

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

CHENIERE LAKE

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

DOCUMENT SCHEDULED TO BE UPDATED ANNUALLY

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LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date reservoir formed

Original impoundment - 1944

Impoundment

Owner – Ouachita Parish

Purposes for creation - fish preserve and recreation

Size

3,115 acres

Water shed

98,560 acres (154 sq. miles), 32:1 ratio.

Single family homes, gravel pits, pasture land, low lying streams, upland mixed pine-hardwood forests.

Pool stage

66.5 MSL

Parish/s located

Ouachita

Spillway width

60 feet

Drawdown description

Drawdowns have historically been conducted at rate of 3-4 inches per day.

Spillway -

Gate size – 10' wide x 6' tall (4), 10' wide x 9' tall (2)

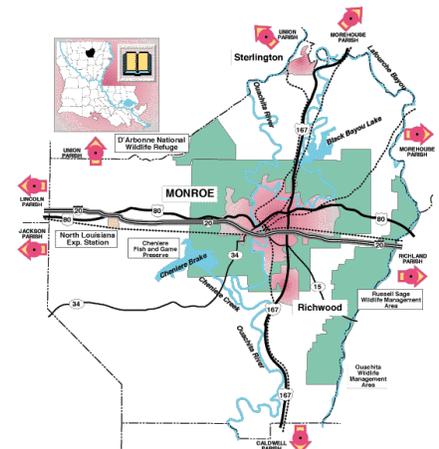
Number of gates - 6

Condition – fair

Flow rate - Unknown

Who controls

Ouachita Parish Police Jury



OUACHITA PARISH

LAKE AUTHORITY

Association – No current lake commission. Former Cheniere Lake Commission was advisory committee to Ouachita Parish Police Jury. It was abolished in November of 1999.

Authorization – Ouachita Parish Police Jury is sole authority

1. Members (current) – Mack Calhoun (district contact), Walt Caldwell, Scotty Robinson, Ollibeth Reddix, Shane Smiley, Pat Moore
2. Contact Information – OPPJ phone :(318) 327-1340, fax: 327-1339

The Cheniere Brake Fish Preserve was created in 1945 by a lease agreement between the Louisiana Department of Conservation and the Dixie Lumber Company. In 1959, the property of approx. 3,000 acres was purchased by the Police Jury of Ouachita Parish for \$150,000. Cheniere Lake is still owned and under the management authority of the Ouachita Parish Police Jury.

ACCESS

Boat docks

Map with boat docks provided:

Piers

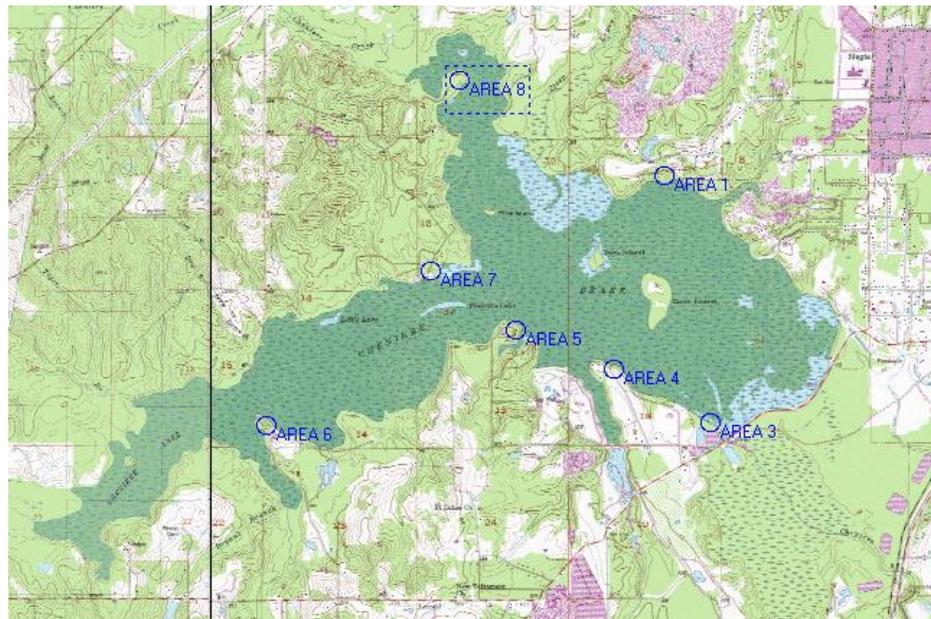
Area 1 Park

State/Federal facilities

NA

Reefs

No artificial reefs



SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

Area 1 developed for public use by Ouachita Parish Public Works

Picnicking - There are covered pavilions for rent in scenic locations having electricity, kitchen area and water. Fee is \$50.00/day.

RV Park - There are 8 RV sites and 2 tent sites overlooking the lake with electricity, water and dump station. Handicap accessible. Fee is \$12.00/night, \$10.00/night for Sr. Citizens. New bathhouse is air-conditioned and handicap accessible. Washer and dryer also available.

Playgrounds - Several playgrounds are located close to picnic pavilions. Tennis court, volleyball and baseball field.

Lodge - Large rustic building for parties, reunions, weddings/receptions and meetings. Accommodates approximately 100 people, kitchen has refrigerator, stove, ice machine, soft drink machine, coffeepot. A barbecue grill is available. Large fireplace with wood supplied. Available for rent daily for \$375.00, \$75.00 refundable. For reservations call Ouachita Parish

Public Works (318) 387-2383.

Shoreline development by landowners

Most of the lake perimeter is owned and developed as private homes and camps. Many small boat docks line the shoreline.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF LAKE

Shoreline length

24 miles

Timber type

Bald cypress, water tupelo (both very abundant)

Average depth

5.9 feet

Maximum depth

16.5 feet

Natural seasonal water fluctuation

2-4 feet

EVENTS / PROBLEMS

Water Level

In 1944, a natural swamp area (Cheniere Brake) in southwest Ouachita Parish was impounded to form the current Cheniere Lake ([Appendix I](#)). The dam was raised to enlarge the reservoir in 1951. Back-flooding periodically occurs from the Ouachita River. Years in which water back-flooded from the Ouachita River were include 1968, 1973, 1983, and 1991.

Common Salvinia (*Salvinia minima*)

Common salvinia was first observed by LDWF biologists in fall 2007. It's coverage rapidly expanded throughout the lake, with hundreds of acres completely covered, impacting boating and fishing in 2008. The coverage was considered to be a serious threat to the fisheries and natural habitat and also a hindrance to recreational users. During a Feb. 2009 survey, vast surface mats were observed in the southwest portion of the lake, and smaller accumulations were seen throughout the lake. Approximately 20% of the lake was covered. Treatment with a contact herbicide (diquat @ 1 gal/acre) has been limited to open areas and near boat ramps. This is not a viable control option due to the dense stands of cypress and tupelo, which prevent access by boat. Parish personnel have also removed stop logs from the spillway at times when large mats have accumulated nearby to flush it from the lake. Salvinia coverage was far less in 2010 and in 2011 during which time only a small amount was observed in a creek north of Area 8. Environmental factors, including fluctuations from rain events and backwater flooding from the Ouachita River, are suspected control mechanisms. During early 2012, coverage had again

increased, with surface mats forming in various areas of the lake. Intensive herbicide treatments were made to all accessible areas. Currently (Feb. 2013), common salvinia is scattered throughout lake, with a total coverage of approximately 25 acres. The total acres sprayed for the most abundant species are shown in Table 1 in Aquatic Vegetation, below.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Statewide regulations for all fish species in place since impoundment

Recreational

Statewide regulations for all fish species, the 2013 recreational fishing regulations may be viewed at the link below:

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

Commercial

The 2013 commercial fishing regulations may be viewed at the link below:

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

Parish Regulations

(SEE APPENDIX II - Excerpt of Ouachita Parish Ordinances)

Sec. 11-51. Commercial fishing--Prohibited within specified dates.

The taking of commercial fish by the use of seines, gill nets and trammel nets, or by any other means when done for commercial purposes, is hereby prohibited on and within Cheniere Lake between the dates of May fifteenth, and September twenty-fourth, of each calendar year.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 1, 11-10-69)

Editor's note: Sections 1--7 of Ord. No. 7261, non-amendatory of this Code were codified as §§ 11-51--11-57, respectively, at the editor's discretion. The phrase "this ordinance" was replaced by "sections 11-51 through 11-57," and italicized catch phrases were added, to preserve Code format and facilitate indexing and reference.

Sec. 11-52. Same--Permit required; requirements of permittee.

Any and every person taking commercial fish for commercial purposes by whatever means during the period that commercial fishing is allowed on Cheniere Lake, namely September twenty-fourth through May fifteenth, of succeeding years, must, in addition to comply with all Louisiana laws regulating commercial fishing, possess a permit from the parish police jury acting by and through the Cheniere Lake Park Commission, which shall be issued upon application and payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), and evidence of such permit shall be maintained on each commercial fishing device, i.e., net, trap, etc. In the exercising of these

commercial fishing privileges, the permittee shall attend all nets placed in the lake daily, refrain from beating the water or otherwise driving fish and maintain a record of the kinds and number of pounds of each kind of fish taken and return said records and permit to the parish police jury or its agent by May fifteenth of each succeeding year. Any person fishing commercially with nets between the dates aforesaid is required to have net sizes to the following specifications:

(a) During pool stage, conditions (66.5 MSL) a minimum of three (3) inches square, six (6) inches stretch.

(b) During draw down conditions below 66.5 MSL, a minimum of four (4) inches square, eight (8) inches stretch.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 2, 11-10-69; Ord. of 9-18-78; Ord. of 7-20-81)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-58. Use of nets, automatic fishers, trotlines regulated.

(a) *Nets*: Any commercial fishing nets found on Cheniere Lake in Ouachita Parish that do not have required Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries tags and a Cheniere Lake permit, or that [are] of illegal size in accordance with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations, shall be confiscated by the Cheniere Park Director.

(b) *Yoyos, trotlines*: The use of yoyos (automatic fishers) and trotlines is permitted for taking fish on Cheniere Lake in the parish. [However], the Cheniere Lake Park Director shall confiscate any such fishing device which is discovered to have dead fish attached thereto during the park director's inspection of such device.

(Ord. of 5-15-78)

Editor's note: Ord. of May 15, 1978 specifically amended the Code by adding subsections (g), (h) to § 11-40. Due to the subject matter addressed in said section, and for purposes of classification, said provisions have been re-designated as § 11-58, as hereinabove set out.

AQUATIC VEGETATION

Cheniere Brake is a natural swamp with approximately 80% coverage of bald cypress *Taxodium distichum* and water tupelo *Nyssa aquatica*. Submerged vegetation is seasonally abundant in shallow waters. Species present typically include coontail *Ceratophyllum demersum*, fanwort *Cabomba caroliniana*, and bladderwort *Utricularia spp.* The floating species water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* and duckweed *Lemna spp.* become abundant at times. Coverage of common salvinia has fluctuated since it was first observed in small amounts in 2007. Since its discovery in the lake, salvinia has been the species of most concern, with control of it becoming a priority. The annual drawdowns have been beneficial in controlling submerged aquatic vegetation.

Type map

None performed to date (difficult to survey due to dense stands of trees)

Biomass Vegetation Sampling

None performed to date

Treatment History

Biological – Approximately 500 Florida salvinia weevils were stocked into Cheniere Lake on Aug. 16, 2008. They were originally placed into a 5 ft. x 5 ft. PVC frame near Area 8, which was completely covered by common salvinia. Rain and winds from Hurricane Gustav soon moved much of this accumulation to the south side of the lake, where the frame and contents were relocated to Area 5 on Sept. 16. Weevil survival was assessed in February, 2009, with none detected. Stockings were terminated following the 2009 infestation due to the significant decline in coverage.

Chemical – Periodic treatments of water hyacinth (2,4-D at 0.5 gals/acre or glyphosate at 0.75gals/acre) and duckweed (diquat dibromide at 1.0 gal/acre) have been made in the past. Recently, applications of diquat have been made to large mats of common salvinia adjacent to boat ramps. Table 1 below summarizes the amount of herbicide sprayed on Cheniere Lake since 2008 for the most common nuisance species.

Table 1. Acres of vegetation treated with foliar herbicides for the most common nuisance species on Cheniere Lake, 2008 – 2012.

Year	Acres Sprayed	Vegetation
2008	15	common salvinia, water hyacinth
2009	1,252	common salvinia, water hyacinth, pennywort
2010	788	duckweed, common salvinia, alligator weed
2011	168	duckweed, common salvinia
2012	425	common salvinia, duckweed

Physical

Water fluctuations that mimic the historic water level regime of Cheniere Lake have provided habitat improvement. The low water periods that naturally occur in the late summer and fall are duplicated with drawdowns. See Drawdown History below.

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

Several drawdowns conducted between 1965 and 1997 were primarily designed to address overabundance of aquatic weeds or stump removal. Drawdowns ranged from 3 ft. to 6 ft. and were conducted during both summer and winter.

In 1994, the Cheniere Lake Commission, a citizen's advisory group appointed by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury, requested that LDWF attend one of their meetings to discuss management of the lake. In response to complaints of poor fishing by anglers, the Lake Commission had proposed a 14" minimum length limit for largemouth bass. The proposal prompted a LDWF investigation into the problem. Findings of the investigation indicated the poor fishing experienced by angler was the symptom of a longer term problem. The

impoundment of Cheniere Lake had disrupted natural water fluctuation of the original swamp area. Under permanent impoundment, leaves from the heavy canopy of cypress and tupelo fell and sank to the bottom of the lake, where they were subject to anaerobic, instead of aerobic decomposition. The slower process of decomposition had resulted in an excessive build-up of organic material on the lake bottom over the 50 years since impoundment.

In response to a Lake Commission request for recommendations to provide positive results in the shortest possible time frame, initial recommendations were made to provide maximum drying and decomposition of organic material. Those recommendations included summertime drawdowns of 6 foot below pool stage for two successive years. The recommendations immediately met strong opposition and were rejected by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury.

In August of 1998, alternative recommendations were made for fall drawdowns of 6 feet below pool stage to achieve the same results, but over a longer period of time. The recommendations were further reduced from a drawdown of 6 feet below pool stage to one of 3 feet below pool stage to reduce inconvenience to duck hunters. The compromised recommendations were accepted by the Ouachita Parish Police Jury and a 3 foot drawdown was conducted from September 15, 1998 through January 15, 1999.

In 1999, the Cheniere Lake Commission with a different composition of members determined that an opinion from an independent biologist was needed. The group secured funds from the Police Jury and contracted Mr. James Macky McIntyre (Lake Pro Inc.) for alternative lake management recommendations.

Lake Pro Recommendations included the following:

- 1) Replace spillway at a higher level. (3' recommended in report)
- 2) Install large screens on spillway gates to prevent fish from escaping.
- 3) Try to maintain a constant water level.
- 4) Divert rainfall water from entering the upstream areas of the lake.
- 5) Do not draw the lake down.
- 6) Build ponds for production of fingerlings. Stock bass fingerlings as needed
- 7) Chemically treat aquatic vegetation.
- 8) Cut boat lanes wider for improved access by bigger bass boats.

Since some recommendations from LDWF and Lake Pro were in opposition, additional reference material was provided to the Police Jury. In addition, a list of contacts from the field of fisheries management was also provided. LDWF recommendations for a 3 foot drawdown were approved.

Annual 3 ft. fall drawdowns began in 1998 initially for an experimental period of 4 years for decomposition of organic material. Results were positive. A standing recommendation was issued in 2002 for annual 3 foot drawdowns to extend from mid-September through mid-January. A drawdown was not conducted in fall 2007, but they have been conducted annually since.

Drawdown Fishing closure

No official closures have been imposed, but fishing is limited during drawdowns as a function of limited boater access.

Estimated % exposed

Estimated 23% exposed during 3 foot drawdown

Who operated structure?

Ouachita Parish Public Works

Fish kills

No

FISH KILLS / DISEASE HISTORY

Largemouth bass were sampled in 2002 for occurrence of Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV). All 33 fish sampled were found to be negative for the virus.

Fish Kill - July 12, 1996 in the Pine Island area.

Dead fish included:

Approx.: 200 largemouth bass

50 bluegill

30 chain pickerel

Water in the fish kill area was muddy. Dissolved oxygen levels measured in range from 0.5 to 5.0 ppm. Fish appeared to have been dead for 48 hours. Timing of death coincides with recent heavy rains. Suspected cause of death is localized turnover caused by flush of rainwater from Cheniere Creek.

Fish Kill – Nov. 25, 2009

A resident on Laphan Rd. near Area 1 reported approx. 12 largemouth bass lying lethargically near the shoreline and numerous other fish at surface. An investigation revealed a total of 6 dead largemouth bass near Area 1. The dissolved oxygen level was slightly low in the area, following three days of cloudy weather. This appeared to be an isolated kill.

Fish Kill – June 23, 2011

Approximately 5,200 dead gizzard shad along with 4 drum, 1 largemouth bass, and 1 bluegill were found in proximity of the spillway, mostly on downstream side. The kill appeared to coincide with a recent heavy rainfall that followed a long dry period, with natural causes suspected.

CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION

Water quality

Fish consumption advisories are issued by Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) due to methyl mercury concentrations found in fish samples. The most recent advisories can be found on the respective agency websites:

www.dhh.louisiana.gov and www.deq.louisiana.gov.

The agencies will consider issuing a health advisory limiting fish consumption for pregnant or breast feeding women and children under seven for locations and species where the average concentration of mercury exceeds 0.5 parts per million (ppm) in fish and shellfish. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) uses a maximum allowable level of 1.0 ppm, which was established to protect consumers at mercury concentrations 10 times lower than the lowest levels associated with the initial adverse effects of mercury.

It is important to note that both the mercury concentrations found thus far in Louisiana and the alert levels used by FDA and LDHH/LDEQ are well below those found to cause mercury poisoning due to consumption of contaminated fish. Two notable mercury poisoning cases occurred in the 1960's in which over 100 persons were killed or became ill as a result of eating contaminated fish almost daily over an extended period of time. These episodes took place in Minimata and Nigata, Japan. In each case, industrial discharges of mercury were routed to bays where fish were obtained for local consumption. Average mercury concentrations in fish tissue from both areas ranged from 9-24 ppm, with some fish having concentrations of up to 40 ppm.

Fish Consumption Advisory issued for Cheniere Lake - July, 2004:

Women of childbearing age and children less than seven years of age should not consume (Choupique, Grinnel) and should consume no more than two meals per month of largemouth bass from the advisory area. Other adults and children seven years of age and older should consume no more than two meals per month of bowfin (Choupique, Grinnel) and should consume no more than four meals per month of largemouth bass combined from the advisory area.

Water level

No records available

BIOLOGICAL

Fish samples

LDWF fish sampling was initiated in Cheniere Lake in 1965 with block-off net rotenone sampling. Rotenone sampling was conducted to gain insight into the overall fish population. Sampling sites were blocked off with a large ¼" mesh nylon net. The net enclosed one acre areas and was deep enough to extend from the surface to the lake bottom. Three to four of the one acre samples were conducted in a sample year, all during the summer months. Cheniere Lake rotenone sampling was conducted in the years of 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1994.

Standardized sampling was initiated in 1989 with electrofishing. Electrofishing has been conducted in 1989, 1992 and in alternating years thereafter. Shoreline seining is conducted at the Cheniere Lake boat ramps to gain insight into forage abundance and young of the year fish abundance. Seining has been conducted in 1992, 2002, and in alternating years thereafter. A summary of past and scheduled sampling is provided in Table 2.

All fish sampling techniques are influenced by environmental factors that can create significant variance in results. Accordingly, LDWF sampling is standardized to the greatest extent possible and analyzed over long periods of time to establish population trends.

Table 2. Summary of past and scheduled standardized fisheries sampling on Cheniere Lake, 1989 – 2015.

CHENIERE LAKE SAMPLING	
Note: All sampling conducted as per LDWF Standardized Sampling Guidelines.	
1989	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples. Note: 15 minutes is not the total time required for the sample. LDWF electrofishing samples are defined as 900 seconds of time that electricity is actually being applied into the water. In addition, other parameters such as sampling equipment, time of day, time of year and sample site are all consistent.
1992	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Shoreline seining – 5 samples conducted at boat ramps
1994	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall)
1996	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall)
1998	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall)
2000	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Age & Growth, Genetics data collected for largemouth bass
2002	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Age & Growth, Genetics, and LMBV data collected for largemouth bass
2004	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Shoreline seining – 7 samples conducted at boat ramps
2006	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Age & Growth, Genetics data to be collected for largemouth bass Shoreline seining – 5 samples conducted at boat ramps
2008	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Age & Growth, Genetics data to be collected for largemouth bass Shoreline seining – 5 samples conducted at boat ramps
2009	Electrofishing 6-15 min. samples (spring), 2-15 min. samples (fall) Shoreline seining – 6 samples conducted at boat ramps
2011	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall)
2013	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Largemouth bass genetics
2014	Shoreline seining – 6 samples conducted at boat ramps
2015	Electrofishing 6-15 minute samples (spring and fall) Largemouth bass genetics

Stocking History

Other than the stocking of catfish in 1977 and 1985, only Florida largemouth bass *M. floridanus* have been stocked into Cheniere Lake. The purpose for stocking Florida bass is to provide anglers an opportunity to catch larger bass than would be expected from a population of only native northern largemouth bass. Florida bass have the potential to grow quicker and to a larger average size than northern bass. Since the completion of a bass rearing pond in 2000, all Florida bass fingerlings provided by LDWF hatcheries are first stocked into the rearing pond and “grown out” for a period of time before stocking into the lake. These larger size fingerlings will have a higher survival rate than those typically available from the hatchery. Table 3 below summarizes the fish stockings conducted in Cheniere Lake from 1977 to current.

Table 3. History of fish stockings conducted by LDWF on Cheniere Lake, LA 1977 - 2012.

Date	Number / Species Stocked
1977	35,400 channel catfish
1985	30,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings (Phase 1) and 31,320 blue catfish fingerlings
1989	36,000 FLMB fingerlings
1993	20,150 FLMB fingerlings
1995	18,000 FLMB fingerlings
2000	1.6 acre rearing pond for production of phase I and II FLMB fingerlings constructed in 2000 primarily through the efforts of Police Juror Mac Calhoun. Mr. Calhoun solicited the donation of the property, the construction work, and some of the materials.
2001	133,000 FLMB fingerlings, 16,000 FLMB (Phase 2)
2002	120,000 FLMB fingerlings, 600 FLMB (Phase 2)
2003	195,000 FLMB fingerlings, 5,000 FLMB (Phase 2)
2004	40,000 FLMB (Phase 1 and 2)
2005	300 FLMB (Phase 2 – range 5”-11.5”)
2006	280 FLMB (Phase 2)
2007	150,000 FLMB fingerlings, 1,000 FLMB (Phase 2)
2008	91,500 FLMB fingerlings, 220 FLMB (Phase 2)
2009	2,700 FLMB (Phase 2)
2010	3,000 FLMB fingerlings, 350 FLMB (Phase 2)
2011	750 FLMB fingerlings, 1,385 FLMB (Phase 2)
2012	1,500 FLMB fingerlings, 1,200 FLMB (Phase 2)

Lake Records

No official records are kept. No fish from Cheniere Lake are listed in the state records maintained by the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association. Link below:

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

Species profile

FRESHWATER FISHES CHENIERE LAKE

Lamprey Family, PETROMYZONTIDAE

Southern brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon gagei* Hubbs and Trautman

Chestnut lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon castaneus* Girard

Gar Family, LEPISOSTEIDAE

Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Longnose gar, *Lepisosteus osseus* (Linnaeus)

Shortnose gar, *Lepisosteus platostomus* Rafinesque

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

Blacktail shiner, *Cyprinella venusta* (Girard)

Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus

Cypress minnow, *Hybognathus hayi* Jordan

Striped shiner, *Luxilus chrysocephalus* Rafinesque

Ribbon shiner, *Lythrurus fumeus* Evermann

Redfin shiner, *Lythrurus umbratilis* (Girard)

Golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)

Emerald shiner, *Notropis atherinoides* Rafinesque

Taillight shiner, *Notropis maculatus* (Hay)

Weed shiner, *Notropis texanus* (Girard)

Mimic shiner, *Notropis volucellus* (Cope)

Bluehead Shiner, *Notropis hubbsi*

Pugnose minnow, *Notropis emiliae* Hay

Bullhead minnow, *Pimephales vigilax* (Baird and Girard)

Creek chub, *Semotilus atromaculatus* (Mitchill)

Sucker Family, CATOSTOMIDAE

Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacépède)

Smallmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus bubalus* (Rafinesque)

Bigmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus cyprinellus* (Valenciennes)
Black buffalo, *Ictiobus niger* (Rafinesque)
Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops* (Rafinesque)
Blacktail redhorse, *Moxostoma poecilurum* (Jordan)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE

Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas* (Rafinesque)
Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)
Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus* (Mitchill)
Channel Catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*

Pike Family, ESOCIDAE

Grass pickerel, *Esox americanus vermiculatus* Lesueur
Chain pickerel, *Esox niger* Lesueur

Pirate Perch Family, APHREDODERIDAE

Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus* (Gilliams)

Killifish Family, CYPRINODONTIDAE

Golden topminnow, *Fundulus chrysotus* (Günther)
Starhead topminnow, *Fundulus nottii* (Agassiz)
Blackstripe topminnow, *Fundulus notatus* (Rafinesque)
Blackspotted topminnow, *Fundulus olivaceus* (Storer)

Livebearer Family, POECILIIDAE

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

Silverside Family, ATHERINIDAE

Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)

Temperate Bass Family, PERCICHTHYIDAE

White bass, *Morone chrysops* (Rafinesque)
Yellow bass, *Morone mississippiensis* Jordan and Eigenmann

Sunfish Family, CENTRARCHIDAE

Flier, *Centrarchus macropterus* (Lacépède)
Banded pygmy sunfish, *Elassoma zonatum* Jordan
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)
Spotted sunfish, *Lepomis punctatus* (Valenciennes)
Bantam sunfish, *Lepomis symmetricus* Forbes
Florida largemouth bass, *Micropterus floridanus* (Kassler et al)
Northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides* (Lacépède)

White crappie, *Pomoxis annularis* Rafinesque
Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)

Perch Family, PERCIDAE

Swamp darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme* (Girard)
Slough darter, *Etheostoma gracile* (Girard)

Drum Family, SCIAENIDAE

Freshwater drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens* Rafinesque

Genetics

Sampling of the largemouth bass genotype was conducted in 2004 ($n=92$) and 2006 ($n=63$). In 2004, only 2.2% of the sampled fish were determined to be pure Florida bass and 4.3% were considered to be hybrids of northern and Florida bass. In 2006, no pure Florida bass were documented and 9.5% were identified as hybrids, with the remainder being northern largemouth bass. The occurrence of the Florida genome from these samples is considered to be low, considering efforts to introduce Florida bass into Cheniere Lake. Another genetic sample is scheduled for 2013.

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

None

CREEL

No creel surveys have been conducted on Cheniere Lake.

HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES

The two major events that have affected hydrology on Cheniere Lake were the construction of a dam and spillway in the 1940's and the implementation of regularly scheduled water fluctuations (see Drawdown History above).

WATER USE

Hunting

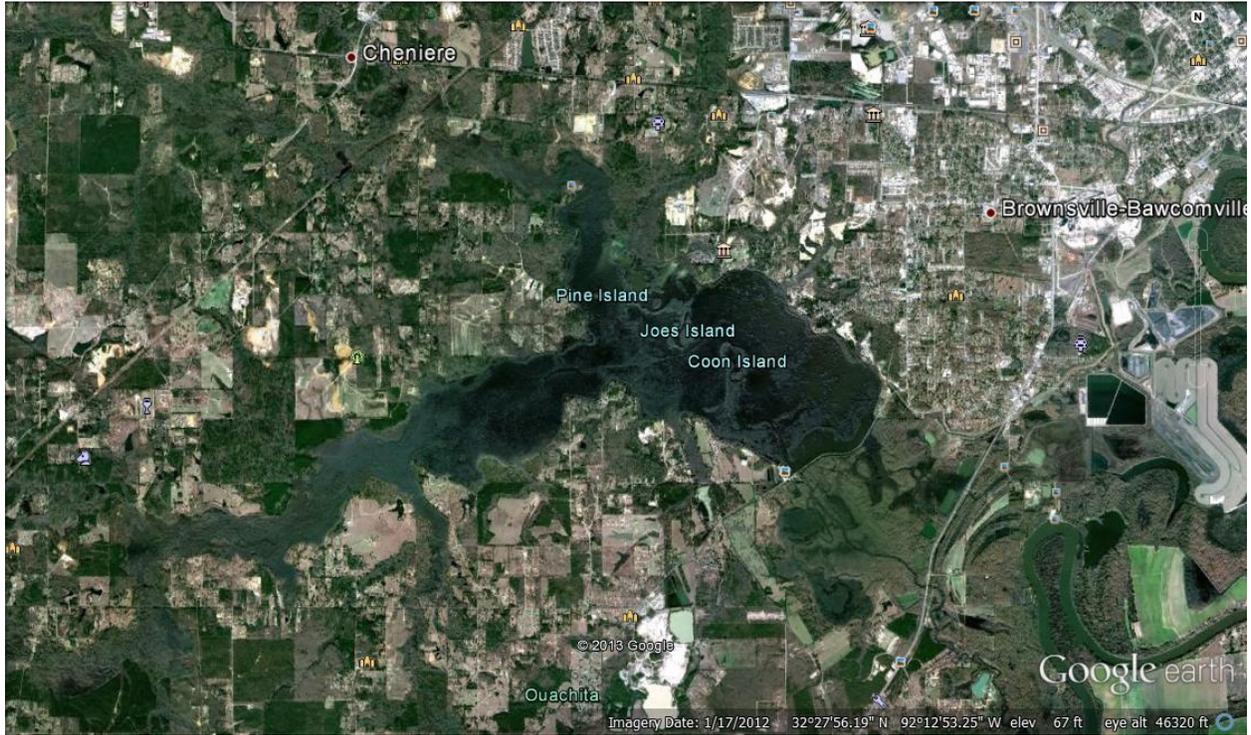
Duck hunting allowed. Permits for permanent duck blinds available through Ouachita Parish Public Works.

Skiing

Limited open water available adjacent to LA Hwy 3033.

APPENDIX I.
[\(return to waterlevel\)](#)

CHENIERE LAKE



APPENDIX II

[\(return to parish regs\)](#)

Excerpt of Ouachita Parish Ordinances (Cheniere Lake)

COMPILED ORDINANCES PARISH OF OUACHITA PARISH, LOUISIANA

GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE PARISH

Adopted September 20, 1965

DIVISION 2. USE

Sec. 11-47. Declared for public use.

Cheniere Lake and adjacent real property owned and operated by Ouachita Parish is now declared to be for the general use and benefit of the public, especially the citizens of Ouachita Parish, and the entire Cheniere Lake area shall be used for the promotion of general welfare, health and safety of the public.

(Ord. No. 7134, § 1, 9-12-62)

Sec. 11-48. Damaging property; weapons generally.

(a) *Damaging property.* There shall be no misuse, abuse, nor destruction of movable or immovable property of Ouachita Parish located in or adjacent to Cheniere Lake by any person or persons at any time.

(b) *Weapons.* No firearms, weapons nor any other instruments of danger or damage to human property shall be permitted on or near Cheniere Lake or adjacent property owned by Ouachita Parish; except for hunting during legal hunting periods.

(c) *Penalty.* Any person convicted of violating any provision of this section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisoned not more than thirty (30) days, or ordered to perform community service of not more than forty (40) hours, or any combination of same as directed by the court.

(Ord. No. 7134, §§ 2--4, 9-12-62; Ord. No. 8775, 5-3-04)

Cross references: Regulation of firearms and weapons generally, § 15-5.

Sec. 11-49. Firearms or explosives; exception.

(a) *Prohibited.* It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any rifle, pistol or other firearms of any nature whatsoever, except shotguns, on or along Cheniere Lake from any point within one hundred (100) feet from the water's edge on each side of said lake; the restricted area herein to include the water in the channel and a strip of land one hundred (100) feet wide, measuring from the water's edge, on each side of the lake.

No firearms, guns, pistols, explosives, except for legal hunting, shall be possessed, carried or used on the Cheniere Lake Project, by any person or persons, except duly elected or deputized officers while engaged in the enforcement of law. No firearms shall be discharged for any reason within three hundred (300) yards of lake parks or recreational areas.

(b) *Penalty.* Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or by imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

(Ord. No. 6035, §§ 1, 2, 11-13-48; Ord. No. 7362, § 4, 5-21-73)

Editor's note: Section 4 of Ord. No. 7362, not expressly amending Ord. No. 6035, was added as part of (a) at the editor's discretion.

Cross references: Regulation of firearms and weapons generally, § 15-5.

Sec. 11-50. Polluting waters.

No person or persons shall in any manner do anything or fail to do anything that will pollute or spoil the waters, or any portion thereof, of Cheniere Lake.

(Ord. No. 7077, §§ 7, 8, 11-11-59; Ord. No. 7362, § 5, 5-21-73)

Sec. 11-51. Commercial fishing--Prohibited within specified dates.

The taking of commercial fish by the use of seines, gill nets and trammel nets, or by any other means when done for commercial purposes, is hereby prohibited on and within Cheniere Lake between the dates of May fifteenth, and September twenty-fourth, of each calendar year.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 1, 11-10-69)

Editor's note: Sections 1--7 of Ord. No. 7261, no amendatory of this Code were codified as §§ 11-51--11-57, respectively, at the editor's discretion. The phrase "this ordinance" was replaced by "sections 11-51 through 11-57," and italicized catch phrases were added, to preserve Code format and facilitate indexing and reference.

Sec. 11-52. Same--Permit required; requirements of permittee.

Any and every person taking commercial fish for commercial purposes by whatever means during the period that commercial fishing is allowed on Cheniere Lake, namely September twenty-fourth through May fifteenth, of succeeding years, must, in addition to comply with all Louisiana laws regulating commercial fishing, possess a permit from the parish police jury acting by and through the Cheniere Lake Park Commission, which shall be issued upon application and payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), and evidence of such permit shall be maintained on each commercial fishing device, i.e., net, trap, etc. In the exercising of these commercial fishing privileges, the permittee shall attend all nets placed in the lake daily, refrain from beating the water or otherwise driving fish and maintain a record of the kinds and number of pounds of each kind of fish taken and return said records and permit to the parish police jury or its agent by May fifteenth of each succeeding year. Any person fishing commercially with nets between the dates aforesaid is required to have net sizes to the following specifications:

(a) During pool stage, conditions (66.5 MSL) a minimum of three (3) inches square, six (6) inches stretch.

(b) During draw down conditions below 66.5 MSL, a minimum of four (4) inches square, eight (8) inches stretch.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 2, 11-10-69; Ord. of 9-18-78; Ord. of 7-20-81)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-53. Duck blinds.

(a) *Prohibited without permit.* No person or association of persons shall construct or place structures commonly known as "duck blinds" on, within or immediately around Cheniere Lake without first obtaining a permit from the parish police jury acting by and through the Cheniere Lake commission, which permit shall be renewed each year within ten (10) days prior to the season or seasons for taking of wild ducks, and geese, or teal, with such permit being issued upon application and payment of a fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00), and each year's renewal shall be issued upon application and payment of a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) and evidence of such current permit shall be maintained on or within the blind. Such permit may be transferred by the permittee upon notification to the Cheniere Lake commission and payment of an additional fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

(b) *Construction and maintenance.* All blinds so permitted on Cheniere Lake shall be constructed or placed no less than three hundred (300) yards from any existing blind and said blinds are not to be attached to any trees on, within or around the lake nor any trees cut; all blinds must be maintained in active, usable condition and the parish police jury, acting by and through the Cheniere Lake commission, reserves the right to destroy any blind not actively maintained or constructed or placed in violation of sections 11-51 through 11-57, and to revoke any permit for violation of sections 11-51 through 11-57.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 3, 11-10-69; Ord. of 7-20-81)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-54. Special markings for recreational areas, boat trails, and other property.

The parish police jury, acting by and through the Cheniere Lake commission, shall mark recreation areas, boat trails and other property of the parish police jury on, within and about Cheniere Lake with yellow markers using black lettering and numerals and all other persons or association of persons are hereby prohibited from using or employing such official markings for any private purposes.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 4, 11-10-69)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-55. Use of motors or engines.

For the protection and maintenance of Cheniere Lake, its banks and dams, and trees and wildlife therein and for the safety of persons using the lake, all persons using motors or engines, outboard or inboard, of more than ten (10) horsepower are hereby prohibited from operating said motors in and upon Cheniere Lake at more than "slow" or "low" speed.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 5, 11-10-69)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-56. Boating, fishing, or hunting from supporting platform near duck blind.

All persons are hereby prohibited from boating, fishing and hunting from a boat or any other supporting platform within a distance of two hundred (200) yards of any existing duck blind during the lawful season for the taking of wild ducks, geese or teal.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 6, 11-10-69)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-57. Penalty for violation of sections 11-51 through 11-56.

Any person convicted of violating any provision of sections 11-51 through 11-56 shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisoned for not more than thirty (30) days, or both.

(Ord. No. 7261, § 7, 11-10-69)

Note: See note following § 11-51.

Sec. 11-58. Use of nets, automatic fishers, trotlines regulated.

(a) *Nets:* Any commercial fishing nets found on Cheniere Lake in Ouachita Parish that do not have required Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries tags and a Cheniere Lake permit, or that [are] of illegal size in accordance with Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations, shall be confiscated by the Cheniere Park Director.

(b) *Yoyos, trotlines:* The use of yoyos (automatic fishers) and trotlines is permitted for taking fish on Cheniere Lake in the parish. [However], the Cheniere Lake Park Director shall confiscate any such fishing device which is discovered to have dead fish attached thereto during the park director's inspection of such device.

(Ord. of 5-15-78)

Editor's note: Ord. of May 15, 1978 specifically amended the Code by adding subsections (g), (h) to § 11-40. Due to the subject matter addressed in said section, and for purposes of classification, said provisions have been re-designated as § 11-58, as hereinabove set out.

Sec. 11-59. Attaching certain materials to trees, vegetation or structures.

No person or persons shall attach any material consisting of wood, metal or any other substance to trees, vegetation or other structures located within the boundaries of Cheniere Lake for any purpose, without the prior written consent of the Cheniere Lake Commission.

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or imprisonment in the parish jail for not more than ten (10) days or both.

(Ord. No. 7963, 6-10-85).