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Warrior River impacted by Slip In

Mobile, Ala. –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District announced the Warrior River experienced a very significant "slip-in" of riverbank and trees on Warrior Pool at mile 329; the slide extends totally across the river, blocking the channel.

“Heavy rains combined with the rapid rise and fall of the river level with back to back flooding events apparently caused the saturated bank to give way,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Public Affairs Officer.

After the initial failure the slip-in extended bankward for approximately 300-feet into the the dike of Ophelia Upland Disposal Area.

“The initial analysis is that the saturated soil and fluctuating river levels just created a natural slide situation,” said Robbins.

“The good news is that it occurred during lock closure operations on the Black Warrior River when commercial traffic is halted,” Robbins continued. “We were also performing dredging operations upriver from the failure. This means we have the necessary equipment on site to begin clearing the slip-in and restoring the channel.”

Once trees are removed the area can be surveyed to get a more accurate estimate of material quantities. At this point we are estimating no more than

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“three weeks to have the channel back open to traffic,” said Robbins.

“Hopefully it will all work out that we have the channel cleared and the lock closures complete at the same time so traffic can again move along this vital Alabama waterway.”

More information is available on the website at <http://navigation.sam.usace.army.mil/> For further information on lock closures please contact the BW&T Alabama-Coosa Project Management Office at 205-752-3571.