

Impacts of Low Water on the Inland Marine Transportation System

*For Inland Waterways Users
Board #67*

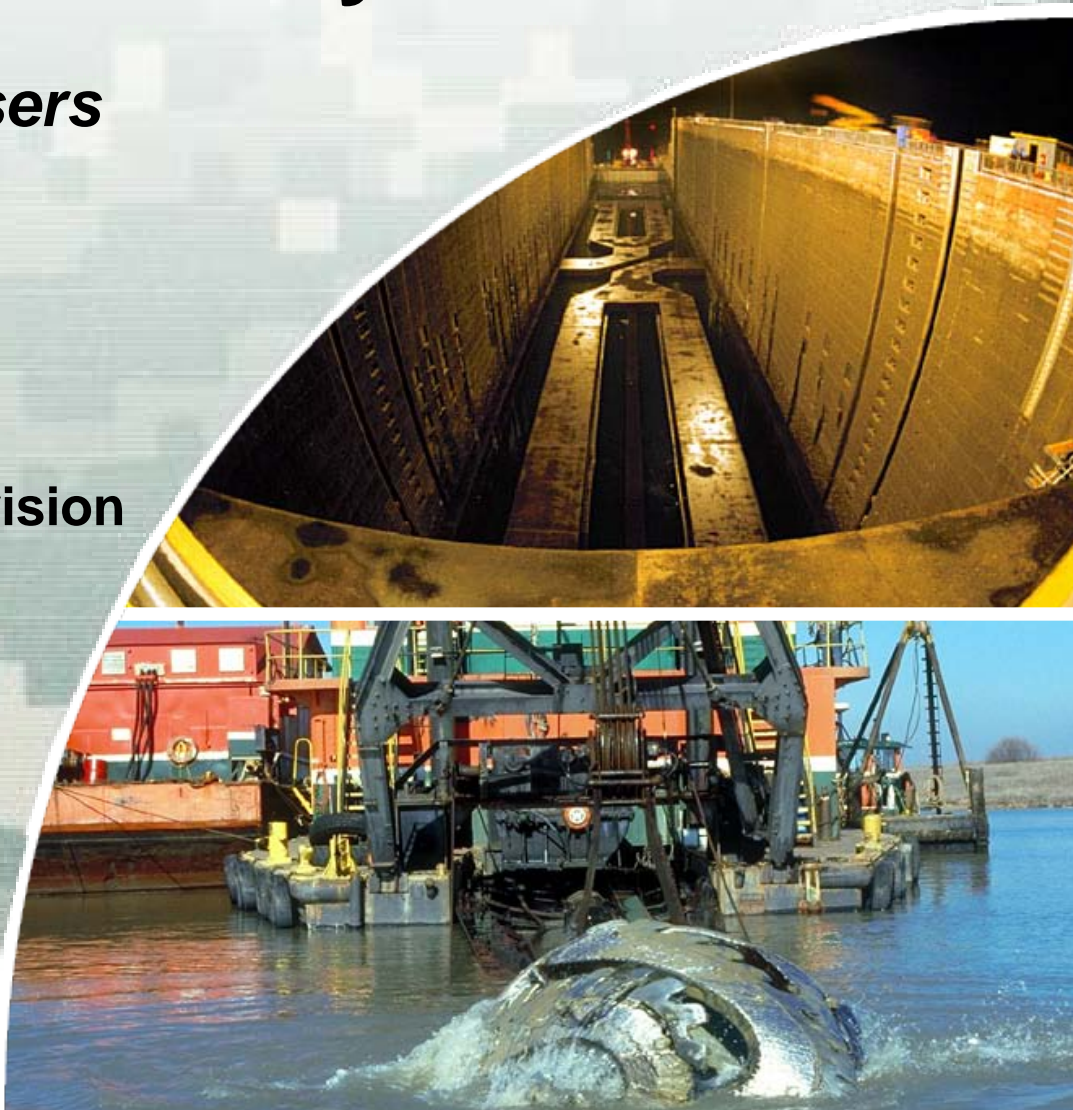
Jim Walker
Navigation Branch Chief
Operations and Regulatory Division

29Aug 2012

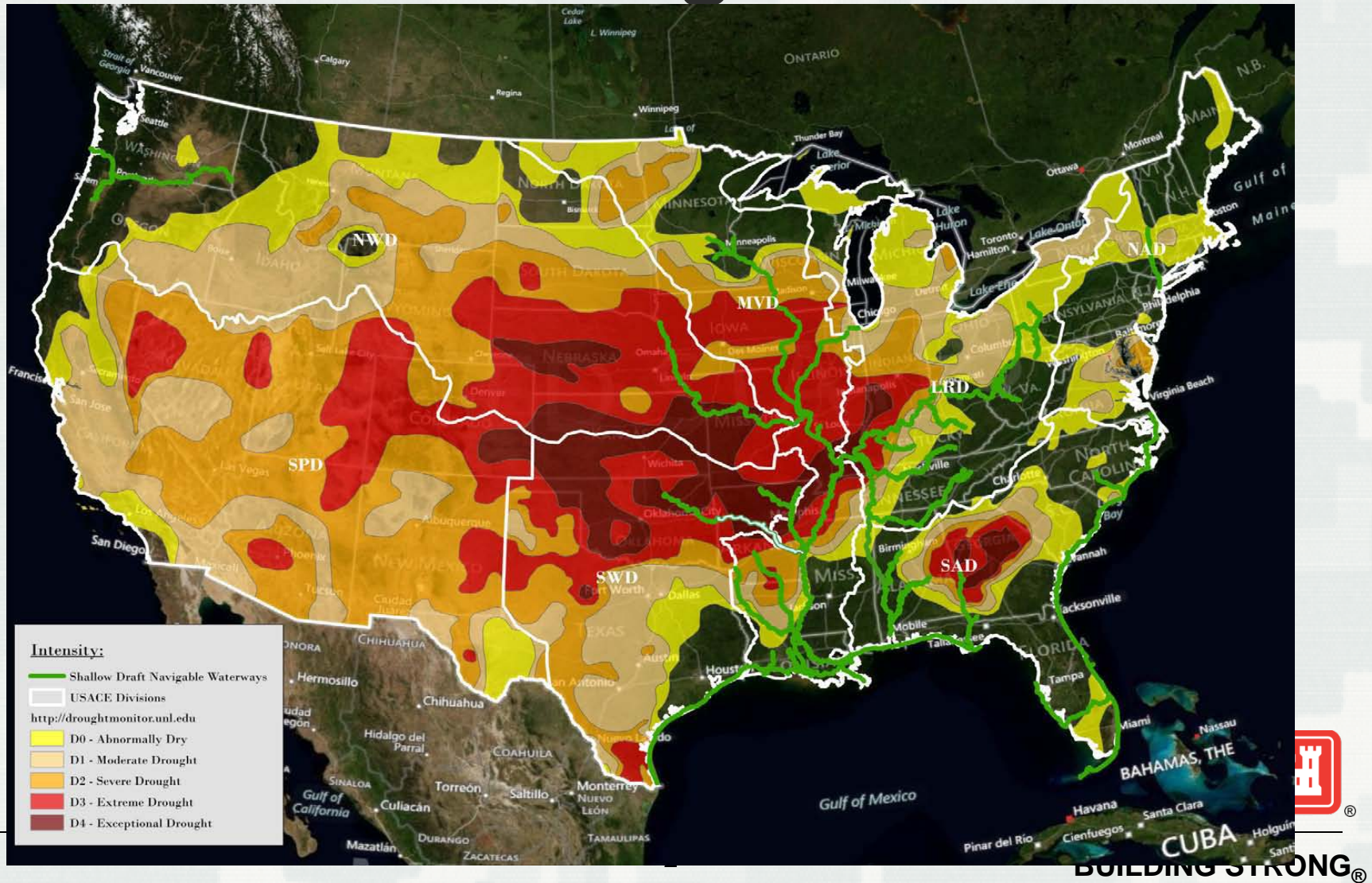


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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



From the Great Flood of 2011 to the Great Drought of 2012...



USACE Actions

Develop 'Common Operating Picture'

- Mississippi Valley Division
- Lakes and Rivers Division
- Northwest Division
- Southwest Division
- South Atlantic Division

Water Management Tools

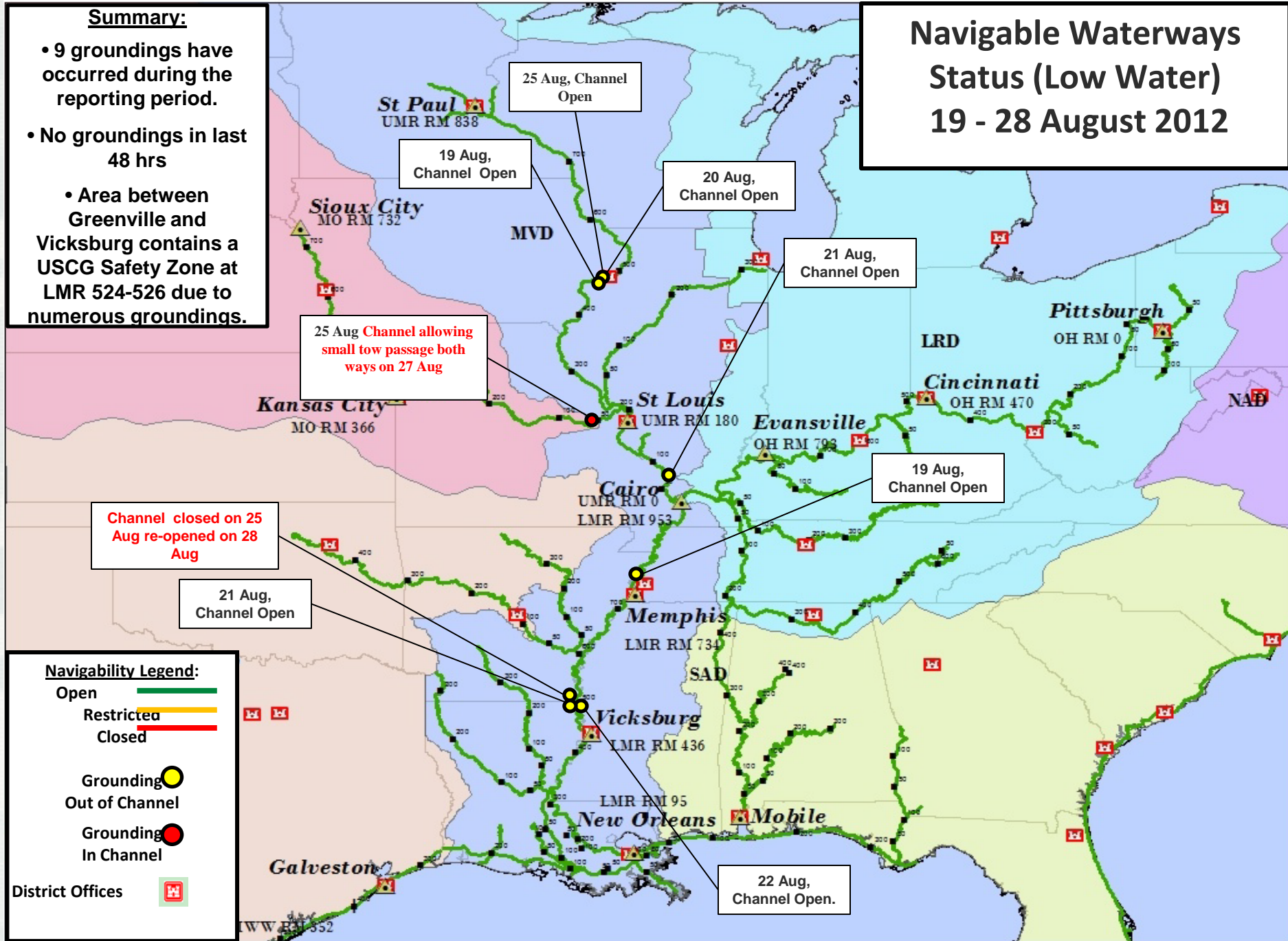
- Water Control Manuals
- Low Water Action Plans
- Reservoir Levels, water releases
- Stream gages
- Dredge locations
- Groundings
- Channel Availability



Navigable Waterways Status (Low Water) 19 - 28 August 2012

Summary:

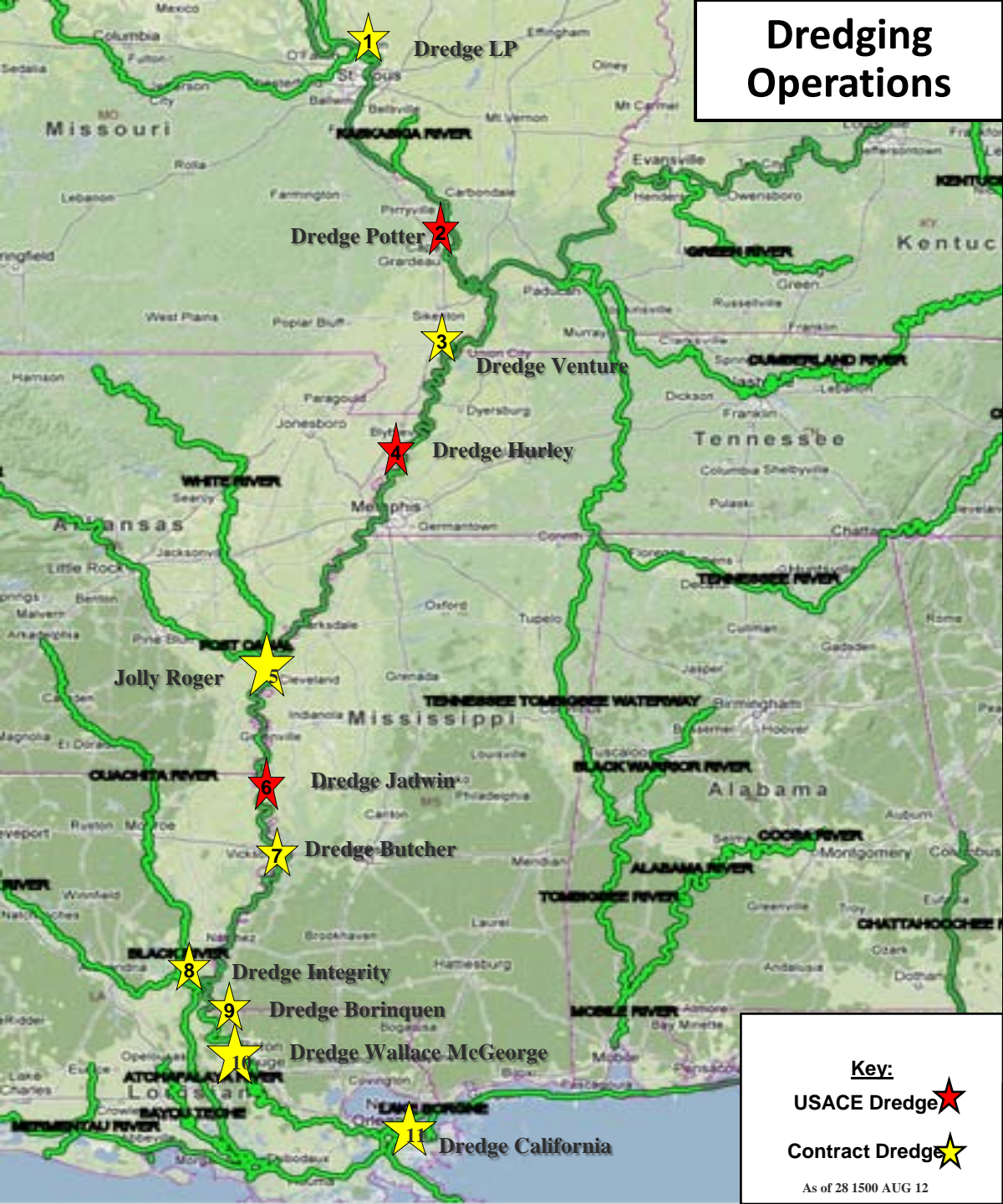
- 9 groundings have occurred during the reporting period.
- No groundings in last 48 hrs
- Area between Greenville and Vicksburg contains a USCG Safety Zone at LMR 524-526 due to numerous groundings.



Navigability Legend:

- Open —
- Restricted —
- Closed —
- Grounding Out of Channel ●
- Grounding In Channel ●
- District Offices Ⓜ


Dredging Operations



Low Water Dredging Operations:

1. Dredge LP (C) working at UMR 117 in mouth of Kaskaskia River
2. Dredge Potter (U) working at UMR 67 (15 miles north of Cape Girardeau, MO), will move to UMR 71 next
3. Dredge Venture (C) – Doing harbor dredging – at NW Tennessee Harbor (LMR 899) (near New Madrid, AR) (harbor), will move to New Madrid City next
4. Dredge Hurley (U)– dredging at Island 30 (LMR 788) (12 mi. north of Memphis, TN), will move to Commerce LMR 698 next
5. Dredge Jolly Roger (C) at White River Nautical Mile (NM) 0.0 and dredging from 0.0 to 0.5. **Should finish dredging later 28 Aug.**
6. Dredge Jadwin (U) – **completed** dredging at Lakeport (LMR 524.6) (16 mi. south of Greenville, MS), **now will move to LMR 485 next**
7. Dredge Butcher (C) –dredging at Lake Providence Harbor (LMR 483), will move to Madison Parish Port, LMR 456 next
8. Dredge Integrity (C) – dredging tributary - Red River Mile 39.0
9. Dredge Borinquen (C) – dredging tributary – Alchafalaya River Mile 0.0, moving to Lower Old River Mile 3 next
10. Dredge Wallace McGeorge (C) – dredging LMR 293 (63 mi. north of Baton Rouge, LA)
11. Dredge California (C) – Began working at saltwater sill construction site at LMR 64.5 (near Jean Lafitte, LA) on 22 Aug. Construction period – 45 days (23 Sep). **California secured from dredging late 27 Aug due to TS/H Isaac approaching. Will resume dredging when conditions allow.**

Key:

USACE Dredge 

Contract Dredge 

As of 28 1500 AUG 12

Summary:

•11 Dredges operating in response to Drought impacts

8 Contract Dredges

9 USACE Dredges



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Stakeholder Communication

- RIETF/RIAC
- Upper Miss
- Lower Miss (LOMRC)
- Ohio River (ICE)
- Missouri River
- Ms River Baton Rouge to Gulf
- Includes USACE, USCG, Navigation Industry, NOAA



White House Rural Council

- Chaired by Sec of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
- Navigation interest
 - Agricultural product transportation
 - Channel availability, dredging, groundings
- Water Supply
 - MS River Salt Water Barrier



Impacts

- Increased Cost
 - Smaller tow size
 - Shallower draft
- Increased Navigation Risk
 - Constrained channel
 - Tighter bends
- River Ports access to the main channel
 - 19 ports along the MS River, varying access depth
- Economic Impact Study



Assessment

- Exemplary Coordination, Collaboration, Communication
- Users: Excellent self restriction of tow size and draft
- USACE and Coast Guard: Responsive and timely
- Media: Good coverage; Explanations that enable the public to better appreciate IMTS Value to the Nation



USACE Drought Webpage

- Drought webpage being created for public information on Corps efforts
- <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/EmergencyOperations/Drought.aspx>.
- Links to Coast Guard, FEMA and Dept of Agriculture websites

