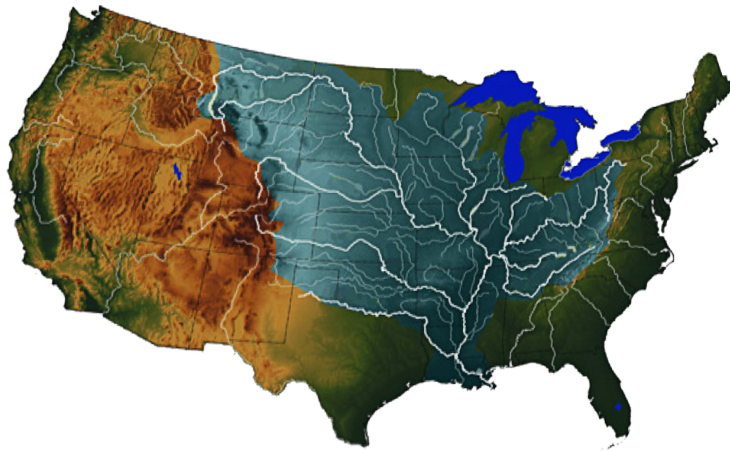


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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June 7, 2021

## LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER (LMR) DREDGING UPDATE 6721

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed the Phase 1 dredging for the historic project to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) to 50 feet on May 7, 2021. The Phase 1 section of the Ship Channel extends from Venice at Mile 13 Above Head of Passes (AHP) to Mile 22 Below Head of Passes (BHP). The USACE uncovered some depth anomalies with two utility pipelines and one cable that cross under the Ship Channel in the area of Venice from Mile 12 AHP to Mile 11 AHP. Due to the information uncovered the USACE is working to verify the depth over these structures in this area before the Ship Channel is officially opened up to a deepened draft (50 Feet). The USACE has actively worked to define the extent of this problem by identifying and contacting the listed utility owners and has requested updated surveys and operational information for each potential obstruction. **The USACE is focusing dredging operations on the Crossings Above New Orleans as Southwest Pass is in good condition.**

### DUSTPAN DREDGES WORKING ON THE CROSSINGS ABOVE NEW ORLEANS:

**HURLEY:** The government dustpan dredge HURLEY continues dredging at Red Eye Crossing (Mile 224 AHP) but will commence dredging at Alhambra Crossing later this week. The White Castle Anchorage (Mile 191.1 AHP to Mile 190.4 AHP) will be off limits beginning at 0900 hours Thursday morning (June 10, 2021) for vessel usage while the HURLEY is dredging at Alhambra Crossing (Mile 192 AHP). This assignment at Alhambra Crossing is expected to last approximately fourteen days. The HURLEY commenced dredging on the Crossings on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

**WALLACE McGEORGE:** The industry dustpan dredge WALLACE McGEORGE continues dredging at Granada Crossing (Mile 205 AHP). The dustpan dredge began dredging on the Crossings on May 20, 2021.

**JADWIN:** The government dustpan dredge is expected to commence dredging on the Crossings later this month.

### INDUSTRY HOPPER DREDGES WORKING ON THE CROSSINGS ABOVE NEW ORLEANS:

**STUYVEASNT:** The industry hopper dredge STUYVESANT (Dutra Group) continues dredging at Smoke Bend Crossing (Mile 175 AHP). The STUYVEASNT is working under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #6-2020 that was awarded to the Dutra Group in Fiscal Year 2020 to perform channel maintenance in Fiscal Year 2021. The STUYVESANT worked in Southwest Pass under this contract from March 24, 2021 to May 24, 2021 before starting work on the Crossings. The STUYVESANT began dredging on the Crossings on May 25, 2021.

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## INDUSTRY HOPPER DREDGES WORKING IN THE AREA OF SOUTHWEST PASS (SWP):

**NEWPORT:** The industry hopper dredge NEWPORT (Manson Construction) continues dredging from Mile 5.0 BHP to Mile 6.0 BHP under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #7-2020. This contract was awarded to the Manson Construction in Fiscal Year 2020 to perform channel maintenance in Fiscal Year 2021. The NEWPORT began work under this contract on April 3, 2021.

**GLENN EDWARDS:** The GLENN EDWARDS (Manson Construction) has departed the MSRC to undergo repairs in dry dock. The hopper dredge is expected to return in August (2021) to complete work under Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #3-2020. This contract was awarded in Fiscal Year 2020 to perform channel maintenance in Fiscal Year 2021. The GLENN EDWARDS began work under this contract on May 7, 2021.

## CUTTERHEAD DREDGE(S) IN THE HOPPER DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA (HDDA):

**ILLINOIS:** The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS (Great Lakes Dredge and Dock) has removed and beneficially used approximately 7.25 million cubic yards (mcy) of material from the HDDA under Hopper Dredge Disposal Area Cutterhead Rental Contract #1-2019. The contract includes the removal of 10 mcy in the base with options to add an additional 4 mcy. The project is expected to be completed by early 2022. The material is beneficially being used in the West Bay Receiving Area through a submerged dredge pipeline that will have to be removed up completion of the project. The pipeline retrieval will require at least one complete closure on the Ship Channel in the immediate vicinity of the submerged pipeline (Mile 2.0 AHP to Mile 0 – the Head of Passes).

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL DEEPENING PHASE 1:

The Phase 1 areas of the Ship Channel have all been deepened to 50 feet through the use of the four dredges listed below. The USACE utilized three contracts to deepen the Ship Channel from Venice to the Gulf of Mexico (Phase 1). The USACE expects to complete the deepening project in four progressive upriver phases to the upper end of the MRSC at Mile 233.8 AHP (Baton Rouge). The details on the dredge contracts worked under Phase 1 of the historic river deepening project are detailed below:

**Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #1-2020:** was awarded to Weeks Marine on August 20, 2020. This contract was completed by the cutterhead dredges CAPTAIN FRANK that dredged from September 11, 2020 until March 3, 2021 and the E.W. ELLEFSEN that dredged from November 18, 2020 until March 19, 2021.

**Southwest Pass Cutterhead Dredge Rental Contract #2-2020:** was awarded to Manson Construction on August 27, 2020. The cutterhead dredge ROBERT M. WHITE dredged under this contract from October 23, 2020 until completion on March 18, 2021.

**Southwest Pass Hopper Dredge Rental Contract #9-2020:** was awarded to Manson Construction on September 21, 2020. The GLENN EDWARDS worked under this deepening contract from January 14, 2021 until completion on May 7, 2021.

Sincerely,  
*Sean M. Duffy, Sr.*

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Executive Director

Attachments