

Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# American Currents



## Hot Topics:

- [Lock 52: Plan #1, Plan #2 summaries, potential continued Ohio River Closure](#)
- [NEW: Houston/West Canal update, conditions x-Harvey](#)
- [LaGrange Lock – 24 boats waiting to lock, 5 days of delay](#)
- [Delay at Illinois mi. 77, dredging scheduled](#)

## NOTEWORTHY NEWS & INDUSTRY ISSUES

For additional details on the information noted below, please contact your ACBL Salesperson or Logistics Representative at (800) 899-7195

### **NEW: Houston/West Canal update, conditions x-Harvey** – navigation is open on the GIWW with the following exceptions:

- Docks in Houston that are above Houston Ship Channel mile 397 are blocked by salvage operations (to the best of our knowledge: New Terminal, Croniment, Proler, WATCO, Contada #2, and the City docks)
- GIWW is closed to navigation from Colorado Locks (mi. 441) to Matagorda Bay, TX ([traffic is not moving west from Houston to Corpus Christi/Brownsville](#)), due to severe shoaling at the locks and shoaling at the upper Matagorda Bay as a result of Hurricane Harvey. USACE has the contract dredge 'Diligence' positioned at Colorado Lock and is scheduled to start laying pipe today, 12 Sep and begin dredging Wednesday, 13 Sep. Previous reports regarding pipe laying ops were incorrect. A 3' depth due to shoaling is currently reported on the east side of the crossing. The dredge will work until they reach an 11' depth in order to resume traffic flow ASAP. [This work is estimated to take approximately 7 days to complete.](#) A second dredge, 'Jonathon King Boyd' is mobilizing from Port O'Connor Wednesday, 13 Sep, will take 2-3 days to set its pipeline and start dredging on the West Lock fore bay starting on Saturday, 16 Sep. Once the shoal has been removed, this dredge will head westward on the GIWW toward Matagorda Bay, sweeping any necessary shoal locations, ending with the 9'-10' shoal at the Matagorda Land Cut near Oyster Lake moorings. Last, a third dredge, 'Caroline,' is currently working at Caney Creek (east of Matagorda Bay) and managing shoaling at this location. The timeline for completing this dredging remains difficult to predict with certainty. USACE will have a better sense for how long this operation will take once the 'Diligence' begins removing material and a rate of removal can be established. At this point [the best estimate for opening the GIWW through to Matagorda is approximately 22 September.](#)

**[Lock 52: Plan #1, Plan #2 summaries, potential continued Ohio River Closure](#)** – The river has been closed for 1 week as of today (no traffic is moving between Smithland Lock (OR918) and Cairo). Here are the two scenarios that have been proposed in order to restore navigation: **Plan #1:** The Corp has a plan to reduce flows at Kentucky, Barkley, and Smithland Locks in order for them to proceed with another attempt to raise the remaining wickets. If they are successful, Lock 52 may be able to begin locking boats this Sunday. One possible additional delay would be that the need to raise Lock 53 wicket dam will be imminent. This dam has not been raised in years and is an unknown factor (delay time to raise?). With 25 boats waiting and more to pile on, expect 4-5 days delay (if plan #1 is successful). **Plan#2:** If plan #1 fails, the Corp will build a rock dike above the wicket area so that the remaining wickets can be raised. [If this happens, the river will be closed for 18-24 days](#) before this plan is complete and the area can support locking and navigation.

Late tomorrow we may have an indication if Plan #1 will succeed. There is an industry meeting scheduled tomorrow for 3 p.m. CDT. We should be able to send out an update around 4 p.m. CDT.

### **[Cumberland River Mile 30.6, Tennessee River Mile 22.4 \(low flows/low water, created to assist Lock 52 wicket raising\):](#)**

Beginning Thursday, September 14, 2017, Mariners can expect low releases from both Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. These low flows will create low tailwater elevations which will likely affect Navigation. The purpose of these low releases is to support emergency work at Lock and Dam 52. The duration of these conditions is unknown and is dependent upon the success/progress of work at Lock and Dam 52 and headwater conditions at both Kentucky and Barkley Lakes.

**[Delay at Illinois mi. 215](#)** – a dredge is now on site. There is a 120' channel available that tows continue to make additional trips to complete passage (breaking up tows). The dredge should complete dredging an additional 50' of channel 9/13-14 that should help return navigation to a more normal status. Until that time, expect ~1 day delay.

**[Delay at Illinois mi. 77, dredging scheduled](#)** – presently the possibility exists for intermittent delays in the shoaling area... this area of shoaling is expected to be dredged for approximately 2 days beginning 9/23. Expected 1-2 days of delay depending on if the dredge must halt navigation and if there will be times allowed for traffic to pass.

**[LaGrange Lock \(Illinois mi. 80\) delay is at 5 days – 24 boats waiting turn](#)**, at this time, expect about 5 days of delay. Fortunately, repairs are on schedule to complete 9/15.

**[Illinois River, LaGrange Lock, 70' restriction](#)** - LaGrange Lock and Dam, mi. 80.2 will be closed Monday through Saturday, from 0600 to 1700 hrs. beginning on Thursday, 15-June-2017 to Tuesday, 15-Sept-2017. *When the dam is up, delay could accumulate to 3-5 days of delay over a span of 1-2 weeks.*

### **[Rock Pinnacle Removal/Dredging Work \(UMR 38-46\)](#) – *Thebes rock pinnacle work may begin ~9/25, expect about 1 day in transit delay***

1. The long range forecast for the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau indicates that river levels will be below 15-feet in late July. We will continue to monitor the forecasts and we will provide updates as we receive them.
2. USACE contractor, Massman Construction, will be working with two separate floating plants, consisting of barge mounted excavators between miles 46 and 38 UMR.
3. Massman Construction will be working from 07:00 to 19:00 hours, 7 days a week.
4. USCG will organize test tows to determine safe passage requirements during working hours.
5. Safe passage arrangements can be made by calling Massman Construction's contact vessel, MV Keith Jacobsen, on VHF channel 13, prior to transiting the area.
6. For additional information regarding Rock Removal floating plant activity, please contact the Area Engineer, Jeff Derrick at 573-204-7770. For overall Project information, please contact Project Manager Mike Rodgers, 314-331-8215.

**[Tow size reduction on Lower Miss \(southbound only\)](#)** – Max tow size SBD on the Lower Miss has been reduced to 35 barges, expect 1-2 days additional interchange delay at Cairo

### **[Current Flooding Conditions](#)**

No major flooding to report

## Current Loading Drafts

Upper/Lower Mississippi		Illinois	
St. Paul to Gulf / Davenport to Gulf	9'0" / 9'6"	LIQUID above Full Illinois River	9'0" Max
St. Louis to Memphis / Helena to Gulf	11'6" / 1'6" FB	Lemont to Starved Rock	9'0" Max
Missouri		Starved Rock - South	
Brunswick, MO South	9'3" Max	Meredosia - South	9'6" Max
Ohio		Gulf	
NBD Cairo to Pittsburgh	10'0"	Gulf N/B to St. Louis	10'6" Max
Pittsburgh SBD to Gulf	10'0"	Gulf N/B to Pittsburgh	10'0" Max
		Gulf N/B to Lemont	9'3" Max

## LOCK CLOSURES AND INFORMATION

Lock Name	Phone	Mile Pt	Closure Dates	Notes
GULF and INTRACOASTAL				
Harvey	504-366-4683	98.3	9/6-11/6	Dewatering for repairs, closure expected to last 60 days.
<i>Bayou Boeuf</i>	<i>985-384-7626</i>	<i>93.3</i>	<i>August/2019</i>	Tentative dewatering closure expected to last 60 days – (changed from 2017)
ILLINOIS WATERWAY				
LaGrange Lock	217-225-3317	80.2	6/15 – 9/15	LaGrange Lock and Dam, RM 80.2 will be closed Monday through Saturday, from 0600 to 1700 hrs. beginning on Thursday, 15-June-2017 to Tuesday, 15-Sept-2017. There will be a 70' width restriction at all times.
<i>Starved Rock 2018</i>	<i>815-667-4114</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>2018, Q3/Q4</i>	Repairs to the upper guide wall. 10 hour per day closure, from 07:00-17:00, 7 days/week. Lock will be open from 17:00 through 07:00 the next day each day during the closure. Lockages will be restricted to 80' during this time, as there will be a coffer box in place on the lock wall. Industry can get on queue with a 15 barge tow; assist tug required to take the additional width through the lock during the open times.
<i>Starved Rock 2019</i> <i>Marseilles Lock 2019</i>	<i>815-667-4114</i> <i>815-795-2593</i>	<i>231</i> <i>245</i>	<i>2019, Q4</i> <i>2019, Q4</i>	Work is for installation of new miter gates, both upper and lower gates will be replaced with vertical framed miter gates. Work to be performed during the day, which will close the lock for 8-10 hours per day. Locking will take place during the remaining hours with an 80' restriction. <i>(Can lock 15 barges tows, just need a tug to assist during lockage).</i> <b>Note: there will be a 15 day total closure during the work.</b>
<i>Illinois River Complete Lock Closures 2020</i>	<i>Multiple Locks</i>		<i>2020 Q3/Q4</i>	<b>Starved Rock and Marseilles: Total Closure</b> , work is dewatering the lock chamber for major maintenance, along with Peoria, should in fact the closure be moved from 2019. <b>Dresden Island and Brandon Road:</b> Closures are for installation of new vertical framed miter gates and will be coordinated the same as the Marseilles and Starved Rock closures in FY2019. <b>LaGrange:</b> This closure would be for Major Rehab and is dependent upon funding. Total funding is \$89 Million and we would need half in 2018 and half in 2019 split 50/50 with IWTF. <b>Peoria:</b> While this 60 day closure is still scheduled for maintenance, the Corps stated they have an 80% confidence that this closure will move to FY2020, to confirm with industry by the end of March this year.
<i>Illinois River Complete Lock Closures 2023</i>	<i>Multiple Locks</i>		<i>2023, Q3/Q4</i>	<b>Brandon Road and Dresden Island: Total closure.</b> Work is dewatering the lock chamber for major maintenance.
UPPER MISSISSIPPI				
Locks 11,13,14,15,18,22	Temporary Closures	Multiple Locks	TBA 2017	30 closure periods, ranging from 4-36 hours will occur during 2017, dates TBA
Navigation Season Closing				See letter at end of newsletter for detailed information
OHIO				
Dashields	724-457-8430	13	7/10-10/31	Starting the second week of July through the end of August the primary lock chamber will be closed Monday through Thursday 6:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Belleville	740-378-6110	203	10/24-12/18	Main chamber closed for repairs, replacing upper miter gate
Meldahl	513-876-2921	436	5/7-10/17	Main chamber to close for repairs, replacing upper miter gate, aux lock available, expect 4 hours delay
Cannelton	812-547-2962	720	6/26-10/6 or 11/1	Main chamber to close for repairs, miter gate work, aux lock available, expect 12-24 hours delay
Lock 52	618-564-3151	939	7/17-9/29	Tentative Aux chamber closed intermittently for repairs, may move up 30 days, depending on river stage
TENNESSEE RIVER				
Wilson Lock	256-764-5223	259	9/12-13	intermittent delay up to 12 hours each day during working hours from 0700 to 1900
Wilson Lock	256-764-5223	259	10/16-12/22	Daytime closures to navigation traffic during working hours from 0600 to 1800 daily. These closures are necessary for the installation of the lower land valve
ARKANSAS				
Dardanelle Lock	479-890-4987	205	9/5-9/14	Complete closure for 10 days from 0600 9/5 – 1800 9/14. The week before, intermittent closures, lasting a few hours, at a time will occur.
MISSOURI RIVER				
Navigation Season Closing				Mouth of river closes ~12/1, all destination loads from all origins to be loaded by 9/15

## US Inland Waterways Weather Report

Some rain up north highlights the weather today.

A cold front will move slowly through the watershed on Thursday-Monday. Moderate to locally heavy rain is predicted for the region north of Dubuque and light to moderate rain is expected over the remainder of the region.

7day QPF totals (through Wednesday morning):  
3/4-2" of rain is predicted for the region north of St Louis.  
3/4" or less of rain is forecasted for the region south of St Louis.

### Tropical Outlook:

The remnants of Irma are currently located over southeastern MO and will move through the Ohio Valley today. Light rain is expected.

High wind shear is expected to continue over Hurricane Jose during the next couple of days. Intermittent periods of high shear and low shear are expected to impact Jose in the days 3-5 time period and Jose is expected to fluctuate between a strong tropical storm and a hurricane during the NHC forecast period. As far as track is concerned...the first three days are rather straight forward with Jose expected to make a clockwise loop over the west/central Atlantic before turning northwestward to the east of the northwestern Bahamas on Saturday. From there...model guidance is all over the place from near Bermuda to near the Mid Atlantic coast. Whether Jose impacts the U.S. coast will all depend on how far east it is in about a week. The farther east...the greater chance of Jose moving out to sea. The farther west...the greater chance of an impact on the Mid Atlantic or New England states near the end of next week. Steering flow will be delicate next week and right now there is no run to run consistency in any individual model let alone the consensus of them. We will have to wait and see early next week.

- Bill Frederick, USACE



Ohio River mi. 938, Lock and Dam #52 (file photo)

Lock	Vessel Queue	Lock Delay
Lock 15	UM482	1
LaGrange	IR080	24
Melvin Price	UM201	0
Lock 27	UM185	0
Meldahl	OR436	2
Cannelton	OR720	6
Lock 52	OR939	~50
Bayou Sorrel	PA36	1
Port Allen	LM228	3
Industrial (IHNC)	LM92	5
Algiers	LM88	1

Industry standard is to estimate 1 hour per boat for delays while waiting in lock queue.

### Quote of the Day

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."  
— Ronald Reagan

River Gauges	Curr/24 hr Change	24 hr>	48 hr>	72 hr>	flood stage
St. Paul	3.6/+0.1	3.6	3.5	3.5	14
Dubuque	8.8/+0.2	8.7	8.6	8.4	17
Hannibal	10.7/-0.4	10.6	10.6	10.5	16
Morris	5.0/-0.3	4.8	4.8	4.8	13
Beardstown	9.9/+0.1	10.0	10.0	10.0	14
St. Louis	4.8/-0.9	4.1	3.8	3.7	30
Chester	8.4/-0.6	7.6	7.0	6.6	27
Cape Girardeau	14.5/-0.4	13.8	13.2	12.6	32
Pittsburgh	16.9/-0.1	16.6	16.5	16.5	25
Cincinnati	27.1/nc	26.9	26.8	26.7	52
McAlpine Upr	12.9/+0.2	12.5	12.5	12.5	23
McAlpine Lwr	11.2/+0.6	10.9	10.6	10.5	55
Evansville	14.5/m	13.7	13.6	13.5	42
Paducah	9.5/-2.9	10.7	10.5	10.5	39
Cairo	16.5/-1.5	15.2	12.3	12.4	40
Memphis	3.1/-0.2	2.8	2.2	1.5	34
Little Rock	7.4/nc	7.4	7.4	7.4	23
Greenville	22.0/-0.9	21.4	21.0	20.8	48
Vicksburg	18.5/-1.3	17.7	17.1	16.7	43
Natchez	27.5/-1.1	26.2	25.4	24.9	48
Baton Rouge	16.0/-0.9	15.0	14.3	13.7	35
New Orleans	5.0/-0.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	17
<b>RED</b>	<b>at flood stage</b>				
<b>Orange</b>	<b>2' + increase</b>				

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1701 East Market Street, Jeffersonville IN 47130-4717

August 18, 2017

In preparation for the closing of the 2017 navigation season for the Upper Mississippi River during the winter months, the following tentative dates should be used for planning purposes.

***As operating conditions and weather dictate, these dates may be extended or shortened as the navigation season closes.***

**The following dates are our Upper Mississippi planned final departure dates:**

St. Paul, MN – South (UMR 857-640) <i>(Includes barge traffic for the Minnesota and St Croix Rivers)</i>	Sunday, November 19th
MacGregor/Dubuque – South (UMR 639-521)	Sunday, November 26th
Clinton, IA – South (UMR 520-240)	Sunday, December 10th

**The following dates should be used as final loading dates from points of origin.**

Barges loading to destinations between ***Dubuque, IA and St. Paul, MN:***

<u>PORT</u>	<u>BARGES TO BE LOADED AND RELEASED BY</u>
Mobile	September 26th
Houston	October 3rd
New Orleans	October 10th
Pittsburgh	October 6th
Huntington	October 8th
Chicago	October 6th
Memphis	October 15th
Owensboro	October 13th
Cairo	October 18th
St. Louis	October 20th

Barges loading to destinations between ***Louisiana, MO and Clinton, IA:***

<u>PORT</u>	<u>BARGES TO BE LOADED AND RELEASED BY</u>
Mobile	October 20th
Houston	October 27th
New Orleans	November 3rd
Pittsburgh	October 30th
Huntington	November 1st
Chicago	October 30th
Memphis	November 8th
Owensboro	November 6th
Cairo	November 11th
St. Louis	November 13th

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank You,

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