UPPER MISS:

Flooding Conditions in St. Louis – Daylight only transit through St. Louis harbor and Thebes bridge (UM50).

Significant ice/snow melt expected coming off the Upper Miss and Missouri Rivers - Record snow falls on the Upper Miss are beginning to melt and make their way down river. Below is an update on the affected locks:

Lock 20 (UM 343) closed on 3/18, expected to reopen on 5/16
Lock 24 (UM 273) closed on 5/1, expected reopen on 5/17
Louisiana RR Bridge (UM 282) closed on 4/30 expected to reopen 5/18, closing again on 5/21 as a result of upcoming rain event. The same forecasts have it remaining closed until around June 13.

ILLINOIS:

Heavy rains on the Illinois River have resulted in major delays on the upper end of the river – We have returned to normal transit through Marseilles and Starved Rock locks. The river remains closed from mile 10-80.2 and from 145-187 due to concerns of the river overtopping the levees. Current projections have river reopening on 5/18. Please note there is rain in the forecast that may cause issues again at Marseilles and Starved Rock locks

Illinois River 2019 Spring/Summer lock outages - Marseilles Lock and Starved Rock Lock will be closed to traffic 6/01/19 to 8/15/19 from 0600 to 1800 HRS. The locks will be open 1800 to 0600 HRS, but with a 70’ width restriction, assist boats will be required. Both locks will be closed to all navigation starting at 0100 8/16/19 to 2359 HRS 8/29/19. RIVER CLOSED 15 days. Lock will be fully open beginning 7/3 @ 0530 through 7/8 @ 0600.

Illinois River 2020 planned work at LaGrange, Peoria, Marseilles, Starved Rock Locks, 90-120 days closures, THIS WILL BE A COMPLETE RIVER CLOSURE.

ARKANSAS RIVER:

Flooding and high flows on the Arkansas River - All boats have stopped on the river; no movement is expected through the June 2nd.
**LOWER MISS:**
We continue to battle extreme flooding conditions in the Gulf, we expect to stay in restrictions until mid to late May. Expect significant delays in the Gulf during this time period.

**Sandbar Causing Delays on the Lower Miss at mile 567** - A sand bar outside of the channel is pushing additional water into the channel. This is making it difficult for northbound vessels to maintain speed and keep from stalling out, in some cases vessels are requiring assist boats to make it through. Industry representatives have requested surveys of the area, expect delays for the foreseeable future for NB vessels.

**Reduced tow sizes Cairo to Gulf** - Flood conditions have reduced tow sizes between Cairo and the Gulf by one-two strings, 10-15 barges, expect increased await pickup and transit times. The max tow size has been reduced from 40 barges to 25 or less per tow.

Due to high water, daylight only through the following bridges: Vicksburg (LMR 435) and Baton Rouge (LMR 237)

**GULF/CANALS:**
Significant Lock Delays:

**Bayou Sorrel Lock (PA36) closed on 5/11 due to high water**, this closure restricts all traffic between the Gulf and West Canal to moving through the Algiers or Harvey Locks.

**Calcasieu Lock (WC 238)** – Current queue is 13 boats.
**Algiers Lock** – Current queue is 52 boats.
**INHC Lock** – Current queue is 39 boats.

**WARRIOR TOMBIGBEE RIVER:**
Shoaling has the river closed in the Aberdeen area (TT 357) on the Tennessee Tombigbee, this area is impassable to traffic. The dredge is on site and working, latest predictions have the river reopening to barge traffic around May 22-24. The time was pushed back due to heavy debris. The Corps is only guaranteeing a draft of 8'-8'9” draft at the time of opening.

**OHIO RIVER:**
Montgomery Lock (OR 32) closures - Main chamber is NOW fully closed during weekdays from 4/24 - 6/14. Tows will pass through the small chamber during this time. Small chambers can only fit one barge at a time. Current delay is 54 hours. The main chamber will be open until Monday 5/20 morning, expecting to provide some reliefs in the delays experienced.
Special Note - Please be aware Celtic’s Service Agreement under the “Tolls, Taxes, or User Charges” clause gives Celtic the right to bill costs for lock delays.

INLAND WATERWAY WEATHER REPORT:

Heavy rain and severe thunderstorms begin Friday 5/17/2019

● A cold front will move through the region north of Cairo 5/17 bringing moderate to locally heavy rain.

● Another cold front will move in the watershed Friday-Monday. Daily rounds of moderate to locally heavy rain and widespread severe thunderstorms are expected.

● Still another front will remain over the Upper Mississippi Valley and the Plains states on Monday night through at least Thursday. Daily rounds of moderate to locally heavy rains are expected once again.

7day QPF totals (through Wednesday morning):

● ½-2” of rain is forecasted for the Lower Mississippi, Cairo and Tennessee Valleys

● 3-8” of rain is forecasted for the remainder of the region.

Bill Frederick/USACE