

Hurricane Isaac

Deer Mortality and Habitat Assessment

September 2012

Presentation to the Louisiana Wildlife
and Fisheries Commission

4 October 2012

By

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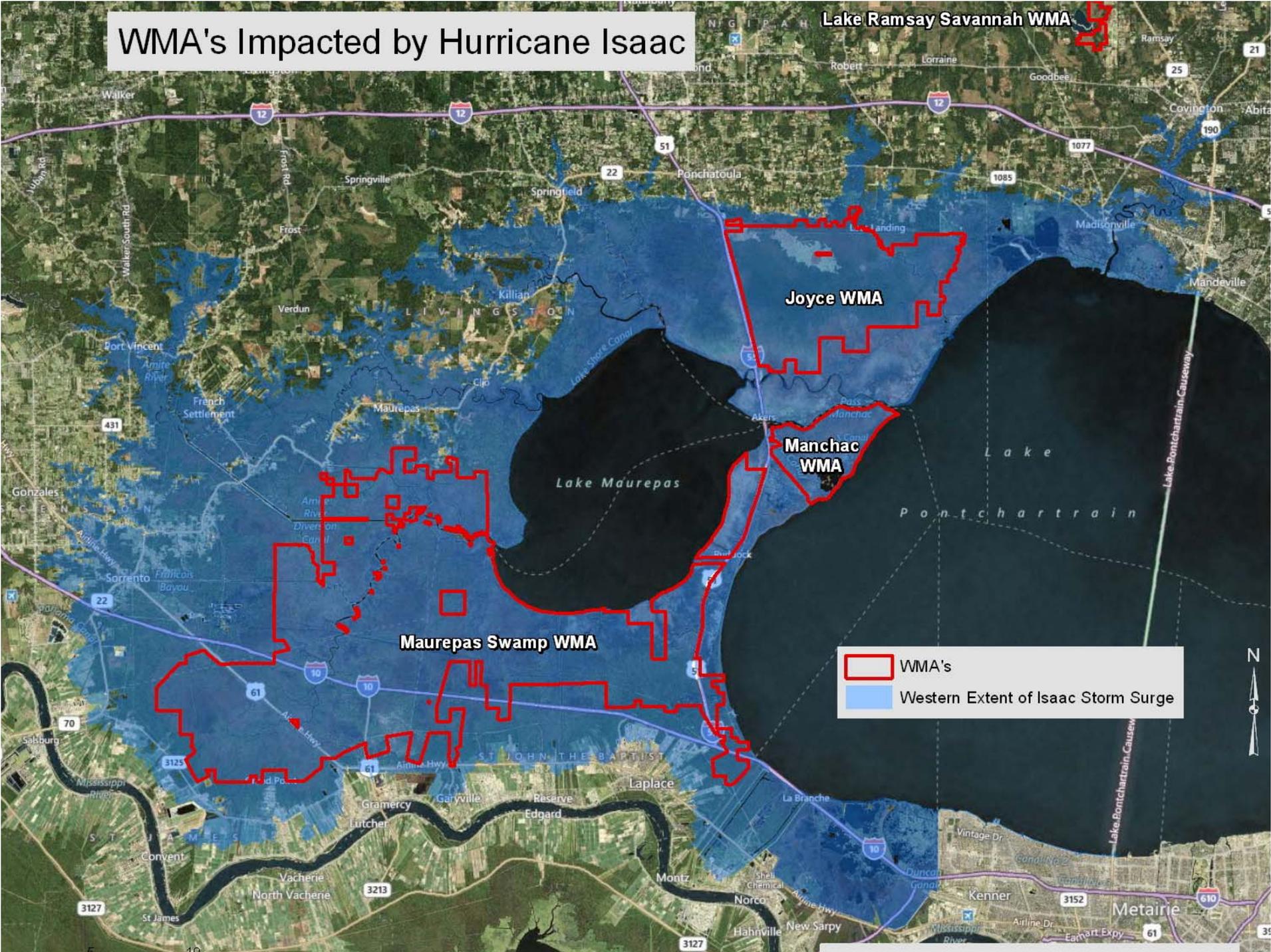
Areas of Major Concern

(Historically lower deer densities and poorer habitat quality)

- Lake Maurepas Basin
- Plaquemines Parish
- St. Bernard Parish



WMA's Impacted by Hurricane Isaac



Assessment Methods

- Foot, boat and aerial reconnaissance
- Interviews with hunters, LDWF Enforcement agents, landowners and others in impact areas
- Reports from general public

Lake Maurepas Basin

Conditions incurred:

- Surge waters 5-6 feet above normal
- Major flooding occurred for at least 4 days in some areas- (total flooded area of 391,000 acres)
- Light to moderate adult mortality
- High fawn mortality (estimated at 90%)
- Minimal to short term habitat impacts
 - Reduced browse availability/water shock

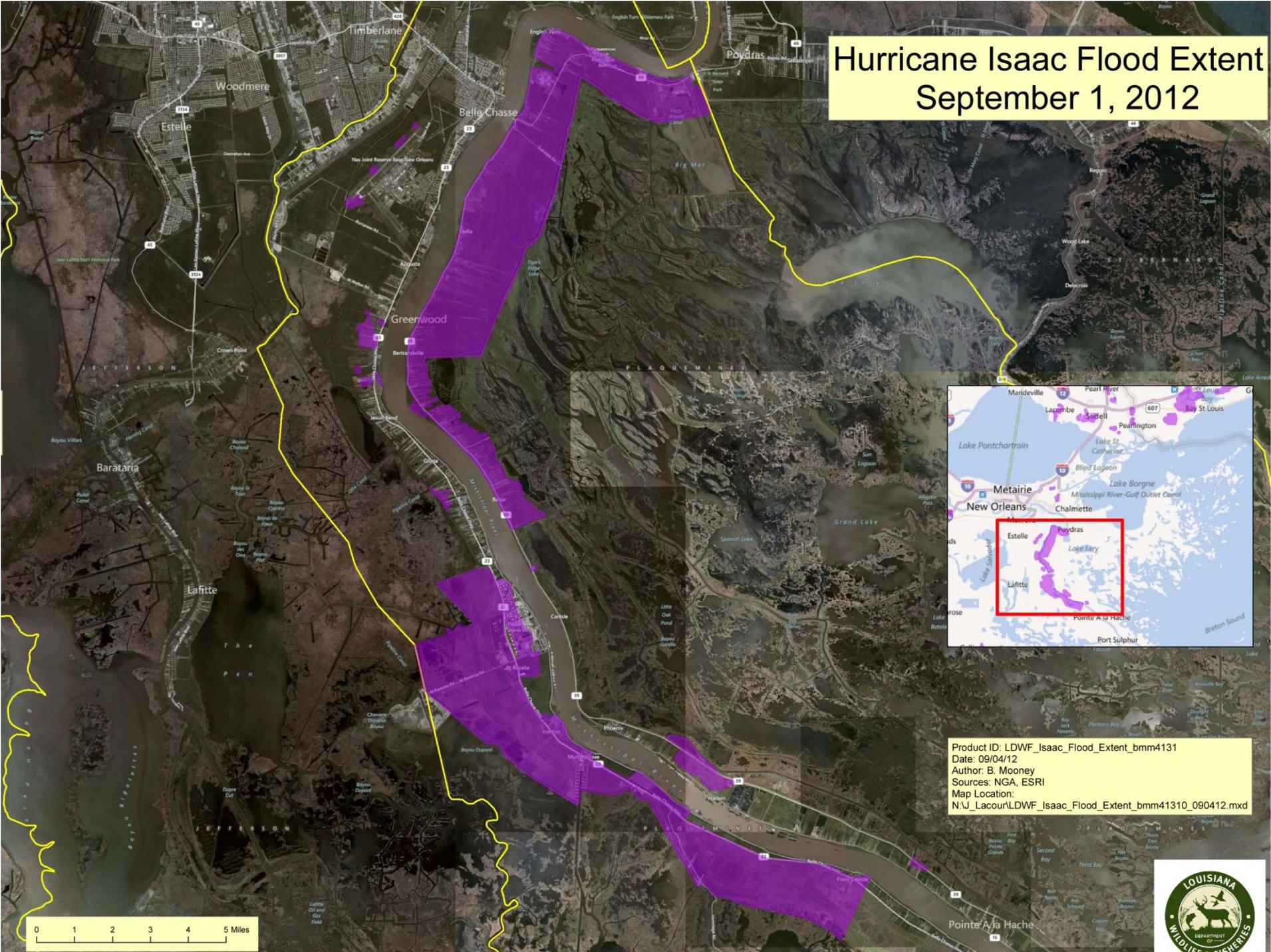


Plaquemines Parish

Conditions incurred:

- Portions of east and west banks severely flooded where protection levees were over-topped.
- Reported 14 foot surge in lower Plaquemines east bank.
 - More severe habitat degradation/salt water shock and debris
 - High fawn mortality
 - Moderate adult mortality

Hurricane Isaac Flood Extent September 1, 2012



Product ID: LDWF_Isaac_Flood_Extent_bmm4131
Date: 09/04/12
Author: B. Mooney
Sources: NGA, ESRI
Map Location:
N:\J_Lacour\LDWF_Isaac_Flood_Extent_bmm41310_090412.mxd





St. Bernard Parish

Conditions incurred outside of the major flood wall:

- Lower marsh and unprotected areas severely flooded
 - High fawn mortality *likely*
 - Low adult mortality *likely*
 - Portions of MRGO spoil bank not topped- good habitat remained

Indirect Impacts in all Affected Areas

- Additional stress leading to potential further adult mortality
- Exacerbates HD prevalence/occurrence
- Little recruitment in 2012-13, cohort greatly reduced



2012-13 Season *Change* Recommendations



Maurepas Basin - Defined Area

- Portions of St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Livingston, Ascension, St. James, St. John and St. Charles.
- Beginning on Hwy. 22 at the Tchefuncte River, west and south to Hwy. 70, then south to Hwy. 3125, then east to Hwy. 61 and then east to the Jefferson Parish line.
 - Archery season – **no change**
 - Youth, Bucks only still: Oct 27-28 (2 days)(**7days ES**)
 - Bucks only still: Nov 23- Dec 2 (10 days)(**21 days ES**)
 - Bucks only w or without dogs: Dec 8- 30 (23 days)(**44 days ES**)
 - Bucks only primitive: Jan 19-27 (9 days)(**18 days ES**)

ES= Either sex

WMA's Impacted by Hurricane Isaac

Lake Ramsay Savannah WMA

Joyce WMA

Manchac WMA

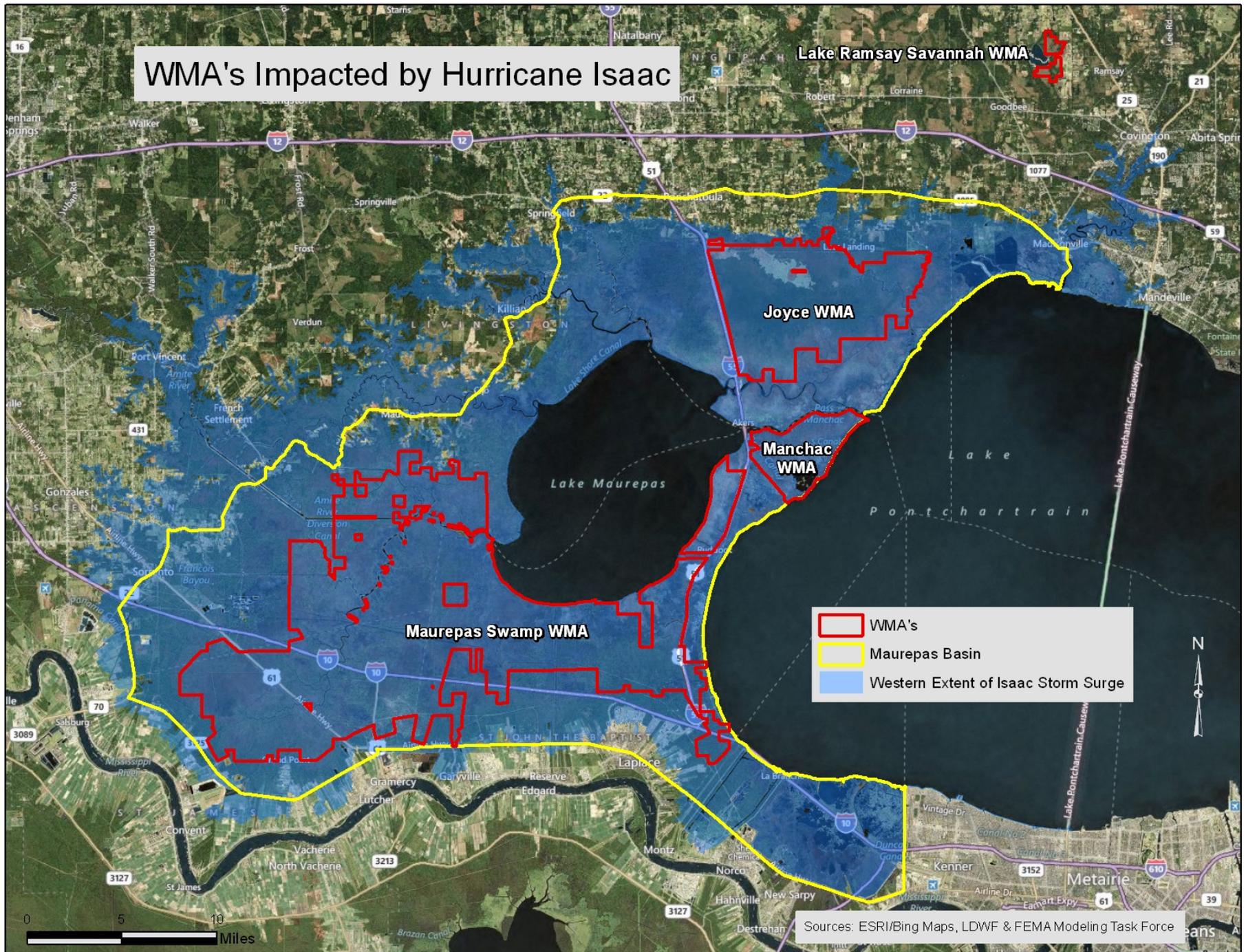
Maurepas Swamp WMA

Legend:

- WMA's (Red outline)
- Maurepas Basin (Yellow outline)
- Western Extent of Isaac Storm Surge (Blue shading)

Sources: ESRI/Bing Maps, LDWF & FEMA Modeling Task Force

0 5 10 Miles



WMAs

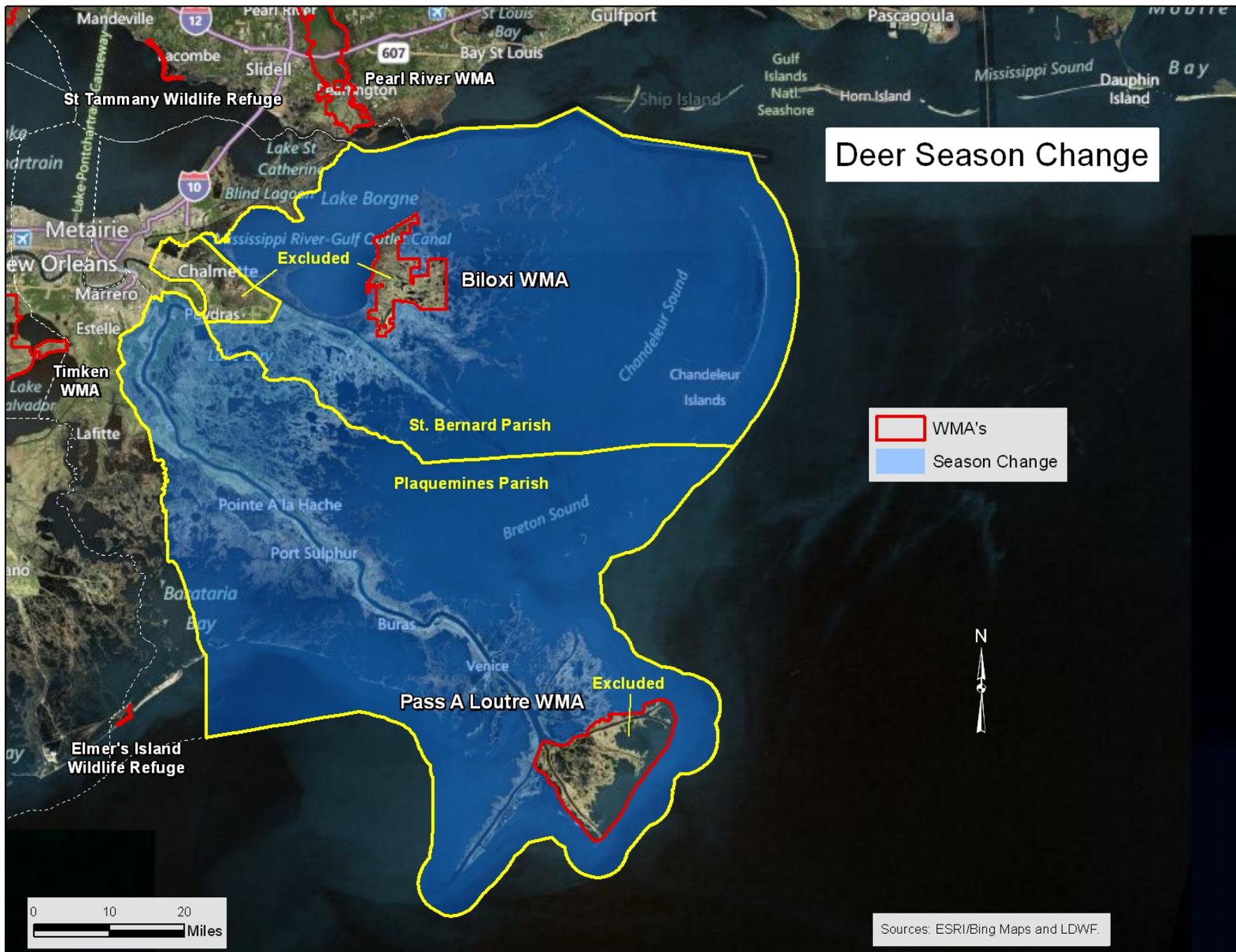
- Biloxi
 - Archery season – no change
- Joyce
 - same as *Maurepas Basin Defined Area* except still hunt only
- Manchac
 - Archery season – no change
- Maurepas
 - Archery season – no change
 - Youth season , Bucks only: Nov 3-4 (2 days)(2 days ES)
 - Bucks only modern firearms: Nov. 23, mandatory deer check; Nov 24-25 (3 days)(7 days ES)
 - Bucks only modern firearms: Dec. 22-28 (7 days)(23 days)
 - Bucks only primitive: Jan. 14-20 (7 days)(14 days ES)
- Pass-a-Loutre
 - Archery season – no change
 - Bucks only shotgun – no change

ES= Either sex

Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes - outside of the major flood wall

- Archery season – no change
- Youth, Bucks only still: Oct 27-28 (2 days) (7 days ES)
- Bucks only Still: Nov 23-25 (3 days) (21 days ES)
- Bucks only with or without dogs: Dec 22 – Jan 6 (16 days) (44 days ES)
- Bucks only Primitive: Jan 19-27 (9 days) (18 days ES)

ES=either sex



Deer Season Change

WMA's
 Season Change



Sources: ESRI/Bing Maps and LDWF.