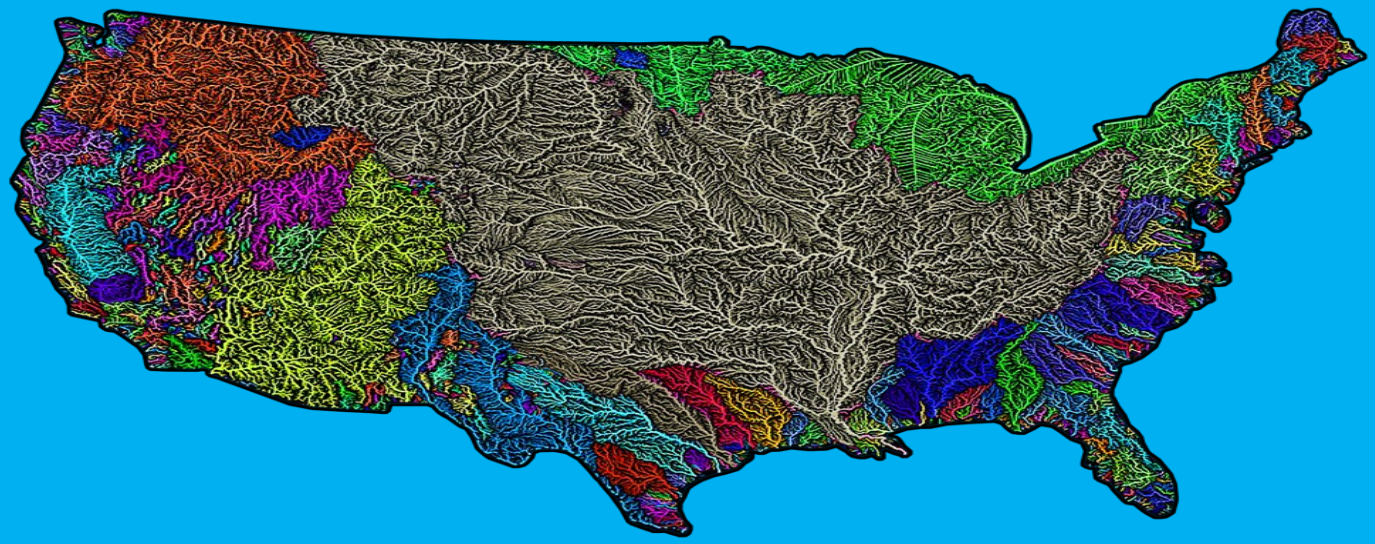
BIG RIVER COALITION

"Advocating for a Mightier Mississippi River"



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

Propeller Club of Northern Californis and SAME 111925

CLIMATE VARIABILITY
CHALLENGES TO MISSISSIPPI RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE 2015-2025

If in 2015 someone would have predicted the following items, I would have waged my life saving they were wrong. Or worse…longstanding industry critical metrics are no longer relevant, tidal impacts are being seen at the Carrollton Gage during low river conditions, more frequent extreme weather impacts this decade than anytime in MS River nav history.

Prior to 2015 the average for high river levels triggering the operation of the Bonnet Carré Spillway and for low water levels requiring the construction of the saltwater sill were once a decade. Since 2015 they have been both operated four times in a three year back-to-back-to-back period and both were nearly required in 2025 with the sill being needed a 4th year in row.

Bonnet Carré Operation:	Saltwater Sill Construction:
2018	2022
2019, 2019	2023, 2023
2020	2024
2025 ALMOST (16.7' and 1.245 cfs)	**2025 (175,000 cfs vs 1.245 cfs)**

Relative sea-level rise is having detrimental impacts on the MS River Ship Channel and navigational safety and on freshwater drinking supply. Reproduced from a document by the Wyland Foundation's National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation:

"In New York City, saltwater intrusion threatens drinking water as rising sea levels push ocean water further into the Hudson River." The BRC believes the drinking water for the City of New Orleans is also under attack due the impact of relative sea-level rise and loss of flow at the crevasses. RESILIENT PORTS NEED RESILIENT WATERWAYS…

Since 2022 the construction of the saltwater sill has been required five times in a four-year period and the management of freshwater is critical as relative sea-level's rises impact is expected to continue to increase.

Managing our water and sediment resources and acting is crucial for coastal cities and government agencies must be pro-active to reduce the risks. Imagine the impacts if major cities like New York and New Orleans can no longer provide freshwater for human consumption.

GOVERNOR LANDRY'S NAVIGATION AND SAFETY TASK FORCE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHIP CHANNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ **Dredge the Deficient Pilottown Anchorage.**
- ✓ Shallow draft channel replace swing bridges on Gulf Intracoastal Waterway(shallow-draft navigation).
- ✓ **U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation (ATON) promote repair and replacement on the Mississippi River Ship Channel and for the channel realignment for deepening above Mile 180.**
- ✓ **Bridge Out Message Boards to warn drivers of bridge emergencies, lessons learned at Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.**
- ✓ **Promote closer coordination with navigation and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for projects that protect navigation and provide coastal restoration, such as dredging the Pilottown Anchorage.**
- ✓ **Expand NOAA LMR PORTS on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) to be better protected by incorporation of modern navigation technologies. Air gaps, current meters, proper datum, and**
- ✓ **Close the large crevasses on the eastern side of the Mississippi River below Belle Chasse, Mardi Gras Pass, Neptune Pass and Fort St. Phillip. The USACE is in the process of preforming an emergency closure at Neptune Pass.**

FISCAL YEAR	SWP CUTTERHEAD MCY	SWP BU ACRES	HDDA MCY	HDDA BU ACRES	TOTAL SWP CUTTERHEAD + HDDA MCY	TOTAL SWP and HDDA ACREAGE
2009	2.9	100	0	0	2.9	100
2010	3.2	67	6.8	403	10	470
2011	3.6	200	1.5	60	5.1	260
2012	5.7	615	0.8	0	6.5	615
2013	5.7	773	7.2	644	12.9	1,417
2014	8.0	572	0	0	8.0	572
2015	11.3	364	9.7	677	21	1,041
2016	8.5	973	0	0	8.5	973
2017	12.2	1064	8.4	404	20.6	1,468
2018	6.7	347	4.9	378	11.6	725
2019	14.7	1,218	9.5	506	24.2	1,724
2020	11.3	847	6.0	489	17.3	1,336
2021	19.8	1,190	11.5	645	31.3	1,835
2022	5.3	635	0	0	5.3	635
2023	1.0	100	4.5	492	5.5	592
2024	5.3	*295	6.5	*850	11.8	*1,145
TOTALS:	**125.2**	***9,360**	**77.3**	***5,548**	**202.5**	***14,908**


River
Mississipi