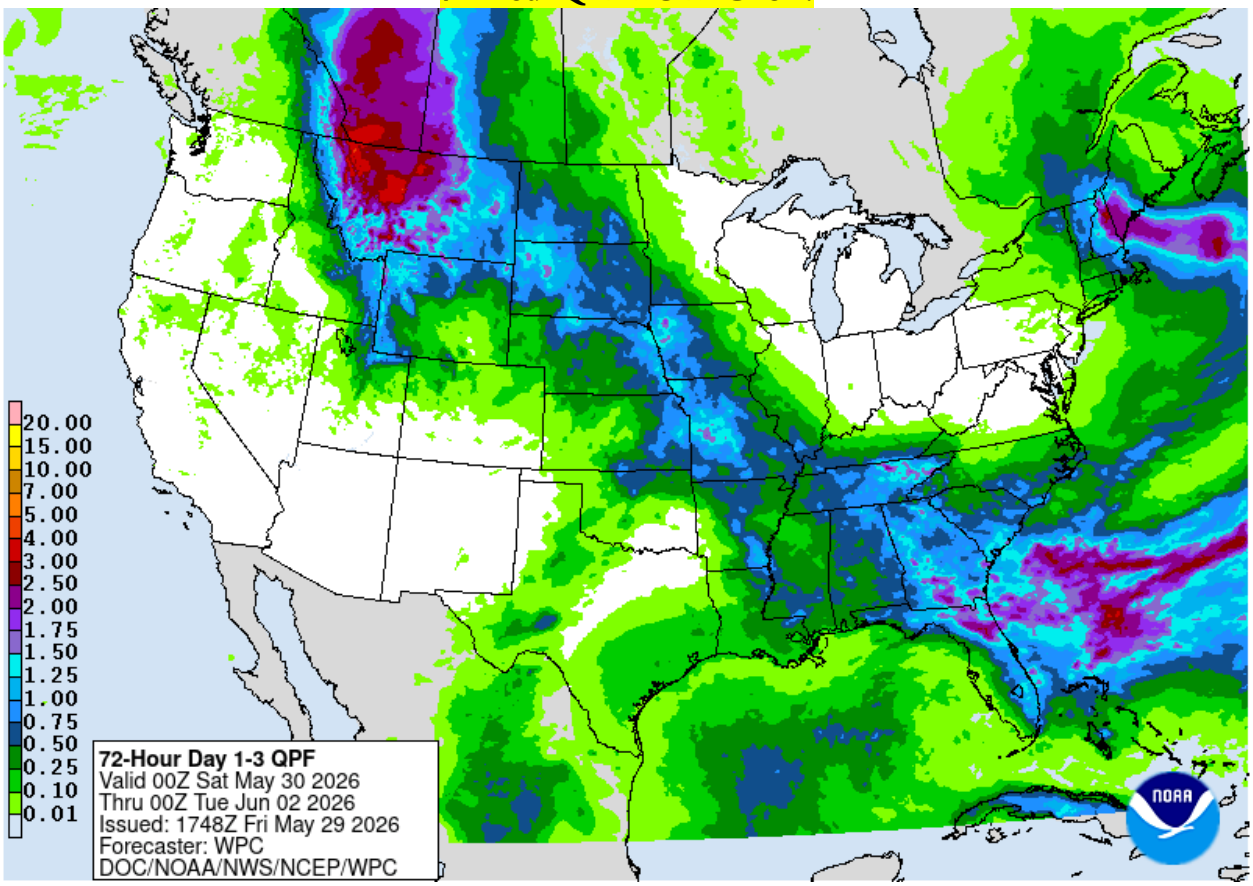
Mississippi River Ship Channel Dredging: The industry dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE began dredging on the Crossings on May 26, 2026, at Bayou Goula Crossing (Mile 198 Above Head of Passes). The industry hopper dredges GLENN EDWARDS and NEWPORT both of Manson Construction are dredging in the area of Southwest Pass, the GLENN EDWARDS will depart over the weekend. The USACE hopper dredge WHEELER continues working on Readiness Exercise #1-2026 but will complete it by Monday, June 1, 2026. The industry cutterhead dredge ALASKA (Great Lakes Dredge & Dock) has completed dredging in the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area and plan to remove the submerged dredge pipeline on June 9 with a backup closure on June 11 from 0600 hours to 1800 hours. The U.S. Coast Guard will issue a Marine Safety Information Bulletin next week to confirm the details of the scheduled channel closure.

The link below provides access to the weekly Navigation Channel Conditions Status Report from the USACE St. Louis District. The Report lists navigation restrictions, channel conditions, areas of shoaling, and present and future river stages at multiple navigation structures on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers:

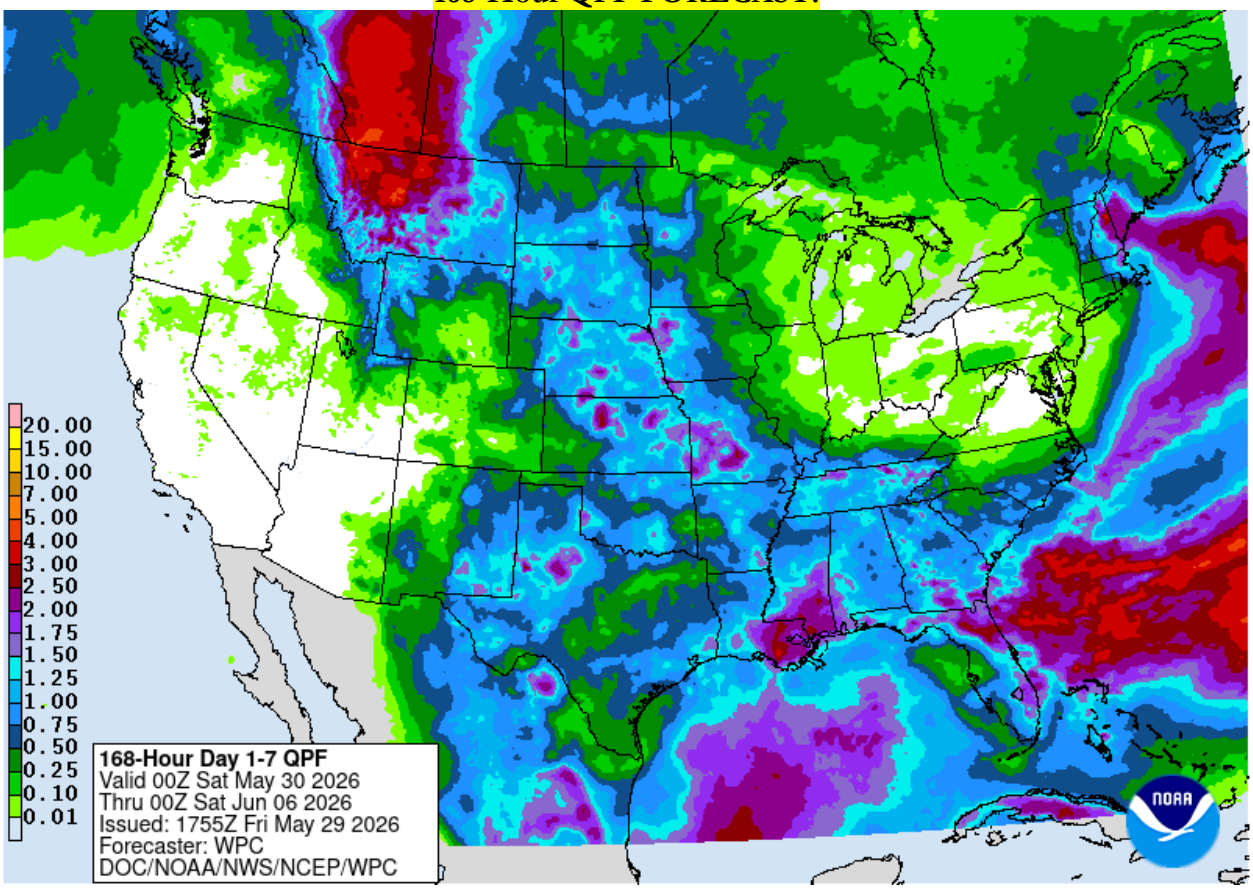
https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Status-Reports/

Below are the NWS Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) the first forecast is the 72-hour QPF (3-Day) and the 168-hour QPF (7-day). The 168-Hour forecast predicts heavy to moderate precipitation across a large portion of the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins that could lead to higher stage forecasts as the rainfall hits the basin. Also note the prevailing storm patterns moving in from the Pacific.

72-Hour QPF FORECAST:

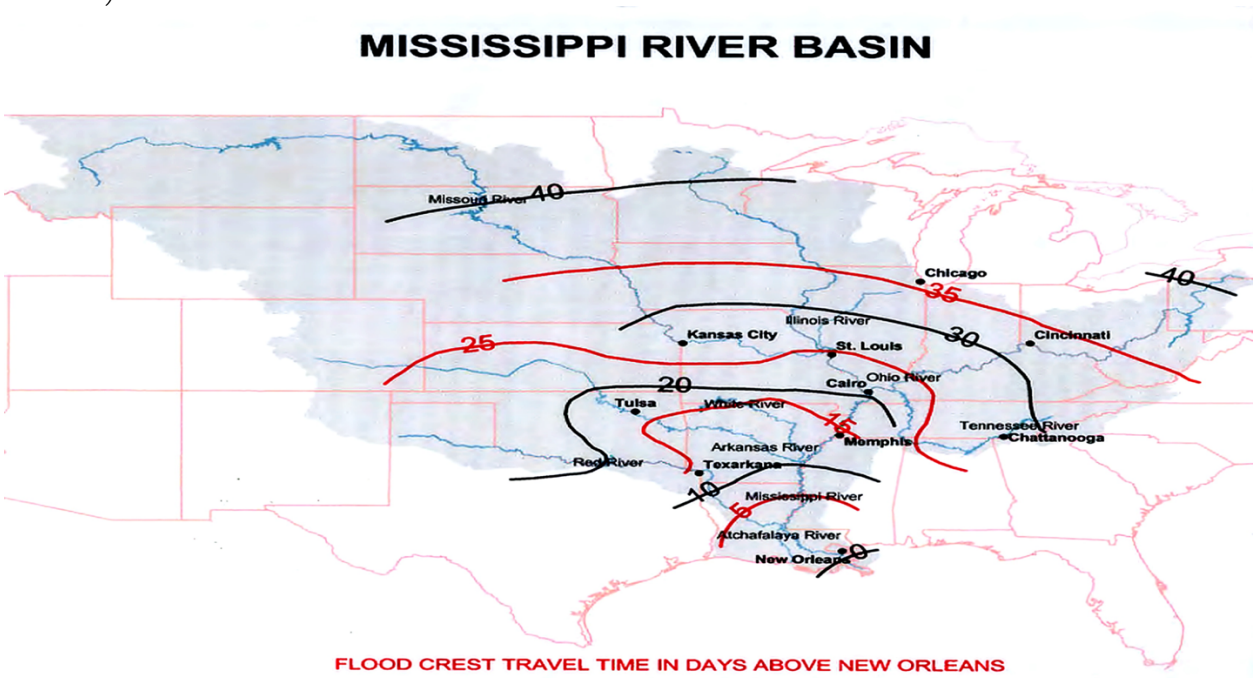


168-Hour QPF FORECAST:



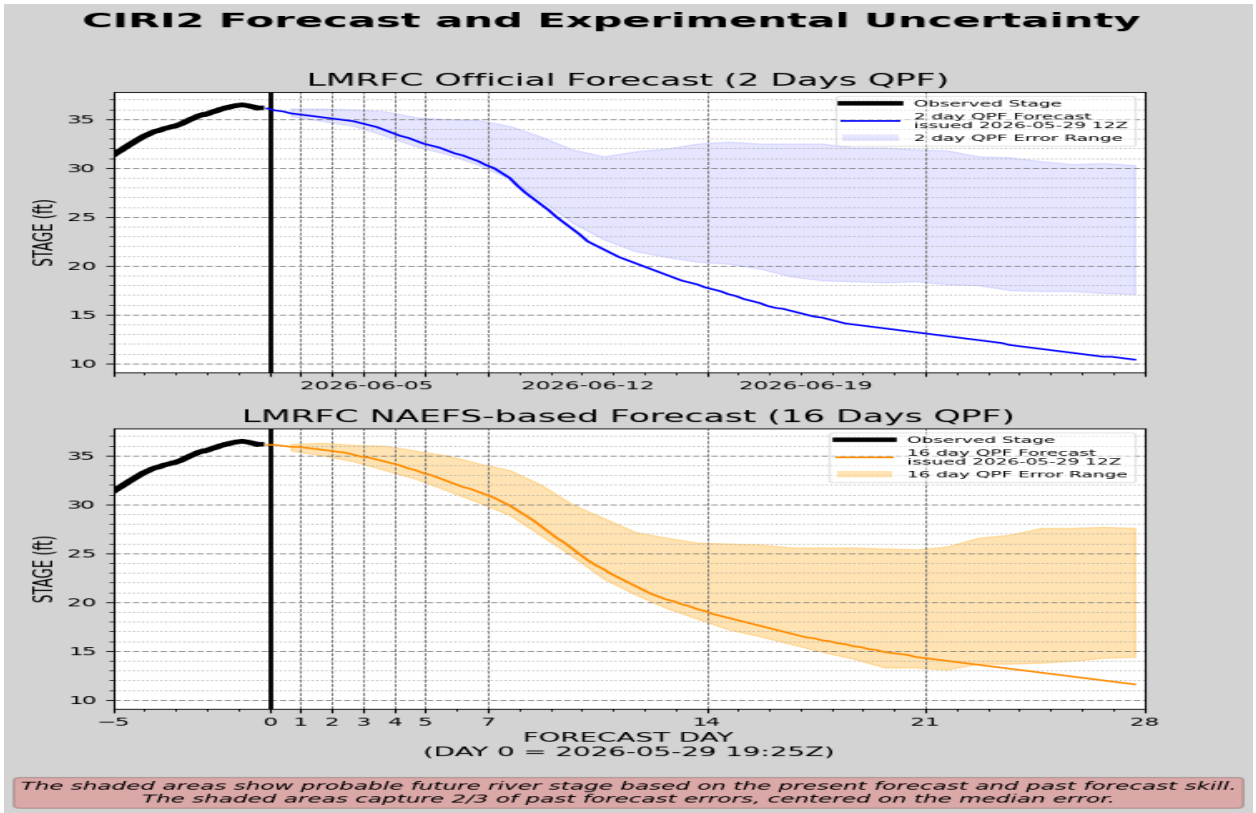
The information below is reproduced from the NOAA and USACE websites and details the latest river stage related forecasts for Cairo (IL), Memphis (TN), Vicksburg (MS), and New Orleans, (LA).

The diagram below is one used for reference that indicates the approximate number of days for river stages to reach the New Orleans Gage (Carrollton Gage). Typically, the BRC focuses on the stage at Cairo and estimates 20 days for the stages to shift downriver to New Orleans typically approximating the stage would be reduced by approximately 5% of the flow at Cairo (as a ballpark estimate). 2

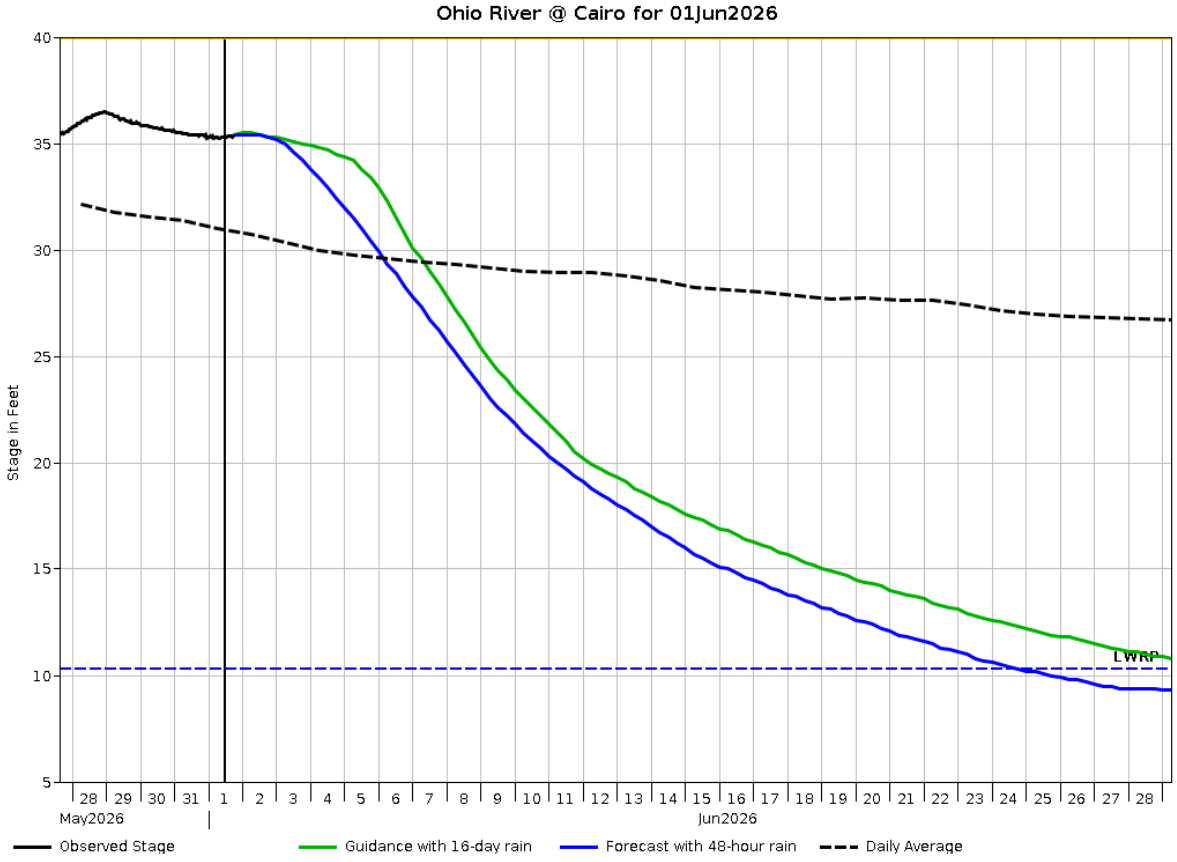


The 2- and 16-Day QPFs represent experimental products to account for the complexity of accurately predicting long-range precipitation. These forecast projects stage levels based on expected precipitation for 2 days (top) and 16 days (bottom) and was developed within the North American Ensemble Forecast System (NAEFS) computer model and highlights Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF). Along with the forecasts, a shaded area is also provided to indicate uncertainty for the forecast each day in the future. These plots are experimental and not an official forecast product.

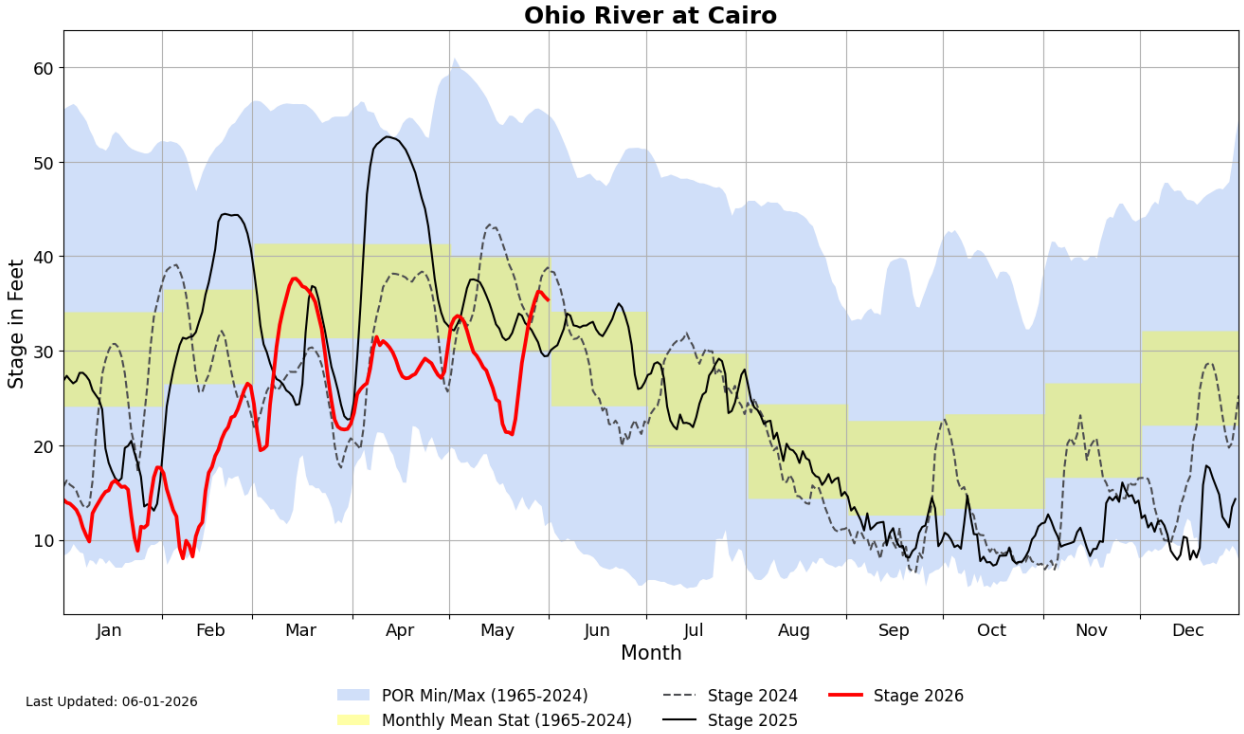
CAIRO 2- and 16-Day QPF FORECAST:



The following Guidance Plot detailing various stage predictive forecasts is provided by the USACE and details these projections for Cairo based on today's forecasts:



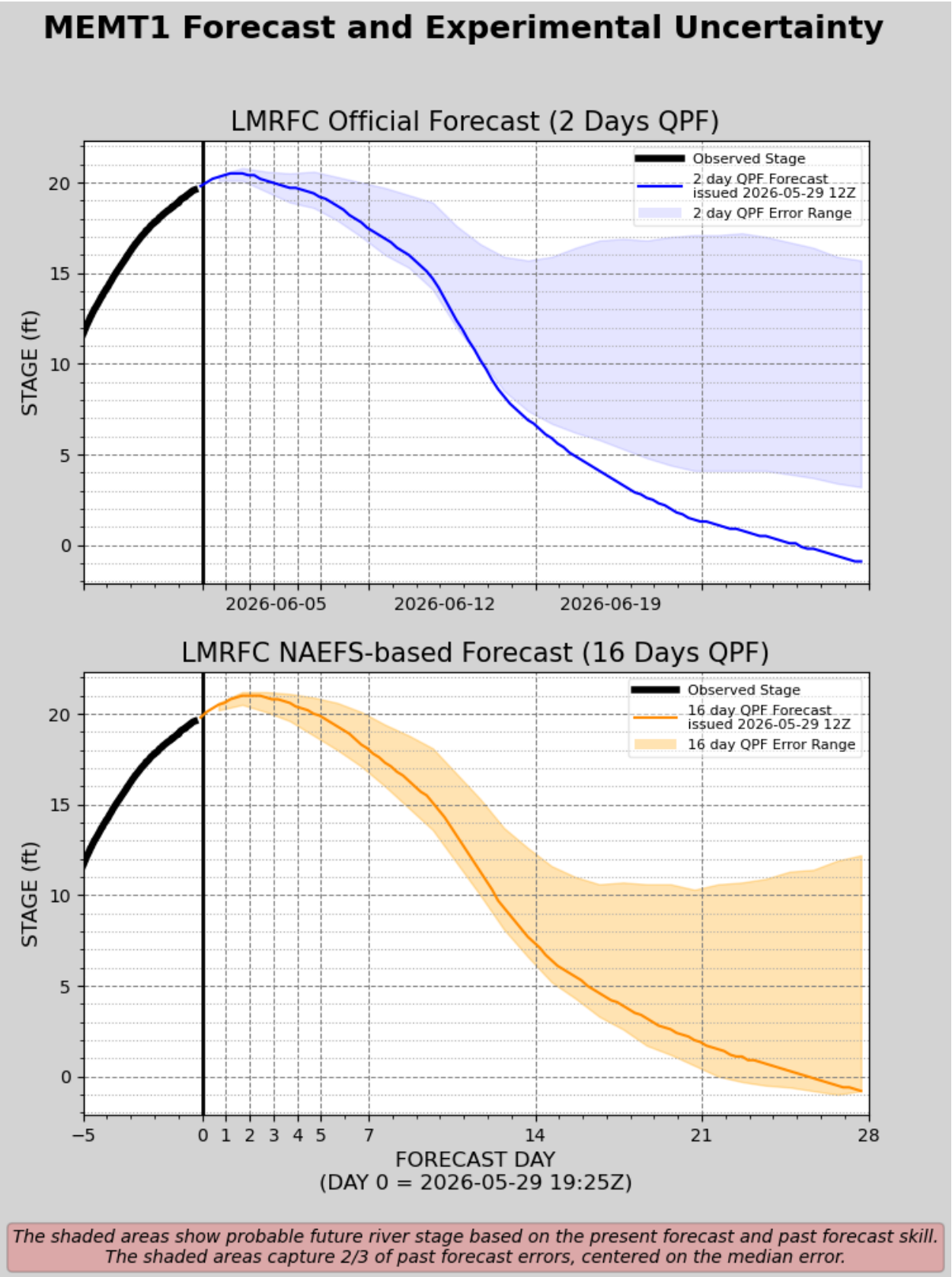
The diagram below from the USACE details a Comparative Hydrograph for Cairo that documents stages from present to 1965 for comparisons or to note potential trends:



The stage at Cairo (IL) at 1400 hours today was 35.96 feet with a 24-hour change of – 0.47 feet.

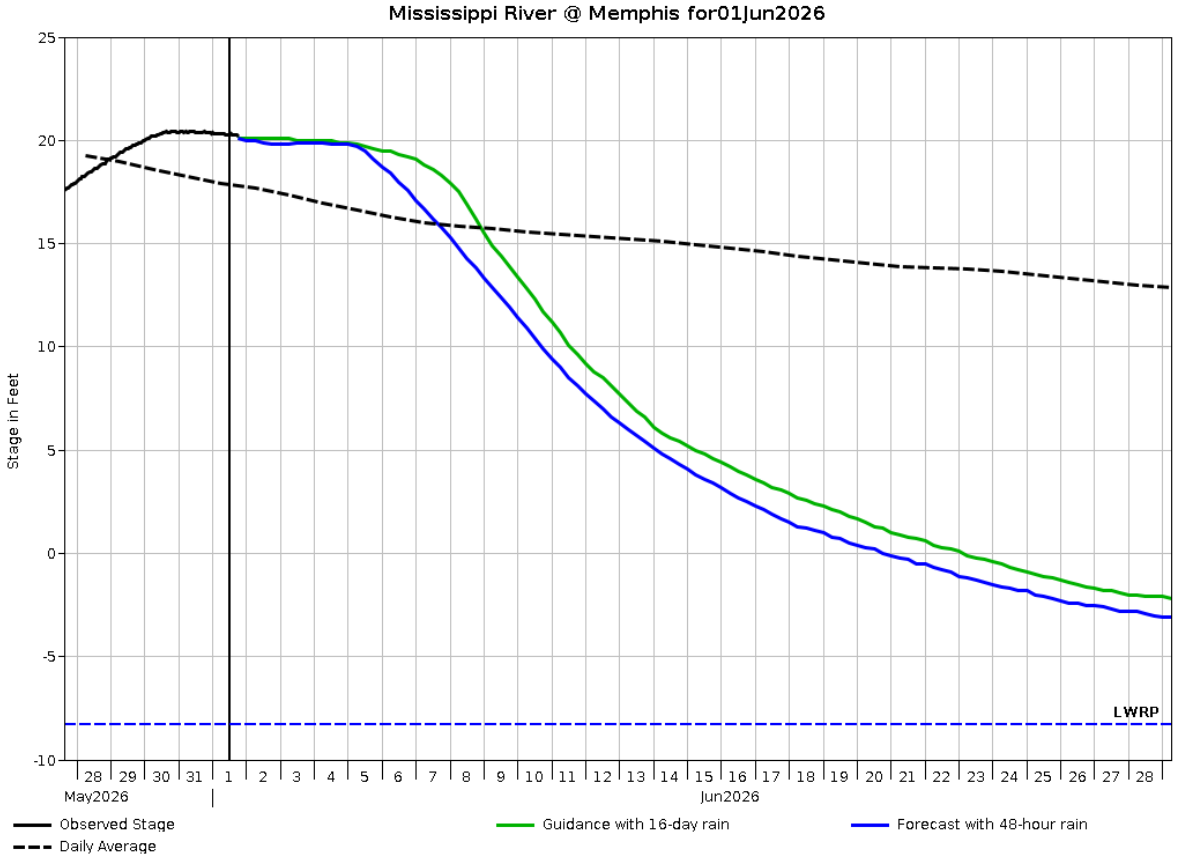
The National Weather Service's (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day forecast) issued today indicates the stages at Cairo will continue a slow fall to 10.4 feet on June 26 (2026).

MEMPHIS 2- and 16-Day QPF FORECAST:

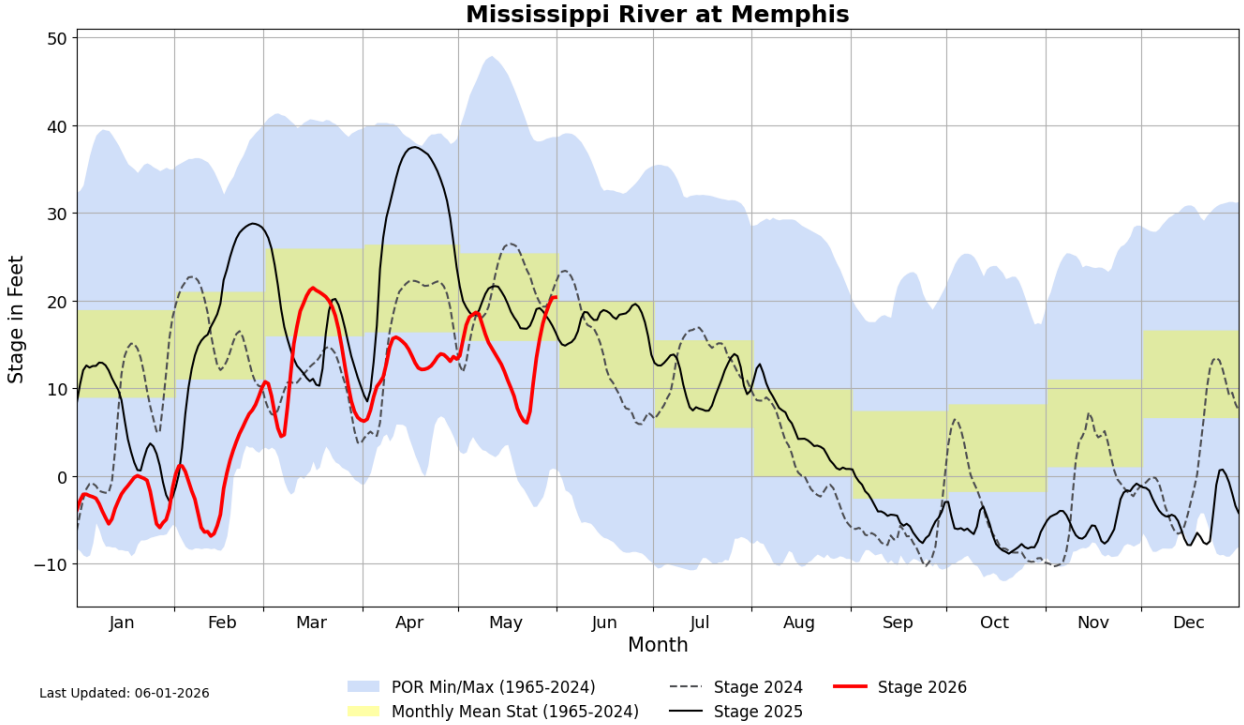


The shaded areas show probable future river stage based on the present forecast and past forecast skill. The shaded areas capture 2/3 of past forecast errors, centered on the median error.

The following Guidance Plot detailing various stage predictive forecasts is provided by the USACE and details these projections for Memphis based on today's forecasts:



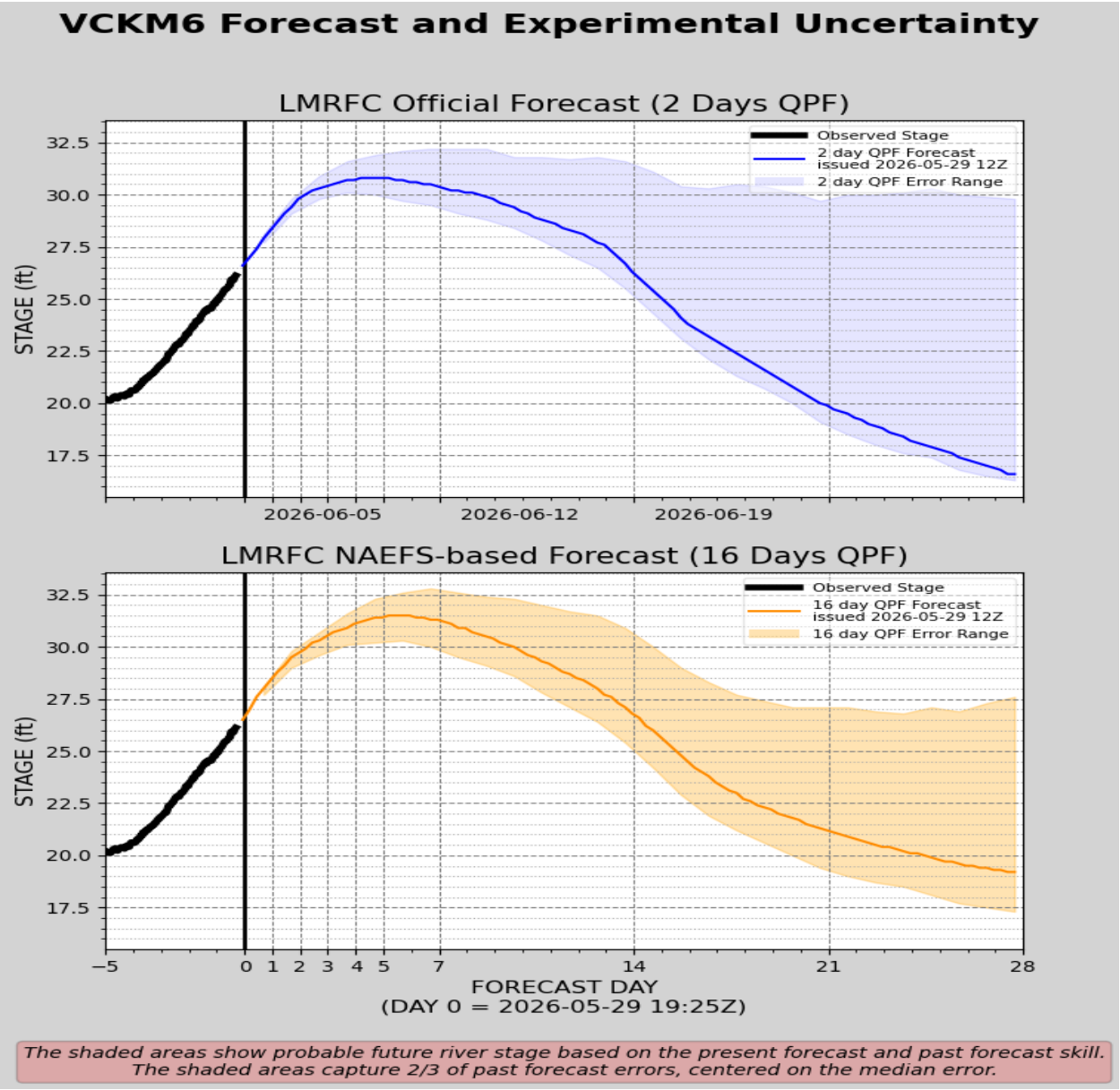
The diagram below from the USACE details a Comparative Hydrograph for Memphis that documents stages from present to 1965 for comparisons or to note potential trends:



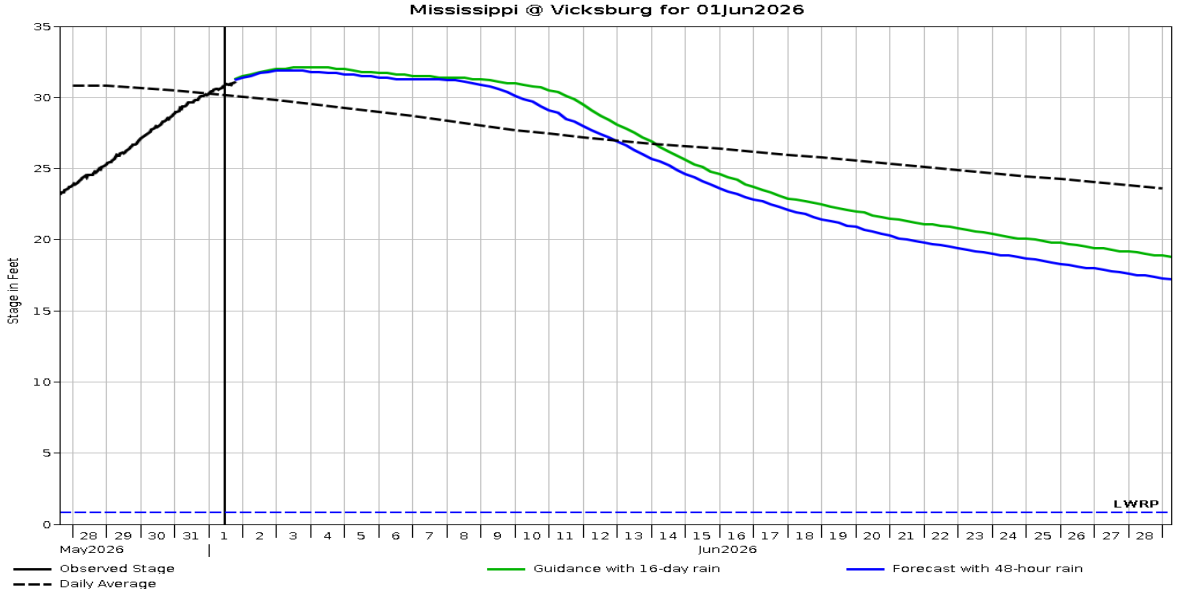
The stage at Memphis (TN) on the Weather Bureau Gage at 1500 hours today was 19.87 feet with a 24-hour change of + 0.99 feet.

The National Weather Service's (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day forecast) issued today indicates the stages at Memphis will rise to 20.5 feet tomorrow and are then expected to steadily fall to – 0.9 feet on June 26 (2026).

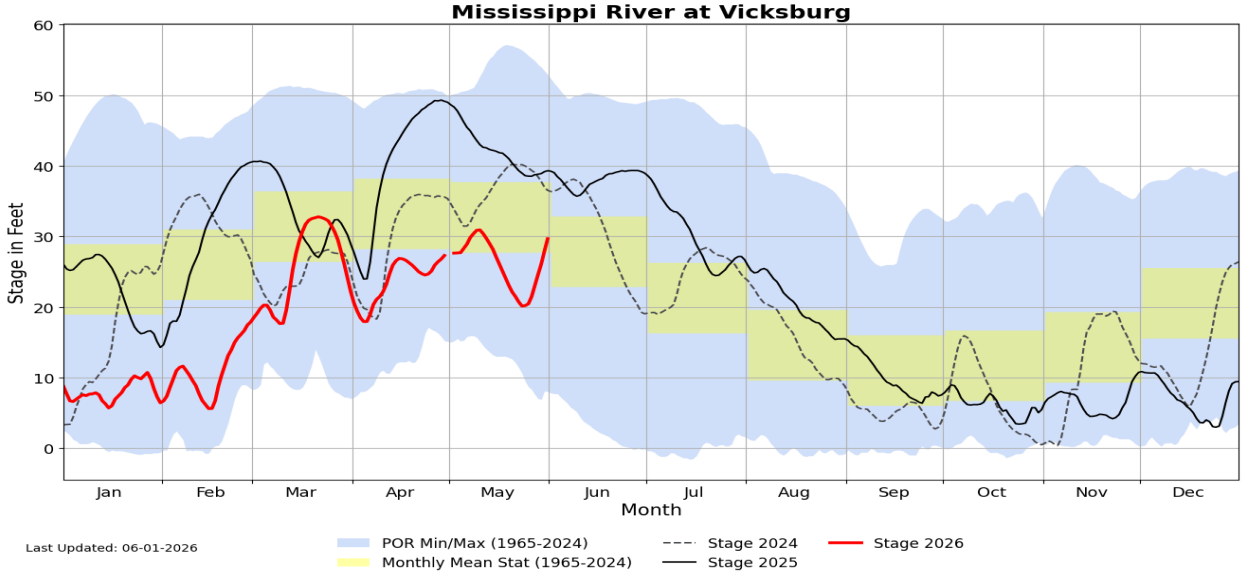
VICKSBURG 2- and 16-Day QPF FORECAST:



The following Guidance Plot detailing various stage predictive forecasts is provided by the USACE and details these projections for Vicksburg based on today's forecasts:



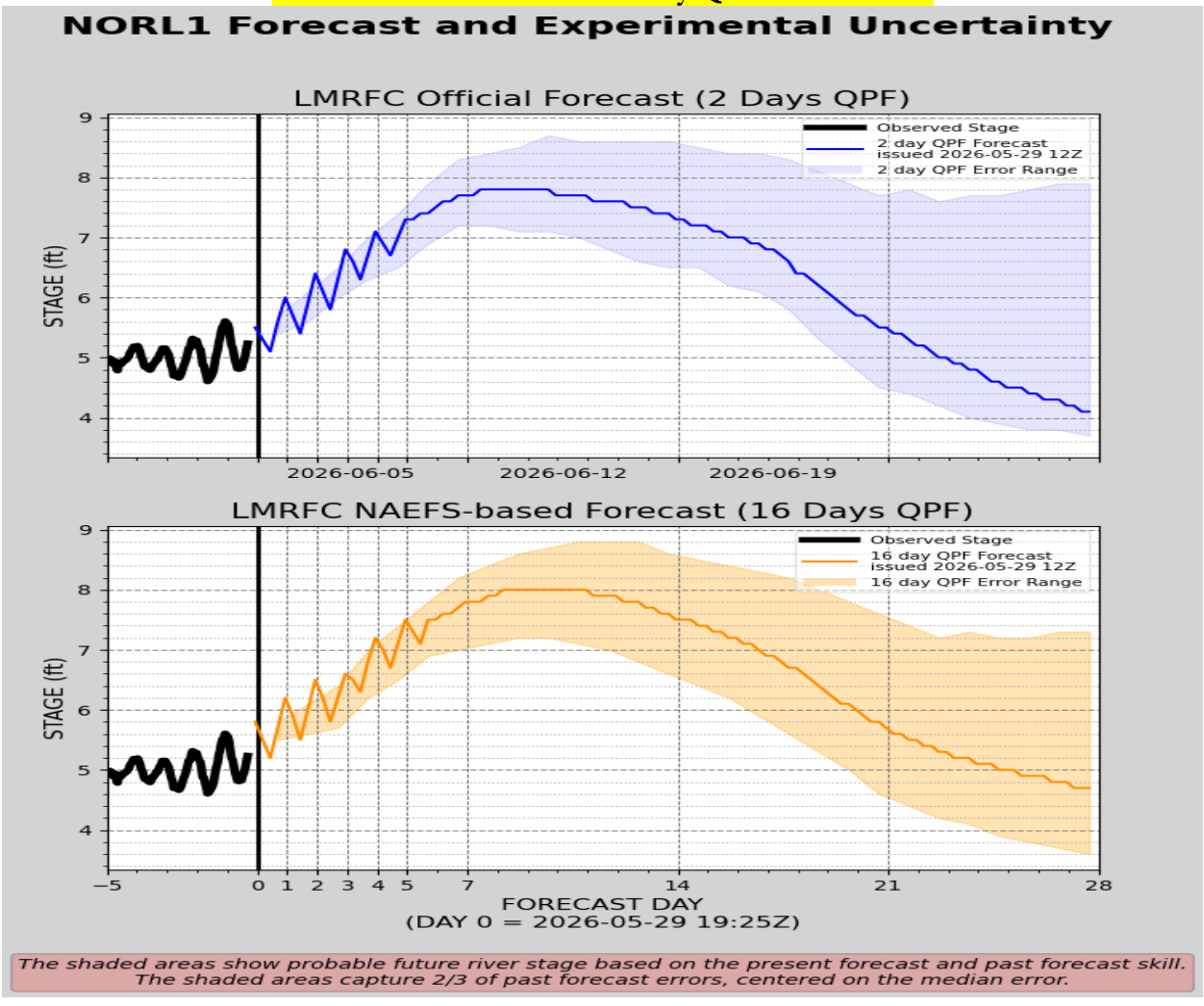
The diagram below from the USACE details a Comparative Hydrograph for Vicksburg that documents stages from present to 1965 for comparisons or to note potential trends:



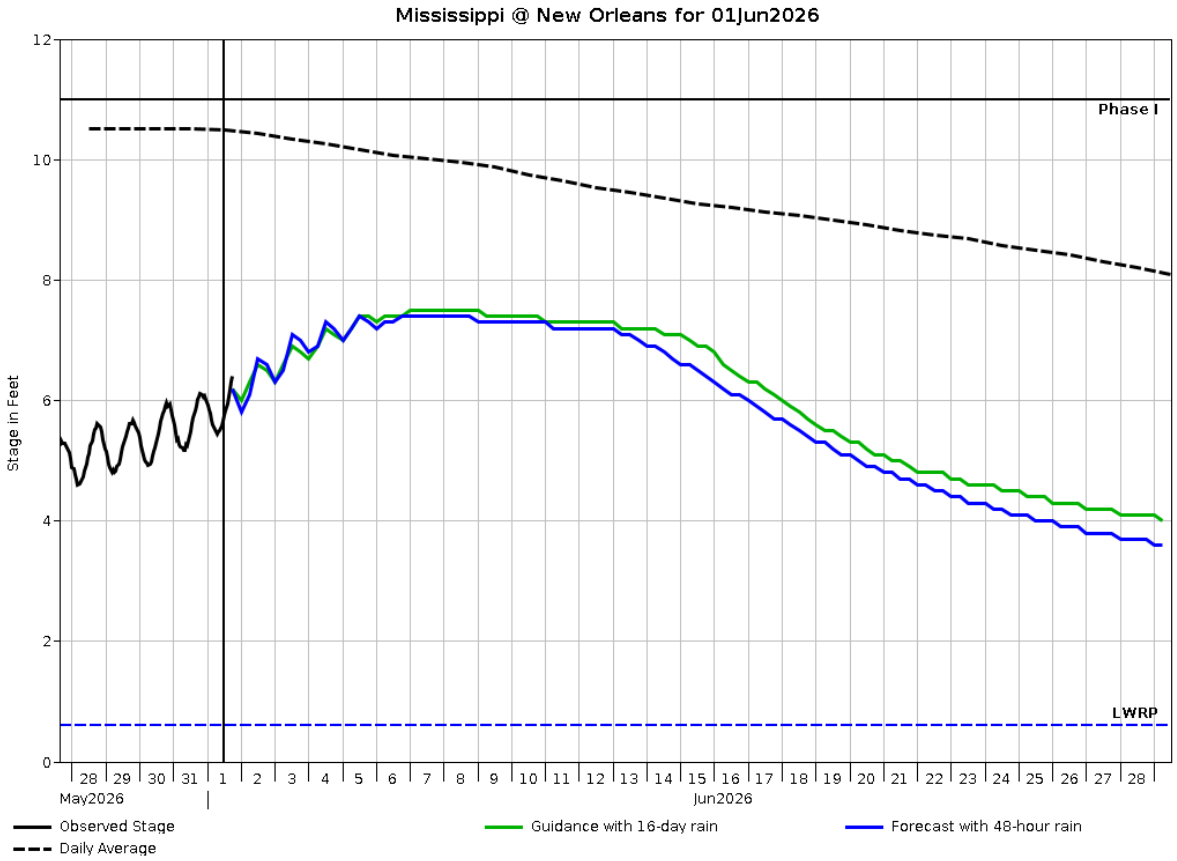
The stage at Vicksburg (MS) at 1500 hours today was 26.60 feet with a 24-hour change of + 1.65 feet.

The National Weather Service's (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day forecast) issued today indicates the stages at Vicksburg will crest at 30.8 feet on June 3 and will then resume a slow fall to 16.6 feet on June 26 (2026).

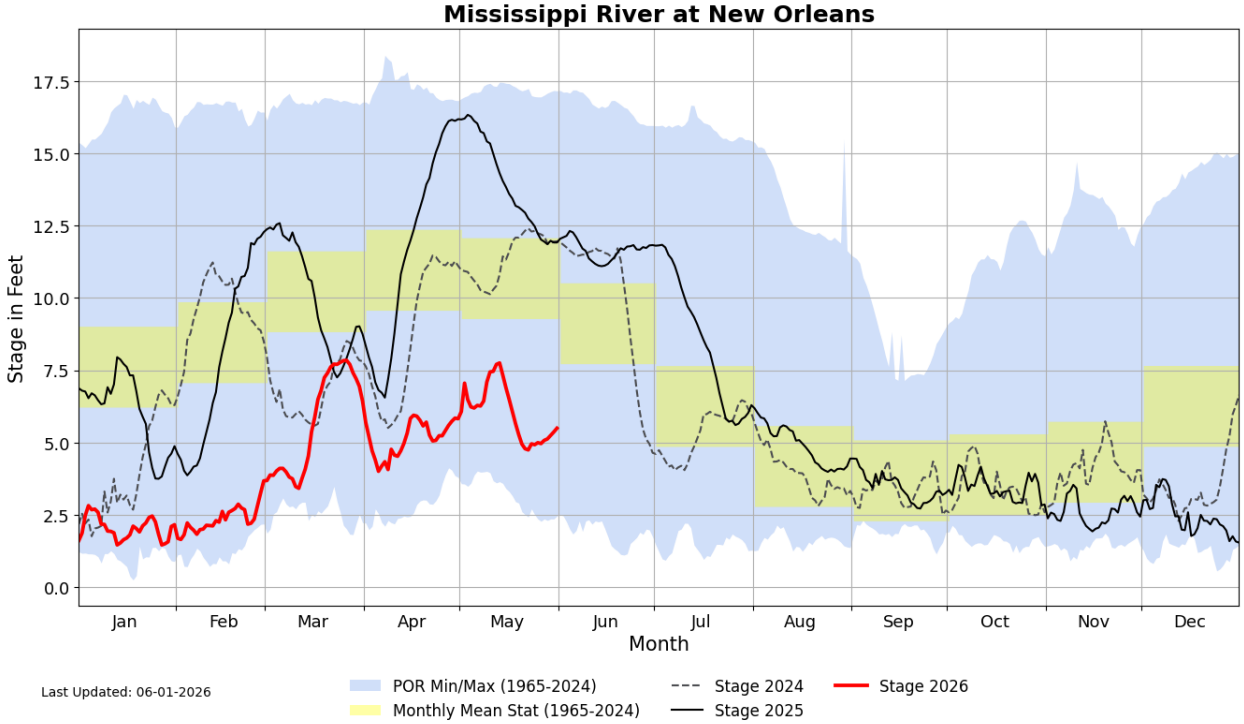
NEW ORLEANS 2- and 16-Day QPF FORECAST



The following Guidance Plot detailing various stage predictive forecasts is provided by the USACE and details these projections for New Orleans based on today's forecasts:



The diagram below from the USACE details a Comparative Hydrograph for New Orleans that documents stages from present to 1965 for comparisons or to note potential trends:



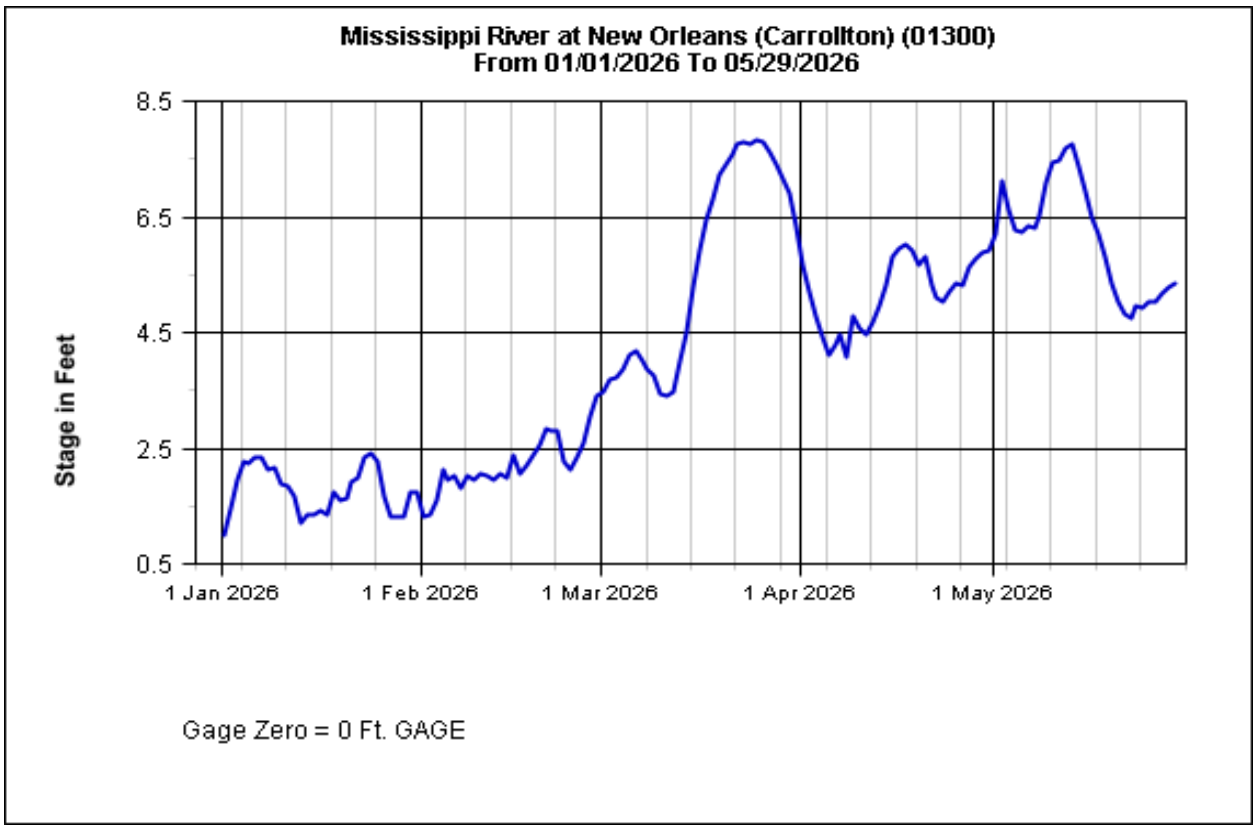
The Carrollton Gage (New Orleans) reading at 1400 hours today was 5.67 feet with a 24-hour change of + 0.09 feet.

The National Weather Service's (NWS) Extended Streamflow Prediction (28-Day forecast) for the Carrollton Gage issued today forecasts that stages will slowly rise to 7.8 feet on June 6 and will then resume a slow fall to 4.1 feet on June 26 (2026).

The highest crest recorded on the Carrollton Gage in 2025 was 16.67 feet at 1800 hours on May 1, 2025, and the low of 0.97 feet occurred on New Year's Eve (December 31, 2025).
*****Stages below 1.0 feet are rare for multiple reasons including the impacts of winds and tides as the Gulf of America invades the river and injects saltwater into the veins of the Big River during these low water periods. Readings of less than 1.0 feet were recorded multiple times in 1988 (June to November) with the lowest stage recorded at 0.5 feet on September 28, 1988. The lowest stage in 2012 was 0.77 feet, the lowest reading recorded in 2012 was 0.77 feet on December 13, 2012.

The Mississippi River Discharge at Tarbert Landing (Mile 306.3 AHP) at 0800 hours today was 457,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) down from the high for the year to date of 644,000 cfs on March 22, 2026. The lowest discharge reading recorded in 2026 was 195,000 cfs on January 17, 2026. Tarbert Landing is just a few miles upriver from Red River Landing (Mile 302.4 AHP).

The graph below represents the Year-to-Date (2026) plotted river stages for the Carrollton Gage from January 1 to May 29 (2026):



With You,

Big River

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"Complaining about a problem without proposing a solution is called whining."
Teddy Roosevelt

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