

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

SIBLEY LAKE

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

June 2014 –Prepared by

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LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date reservoir formed

1962

Impoundment

Sibley Lake is an impoundment of Young's Bayou.

Owners – Sibley Lake is owned and operated by the City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish Water Works District Number One.

Purposes for creation – Created to serve as a water source for the city of Natchitoches and the surrounding area.

Size (surface area)

2,176 acres at pool stage

Water shed

40 sq. miles or 25,600 acres

Watershed ratio 11.8:1

Pool stage

116' MSL

Parish located

Natchitoches Parish

Spillway Width

The spillway consists of a 24-foot diameter morning glory drop inlet weir.

Drawdown description

Spillway

The spillway consists of a 24-foot diameter morning glory drop inlet weir with a crest elevation of 116 feet MSL. The structure discharges through two eight-foot by eight-foot reinforced concrete culverts that are 162.5' long. The culverts carry water from the drop inlet structure through the embankment into a stilling basin with submerged baffle blocks. The stilling basin empties into Young's Bayou on the north side of LA Highway 6.

There is a four-foot by four-foot drawdown sluice gate located on the north side of the morning glory spillway with an invert elevation of 98' MSL. The outlet structure for the drawdown sluice gate is the same as the drop inlet weir's discharge box culverts. This drawdown sluice gate provides for an 18-foot drawdown potential.

Condition – The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Dam

Inspection and Evaluation Report of February 6, 2014 describes the condition of the dam as fair.

Flow rate – Maximum rate of 3,500 cubic feet per second

Who controls

The City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish Water Works District Number One control the Sibley Lake control structure.

The City of Natchitoches relies on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for management of the fisheries resources in the lake.

LAKE AUTHORITY

Association

Sibley Lake is jointly owned and operated by the City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish Water Works District Number One.

The lake is patrolled by Sibley Lake Patrol, a division of the Natchitoches Police Department.

Contact information:

Brian Wimberly, City of Natchitoches/Utilities Director
Phone (318) 357-3850

Authorization

The City of Natchitoches was incorporated on February 5, 1819.

Water Works District No. 1 was created by ordinance of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury in 1958, under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:3811. Waterworks District No.1 was incorporated on December 1, 1959 by the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. The District operates under a Board of Commissioners form of government with 7 board members serving limitless terms. Board members are recommended by the Mayor of the City of Natchitoches and confirmed by the Natchitoches City Council.

ACCESS

Boat ramps

There are two public boat ramps at Sibley Lake. One is located on LA Hwy 504 in the Oak Grove Community and one is located on Texas Avenue at Sibley Lake Marina. These ramps are operated by the City of Natchitoches. No fee is required at these public boat ramps and no services are provided at these locations. The ramps are open continuously. A commercial boat ramp is located at Settle's Landing on LA Hwy 6 near Sibley Lake Dam.

Oak Grove Ramp – 997 Hwy 504, Natchitoches, LA 71457
Contact: Natchitoches Utility Department, Phone (318) 357-3850

Website: <http://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/utility>
Lat. 31.753756°, Long. W -93.154009°
Sibley Lake Marina Ramp (LA Hwy 3191/Texas Street Ramp) –
1248 Texas St., Natchitoches, LA 71457
Contact: Natchitoches Utility Department, Phone (318) 357-3850
Website: <http://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/utility>
Lat. N 31.775986°, Long. W -93.113147°

Settle's Landing – 198 Settle's Boat Landing Rd., Natchitoches, LA 71457
Contact: Phone (318) 663-1548
Lat. N 31.750370°, W -93.113246°
Contact: (318) 663-1548

A map of the lake including the locations of boat ramps appears in [Appendix I](#).

Piers

Public fishing piers and shoreline fishing areas are available at the Oak Grove Ramp and the Sibley Lake Marina Ramp. Private piers are present and associated with many lakeside properties.

State/Federal facilities

There are no state or federal recreational facilities on the lake.

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

State/National Parks

There are no parks located on the lake that offer recreational fishing or boating opportunities.

Shoreline development by landowners

Extensive residential properties are located along the shoreline of Sibley Lake.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE RESERVOIR

Shoreline length

Approximately 38 miles

Timber type

The lake bottom is devoid of standing timber.

Average depth

7 ft. at pool stage

Maximum depth

18 feet

Natural seasonal water fluctuation

1 ½ - 2 feet

EVENTS/PROBLEMS

Special Regulations

The following information is excerpted from the City of Natchitoches' website regarding the Sibley Lake Patrol.

Every person on Sibley Lake ages 16 to 60 should have a recreation permit for boating, skiing or any other water activity.

Permits cost \$5 each and can be bought at Sibley Lake Mini Mart, Buddy's Grocery on La. Hwy. 504, Settles Landing on La. Hwy. 6 and Wal-Mart. The permits are good for one year from July 1 to June 30 of each year.

Everyone should adhere to no-wake zones and be aware that the speed limit is 5 mph between the red buoys and the shore. The speed limit is in place because of a City Ordinance and is for the safety of all people on the lake.

Those driving boats, jet skis or other devices are prohibited from drinking alcohol. The rules regarding driving automobiles and drinking alcohol apply to those operating any kind of watercraft on the lake.

The webpage may be viewed at: <http://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/sibley-lake-patrol>

Aquatic Vegetation

Sibley Lake differs from many other waterbodies in that it is owned by a municipality and a water district. The City of Natchitoches has a strong presence on the lake including staff members who monitor and make herbicide treatments to aquatic vegetation as they see fit. LDWF provides treatment assistance to that staff as requested.

The routine efforts of the Natchitoches staff, coupled with periodic assistance from LDWF have provided effective control of aquatic vegetation at this lake.

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was discovered in Sibley Lake in January of 1973. LDWF files and personal communications with former staff members document a 7 - 8 foot drawdown in conjunction with foliar applications of herbicide in the fall of 1973. A mixture of diquat, copper sulfate and surfactant was tank-mixed and both over-sprayed and injected in potholes that remained inundated during the drawdown. Records also indicate a five successive year drawdown regime that eradicated hydrilla from the lake at that time.

Scattered specimens of hydrilla can currently be found in Sibley Lake but no treatments or control measures directed towards this plant species have been implemented by LDWF in recent years.

LDWF files indicate no major aquatic vegetation problems during the next two decades. In 2008, common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) and giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) were first treated by LDWF spray crews. Giant salvinia has remained problematic since that time in isolated areas that are protected from wind and wave action.

In recent years, minor treatments were made for control of alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), Cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*), common

salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and water lily (*Nymphaea spp*).

Drawdowns

Five consecutive 7-8 foot drawdowns were conducted in the fall of 1973 – 1977. The drawdowns were executed in an effort to control hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). The drawdowns were deemed successful.

Typemap

To date, no vegetation typemap has been developed for Sibley Lake. There currently are no plans to typemap the lake.

Treatment history by year available

Biological – none to date.

Chemical – The use of herbicides is an important component of the LDWF integrated pest management program. The proper selection and use of herbicides is essential to achieve cost effective benefits and to avoid damage to non-target species. Each product listed has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic use. Aquatic vegetation is treated according to the standard operating procedures for the application of herbicides as adopted by the LDWF Inland Fisheries Section. Chemical treatments made at Sibley Lake by year appear in Table 1.

Table 1. Chemical treatments made by LDWF at Sibley Lake by year.

Treatment Year	Chemical	Vegetation	Acres Treated	Rate
2007	Knockout	American Lotus	24	0.75 gal./acre
2008	Reward	Common Salvinia	2.4	0.75 gal./acre
	Diquat E Pro 2L	Giant Salvinia	57.3	0.75 gal./acre
	Reward	Giant Salvinia	17.6	0.75 gal./acre
2009	Diquat E Pro 2L	Alligator Weed	13.59	0.75 gal./acre
	Glyphos Aquatic	Alligator Weed	1.06	0.75 gal./acre
	Glyphos Aquatic	American Lotus	2.12	0.75 gal./acre
	Reward	Common Salvinia	1.73	0.75 gal./acre
	Diquat E Pro 2L	Giant Salvinia	19.71	0.75 gal./acre
	Glyphos Aquatic	Giant Salvinia	45.36	0.75 gal./acre
	Reward	Giant Salvinia	77.28	0.75 gal./acre
	Glyphos Aquatic	Water Lily	1.0	0.75 gal./acre
	Reward	Water Lily	0.4	0.75 gal./acre
2010	Diquat E Pro 2L	Giant Salvinia	16.1	0.75 gal./acre
2011	Diquat E Pro 2L	Common Salvinia	0.27	0.75 gal./acre
	Diquat E Pro 2L	Giant Salvinia	1.06	0.75 gal./acre
	Knockout	Giant Salvinia	4.59	0.75 gal./acre
	Knockout	Water Hyacinth	1.33	0.75 gal./acre
2012	Knockout	Giant Salvinia	0.6	0.75 gal./acre
	Tribune	Giant Salvinia	13.3	0.75 gal./acre

2013	Aquamaster	American Lotus	20.4	0.75 gal./acre
	Aquamaster	Cutgrass	0.4	0.75 gal./acre
	Aquamaster	Giant Salvinia	134.77	0.75 gal./acre
	Roundup Custom	Giant Salvinia	84.0	0.75 gal./acre
	Sonar AS	Giant Salvinia	1.0	80ppb
	Tribune	Giant Salvinia	1.99	0.75 gal./acre
2014	None	None	None	None

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Recreational Fishing Regulations

The City of Natchitoches has passed ordinances establishing special fishing regulations for Sibley Lake to include the following:

Sec. 22-56. Fishing rules.

The following rules shall be in force governing fishing on Sibley Lake, to-wit:

- (1) All state laws and regulations shall be enforced.
- (2) No person will be allowed to seine in the waters of the lake. Fish traps and nets are prohibited.
- (3) No commercial fishing will be permitted on Sibley Lake except when recommended by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries to eradicate trash fish. In such event, commercial fishermen must be approved and must obtain a written permit from the Sibley Lake custodian.
- (4) Fishing will be permitted in all areas of the lake except Area Three, which is off-limits, being the area around the water intake structure and the spillway.
- (5) Use of unsanitary catfish bait or other unsanitary baits is prohibited.
- (6) Trot lines will be permitted under the following rules and regulations, to wit:
 - (a) No trot lines will be permitted in ski areas from May 1 to October 1 of each year.
 - (b) Trot lines shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) feet in length and no line shall contain more than fifty (50) hooks; one individual may have more than one line but will be limited to a total of seventy-five (75) hooks; each line must have one floating device bearing the name and address of owner.
 - (c) Any trot lines not meeting the above requirements, in any respect, will be confiscated by the lake custodian without notice.
 - (d) Any unattended trot lines, yo-yos, or other similar devices are to be confiscated by the lake custodian, and no such lines, or other lines or any type, are to be extended horizontally

in such a manner that any such line will be above the water line of the lake.

(Ord. No. 854, § 5, 6-8-64; Ord. No. 895, 7-11-66; Ord. No. 1018, 4-24-72; Ord. No. 46-1981, § A, 12-28-81)

These and other special regulations may be viewed at:

<https://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=11202>

Statewide recreational fishing regulations may be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

Commercial Fishing Regulations

Commercial fishing is prohibited by ordinance of the City of Natchitoches as detailed in the *Recreational Fishing* section of this document.

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

Five consecutive fall drawdowns are recorded for Sibley Lake. These drawdowns occurred in years 1973-1977 and were intended to control hydrilla. The lake was lowered 7-8 feet below pool stage each year. The drawdowns were effective in controlling hydrilla and provided lasting effect for several years thereafter.

Fish kills

No fish kills related to drawdowns are recorded at this lake.

FISH KILLS / DISEASE HISTORY

No fish kills are recorded for Sibley Lake.

CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION

In 1988, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were discovered to be in concentrated amounts in soils near the drainage outlet of the Tennessee Gas Pumping Station and to a lesser extent in soils in the inlet leading from the plant to the open area of the lake. The chemical was also found in all species of fishes present in the lake with the highest levels being in filet portions of gar, carp, catfish and hybrid striped bass. A fish consumption advisory was issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) on February 16, 1989. A cleanup of a one acre "hotspot" at the Tennessee Gas Transmission (TGT) drainage outlet began in February 1992 and was completed in February 1993.

Follow up studies of PCB levels in fish began in the spring of 1994 to determine if fish filet samples would indicate that the cleanup effort had reduced the presence of PCBs in the fish population. Hybrid striped bass fingerlings were stocked into the lake in 1993, 1994 and 1995 to aid in this evaluation. LDEQ has subsequently sampled the fish population on a

regular basis and issued a revised fish consumption advisory on January 31, 1996. That revision stated: *No consumption of gar, shad, and carp. Skin and trim fat from all other fish. Broil, grill or bake fish. Do not fry fish. Within any one month period consumption should be limited to ONLY one of the following: One meal/week of largemouth bass or crappie OR one meal/month of channel catfish, or striped bass.*

The current fish consumption advisory for Sibley Lake may be viewed at:
<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/planning/Fish%20Consumption%20Advisory%20Table%20-%202013-8-96.pdf>

Water Quality

Water Quality information for the watershed including Sibley Lake is listed on the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality website:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

Water quality sampling is conducted by LDWF in conjunction with standardized sampling activities on the reservoir. Measured parameters include pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and temperature. All parameters are within acceptable limits.

Water level

No constant recorder information available. A sight gauge is located at dam. Water levels typically drop 1-2 feet during summer months.

BIOLOGICAL

Fish samples

Table 2. Historical, current and proposed LDWF biological fisheries sampling conducted at Sibley Lake.

1965	Rotenone – 4 one acre samples
1974	Rotenone – 4 one acre samples
1975	Rotenone – 4 one acre samples
1976	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples
1978	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples
1980	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples
1981	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples
1985	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples
1986	Rotenone – 4 one acre samples

1988	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 2 samples – Spring
1990	Rotenone – 6 one acre samples 1—100' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, 6 Feet Deep, Mono Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 3 samples – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 2 samples – Spring Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample
1991	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 2 samples – Spring Frame Nets ½ Inch Bar, 3 ft. X 6 Ft. Frame – 27 samples – Fall
1992	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 3 samples – Spring Frame Nets ½ Inch Bar, 3 ft. X 6 Ft. Frame – 11 samples – Fall Rod and Reel – 1 sample - Fall
1993	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 sample – Spring Frame Nets ½ Inch Bar, 3 ft. X 6 Ft. Frame – 14 samples – Fall
1994	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, boom) 1 sample – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample
1995	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 4 samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 2 samples – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample
1996	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, boom) 1 sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 12 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 32 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample
1998	3—300' Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300' Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono
1999	3-25' X 6' Seine, 3/16" Bar, 1 Quadrant
2000	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 13 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 13 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 16 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 18 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 21 minute sample – Fall
2001	3-25' X 6' Seine, 3/16" Bar, 1 Quadrant
2002	Leadnets – ½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 1½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 2 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter
2003	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 13 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 17 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 13 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 17 minute samples – Fall

	<p>Frame Nets ½ Inch Bar, 3 ft. X 6 Ft. Frame – 1 sample – Fall Leadnets – ½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample - Winter Leadnets – 1½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 2 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter</p>
2005	<p>3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 15 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 17 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 18 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 19 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 13 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 17 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 20 minute sample – Fall Frame Nets ½ Inch Bar, 3 ft. X 6 Ft. Frame – 1 sample – Fall Leadnets – ½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 2 samples - Winter Leadnets – 1½ Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter Leadnets – 2 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 1 sample – Winter</p>
2006	<p>Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 4 samples - Fall</p>
2007	<p>Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 15 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 19 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 20 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 12 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 1 – 13 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 2 – 17 minute samples – Fall</p>
2008	<p>3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono</p>
2009	<p>Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 20 samples - Fall</p>
2010	<p>Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 5 samples - Fall Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 10 samples - Winter</p>
2013	<p>Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 2 – 34 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 35 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 36 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 37 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 39 minute sample – Spring Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 31 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 32 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 35 minute sample – Fall Electrofishing –(nighttime DC, prod) 1 – 37 minute sample – Fall Leadnets – 1 Inch Bar, 3 ½ Foot Diameter – 8 samples - Fall</p>

	Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample
2014	No fisheries sampling scheduled.
2015	No fisheries sampling scheduled.
2016	Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing –(daytime DC, prod) 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing, forage, 1 sample 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 2.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 3.5 Inch Bar, Mono 3—300’ Gill Net Sets, 4 Inch Bar, Mono

Lake records

Lake records on Sibley Lake are not maintained by any known entity. The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) maintains state fish records for Louisiana. LOWA’s record fish list may be viewed at:

<http://www.laoutdoorwriters.com/Records/LouisianaFishRecords/tabid/87/Default.aspx>

Stocking History

The stocking history of Sibley Lake is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Historical fish stockings at Sibley Lake, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

Date	Florida Largemouth Bass	Size	Hybrid Striped Bass	Size
1993	67,874	Fingerlings	25,200	Fingerlings
			95,000	Sac Fry
1994	0		45,000	Sac Fry
1995	0		108,667	Sac Fry
2005	0		4,540	Fingerlings
2006	0		21,750	Fingerlings
2007	0		21,724	Fingerlings
2009	0		25,067	Fingerlings
2010	0		30,329	Fingerlings
Total	67,874		377,277	

Species profile

LDWF samples taken at Sibley Lake show the following species to be present in the lake.

Gar Family, LEPISOSTEIDAE

Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Bowfin Family, AMIIDAE

Bowfin, *Amia calva* Linnaeus

Freshwater Eel Family, ANGUILLIDAE

American eel, *Anguilla rostrata* (Lesueur)

Herring Family, CLUPEIDAE

Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)

Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Günther)

Minnow Family, CYPRINIDAE

Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus

Golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)

Sucker Family, CATOSTOMIDAE

Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacépède)

Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops* (Rafinesque)

Blacktail redhorse, *Moxostoma poecilurum* (Jordan)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE

Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas* (Rafinesque)

Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)

Blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus* (Lesueur)

Channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque)

Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus* (Mitchill)

Flathead catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris* (Rafinesque)

Pike Family, ESOCIDAE

Chain pickerel, *Esox niger* (Lesueur)

Pirate Perch Family, APHREDODERIDAE

Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus* (Gilliams)

Killifish Family, CYPRINODONTIDAE

Blackspotted topminnow, *Fundulus olivaceus* (Storer)

Livebearer Family, POECILIIDAE

Western mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

Silverside Family, ATHERINIDAE

Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)

Mississippi silverside, *Menidia audens* (Hay)

Inland silverside, *Menidia beryllina* (

Temperate Bass Family, PERCICHTHYIDAE

White bass, *Morone chrysops* (Rafinesque)

Yellow bass, *Morone mississippiensis* (Jordan and Eigenmann)

Hybrid striped bass, *Morone saxatilis X chrysops*

Sunfish Family, CENTRARCHIDAE

- Green sunfish, *Lepomis cyanellus* Rafinesque
- Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus* (Cuvier)
- Orangespotted sunfish, *Lepomis humilis* (Girard)
- Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus* (Rafinesque)
- Dollar sunfish, *Lepomis marginatus* (Holbrook)
- Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* (Rafinesque)
- Redear sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus* (Günther)
- Redspotted sunfish, *Lepomis punctatus* (Valenciennes)
- Bantam sunfish, *Lepomis symmetricus* (Forbes)
- Northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacépède)
- Florida largemouth bass, *Micropterus floridanus* Kassler et al.
- White crappie, *Pomoxis annularis* Rafinesque
- Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)

Perch Family, PERCIDAE

- Logperch, *Percina caprodes* (Rafinesque)

Drum Family, SCIAENIDAE

- Freshwater drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens* (Rafinesque)

Genetics

Sibley Lake was stocked with 67,874 Florida strain largemouth bass in 1993. Florida strain largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to incorporate a genetic trait associated with larger maximum sized adult fish. Results derived from genetic analysis of samples taken from electrofishing in year 2007 are detailed in Table 6.

Table 6. Genetic analysis of largemouth bass taken from Sibley Lake, Natchitoches Psh. Louisiana.

Number	Year	Northern	Florida	Hybrid	Florida Influence
68	2007	76.5%	7.5%	16%	23.5%

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

No threatened or endangered species of fish are found in the lake.

Several non-native plants are known to occur found in Sibley Lake including: water hyacinth, alligator weed, hydrilla, and giant salvinia.

CREEL SAMPLING

Historic information / Type

A creel survey was initiated in February 1995 to determine angler effort and catch rates. This access point survey was conducted on four weekend days and two weekdays per month during the months of February through November. In addition to the angler interviews conducted at access points, a roving count of boats was made during each survey period.

Current methods

No creel census survey is currently underway on the lake.

Hydrological changes

None noted in recent years.

WATER USE

Hunting

There are waterbody specific hunting regulations in place. These regulations were created by ordinance of the City of Natchitoches. The regulations allow only for waterfowl hunting in designated areas. Specific hunting regulations for Sibley Lake may be viewed at: <https://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=11202>

Skiing

This reservoir is a popular destination for skiing and recreational boating.

Scuba Diving

None noted.

Swimming

No designated swimming areas are provided at Sibley Lake. Swimming is prohibited at public boat ramps.

Irrigation

Lake water is used for lawn irrigation by shoreline property owners.

Boating

The City of Natchitoches has established specific boating regulations for Sibley Lake. These rules may be viewed at: <http://www.natchitochesla.gov/content/sibley-lake-patrol>

APPENDIX I
[\(return to boat docks\)](#)

Sibley Lake Map

