



Louisiana Shrimp Association
109 East 17th Place
Larose, La. 70373

August 20, 2025

Congressman Steve Scalise
266 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Immediate Action Needed on Dredging of Navigation Channel Near Lafitte,
Louisiana

Dear Congressman Scalise,

I am writing to urgently request your attention and support regarding a critical navigational waterway near Lafitte, Louisiana, that has become impassable for many large commercial fishing vessels due to lack of dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This is the channel from Grand Isle to Lafitte.

This channel, vital to Louisiana's commercial shrimping and fishing fleet, was originally funded almost a decade ago through the work of Rep. Tim Kerner and commercial shrimper Ronald "Jug" Dufrene. However, dredging has been stalled for years, and vessels are now routinely getting stuck because the waterway is too shallow for their draft. The Corps has confirmed funding is available, yet two issues continue to delay action.

1. A jurisdictional dispute: The Corps asserts that Jefferson Parish, as the non-federal sponsor, never formally requested dredging—only the Town of Jean Lafitte. This technicality has stalled progress despite repeated local pleas for action.

2. Oyster leases: Even more troubling, oyster leases were approved along 13 miles of this federal channel, leases that directly conflict with the Corps' obligation to maintain navigability. These leases may now require mitigation and environmental review, further delaying work that should have been completed years ago.

The situation is dire. Without dredging, our commercial fishermen cannot safely access the Gulf, threatening their livelihoods, Louisiana's seafood supply chain, and the cultural and economic fabric of our coastal communities. The Army Corps of Engineers has both the funding and responsibility to maintain this channel, yet bureaucracy and mismanagement continue to block progress.

I respectfully urge your office to direct the Corps to immediately proceed with dredging this federally obligated channel and Investigate how oyster leases were approved in a way that obstructs navigation and conflicts with federal commitments.

We ask that Jefferson Parish's formal request is now fully recognized so that no further jurisdictional excuses can delay this project .

Louisiana's commercial fishing industry cannot wait any longer. We hope to resolve this with leadership and support from our state and federal partners.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your prompt action.

Respectfully,

Acy Cooper, Jr
President
504-912-0150

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