

2013 Old River-Racourci Aquatic Vegetation Control Plan LDWF, Inland Fisheries

1. Waterbody type – active Mississippi River oxbow with ephemeral connection
2. No control structure.
3. Water level range (MSL) – Fluctuates with the Mississippi River
High – 63.40 feet on May 31, 1983.
Low – 9.10 feet on January 8, 1964
Gage: Old River Inflow Channel near Knox Landing, LA
4. Surface area – 4,000 acres
5. Average depth – 40 ft
6. Waterbody Board or Lake Commission – The Old River Lake Committee was formed and disbanded in 2006. Fish and wildlife resources are now managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
Primary contact information – Rachel Walley – District 7 Inland Fisheries Manager
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What significant stakeholders use the lake?

Commercial and recreational fishermen along with hunters and camp owners.

What are their needs and concerns? What is the history of aquatic vegetation complaints?

Vegetation complaints on Old River have been very minimal. There are no records of spray data at Old River. It is a natural oxbow lake of the Mississippi River and they are connected via “The Narrows” when the Mississippi River is at or above 17 feet at St. Francisville. This bayou floods Old River periodically, making the water very turbid. Consequently, submerged vegetation is very sparse in Old River. Floating vegetation is limited due to constant wave action and the lack of protected coves.

Have there been any controversial issues on the lake?

None reported.

Aquatic Vegetation Status:

Problematic Species (Predictions for 2013):

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) - <5 acres

Common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) - <5 acres

Duckweed (*Lemna spp.*) - <5 acres

Beneficial Species (Predictions for 2013):

Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) – <10 acres

Limitations:

The lake becomes very turbid during periods of high water when it is connected to the Mississippi River. These conditions would make foliar herbicide applications ineffective.

Past Control Measures:

Biological:

None

Chemical:

There are no records of herbicide applications being made at Old River.

Physical:

Old River routinely floods from the Mississippi River which fills the lake turbid water for prolonged periods of time, effectively preventing the establishment of submersed plant species.

Recommendations:

Old River will be monitored for aquatic vegetation status during the growing season. If any aquatic vegetation complaints are filed, they will be handled immediately.

If nuisance species become problematic, they will be controlled as follows:

Water hyacinth is controlled with 2, 4-D at a rate of 0.5 gallons per acre.

Common salvinia is controlled with diquat (0.75 gallons per acre) with a non-ionic surfactant (0.25 gallons per acre).

Duckweed (*Lemna spp.*) is controlled with diquat (0.75 gallons per acre) with a non-ionic surfactant (0.25 gallons per acre).

Typemap:

To date, no type-maps have been generated for Old River, as it has not been warranted. Should the need arise where performing a type-map would prove beneficial for aquatic vegetation management, it will be generated at that time.

Map of Old River

