

Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Big River Coalition - Executive Director
Louisiana Maritime Association - Executive Vice President
Duffy Maritime Consultants, LLC – President & CEO



The Big River Coalition is committed to ensuring the future of navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel (MRSC) as one of the nation’s fundamental natural resources and true economic powerhouse. The Mississippi River and Tributaries has an estimated annual impact of \$735 billion on the nation’s economy and is responsible for 2.4 million jobs (585,000 jobs on the Lower River – Cairo, IL to the Gulf of Mexico and over 1.86 million jobs on the Upper River – Lake Itasca, MN to Cairo, IL when including the IL River).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Big River Coalition: 2011-Present

“Advocating for a Mightier Mississippi River”

The Big River Coalition (BRC) is committed to protecting maritime commerce across the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT). The BRC focuses on maximizing efficient maritime transportation on the deep-draft Mississippi River Ship Channel from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico. The Coalition is concerned about the management of the Mississippi River system and is focused on holistic water management and adverse impacts related to flood protection, protecting water supplies, increasing coastal restoration to also protect commerce and minimize the negative impacts of runoff and pollutants. It is critical to the nation’s economy that navigation on the Mississippi River remains unimpeded. As visions of the future of the MRT are shaped, that navigation representatives strive to ensure that systematic approaches protect maritime commerce and maintain fully authorized channel dimensions while modernizing and maintaining our water infrastructure and the free flow of maritime commerce, on the Mississippi River Ship Channel and the locks and dams along the MRT. The Big River Coalition’s missions are focused on securing increased funding from the Harbor Maintenance Tax and the Inland Users Fuel Tax, the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel to 50 feet and to increase the beneficial use of dredge material or “sediment recycling.”

The Big River Coalition is at the forefront of the deepening of the Mississippi River Ship Channel (50 feet). Mr. Duffy also serves as the Executive Vice President/Maritime Advocate for the BRC’s parent entity, the New Orleans Steamship Association d.b.a. Louisiana Maritime Association. As a proponent for the local maritime industry, Mr. Duffy has provided written and oral testimony to federal and state Congressional committees and the President’s Oil Spill Commission to advocate for channel maintenance while promoting safe navigation on the Mississippi River Ship Channel.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT:

Previous employment includes executive management positions with experience as a Boarding Agent, Deckhand, Stevedore General Superintendent and Marine Surveyor. Mr. Duffy is intimately familiar with obstacles faced by the maritime industry, both nationally and regionally, and has been recognized for his efforts to deepen the Mississippi River Ship Channel and to promote coastal restoration through the beneficial use of dredge material.

ASSOCIATIONS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS and APPOINTED POSITIONS:

- * National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Federal Advisory Committee Hydrographic Services Review Panel: Chairman
- * Congressman and U.S. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise's Maritime Advisory Group
- * Governor Jeff Landry's Task Force on Navigation and Safety
- * Mississippi Valley Trade and Transport Council: Chairman
- * Committee of 100 – Louisiana's Business Roundtable
- * American Petroleum Institute's Maritime Infrastructure Coalition
- * National Waterways Conference: Board of Directors
- * National Association of Maritime Organization: Board of Directors
- * Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Freight Advisory Council
- * Propeller Club Port of New Orleans: Board of Directors
- * Mississippi River Basin Stakeholder Advisory Team
(USACE and Institute of Waterways Resources)
- * United States Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi Valley New Orleans Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Subcommittee
- * Waterways Council, Inc.
- * Making Sense of Sensors Alliance: Chairman
- * Tulane Maritime Law MentorSHIP Program: Mentor

MARITIME AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS and CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- * 2024 Louisiana Master Naturalist Greater New Orleans Certification
- * 2023 New Orleans City Business Port & Maritime Power List
- * 2022 C. Alvin Bertel Award World Trade Center of New Orleans
- * 2022 Admiralty Legend
- * 2021 U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Merit
- * 2020 Texas A&M Dredging Engineering Short Course Certification (50th Year)
- * 2018 Global Maritime Ministries
Crystal Lighthouse Award as Maritime Person of the Year
- * 2018 American Infrastructure Project of the Year
Mississippi River Ship Channel Deepening
- * 2017 CG/LA Job Creation Project of the Year
Mississippi River Ship Channel Deepening
- * 2016 Coastal Innovator Award
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association