LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

FALSE RIVER

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

DOCUMENT SCHEDULED TO BE UPDATED ANNUALLY

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LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date formed
An inactive oxbow of the Mississippi River formed by 1722

Impoundment
Owners – State of Louisiana

Purposes for creation – Natural oxbow of the Mississippi River

Size
3,212 surface acres

Water shed
34,453 acres of mostly agricultural pasture-land in the interior of the island with mixed woodlands and pasture-land northeast of New Roads. There are two main drainages in the watershed that flow into the lake. Patin Dyke on the north end drains 25% of the watershed, while Discharge Bayou on the south end drains the remaining 75%.

Pool stage
16' MSL (mean sea level)

Parish/s located
Pointe Coupee Parish (SEE **APPENDIX I** – POINTE COUPEE PARISH MAP).

Border waters
Mississippi River (separated from lake by main-line levees), Patin Dyke Slough Canal (also known as M-2), False Bayou, False River – Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal (also known as "The Lighthouse Canal", "The Rougon Canal", or M-3), Discharge Bayou (also known as M-1), The Chenal, and Bayou Sere.

Drawdown description
Spillway – 3 – 8'x8'175' reinforced concrete conduits under the highway embankment.
Bottom invert elevation of the conduits is 9.5' MSL.
Gate size – 3 roller gates at the end of (3) 8'x8' concrete conduits.
Number of gates – 3
Condition – Good
Maximum drawdown potential – 10'MSL

Note: A dominant factor affecting the lake's drainage potential during flood periods is the water level in Bayou Grosse Tete. Not only do the bayou stages reach elevation above 17 feet, it has the ability to peak quicker than the lake. This can result in reverse flow in the

Lighthouse Canal.

Who controls
Pointe Coupee Police Jury

LAKE AUTHORITY

Association
The Lake and Watershed Committee of the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury is no longer active.

The False River Watershed Council was formed in 2012.

ACCESS

Boat docks
7 boat ramps < http://lamarinas.losco.lsu.edu/ >

(SEE **APPENDIX II** – MAP AND LANDINGS)

Table 1. Locations of boat ramps for False River, LA.

RAMP NAME	COORDINATES	
Morrison's	30.69263	-91.43314
New Roads Public Launch	30.69234	-91.43522
Point Breeze	30.68315	-91.45945
LA Express	30.61714	-91.43437
Jim's Landing	30.68955	-91.41509
Beuches Boat Landing	30.62178	-91.45795
Sand Bar	30.61281	-91.44684

Piers
Piers available for fishing are at Morrison's Landing and the New Roads Public Launch.

State/Federal facilities
NONE

Reefs
An unknown number of artificial reef structures have been placed by individual fisherman. These include sunken Christmas trees, willow trees, tires and riprap. Most are unmarked.

In October 2013, Pointe Coupee Parish provided sixty tons of gravel for the creation of spawning beds. A total of seven spawning beds were constructed by LDWF personnel.

Table 2. Locations of gravel spawning beds for False River, LA.

GRAVEL BED SITE	COORDINATES	
Island side north	30.67616	-91.45856
Across from hospital	30.682943	-91.444377
Island Queen	30.643352	-91.481402
Across from public landing	30.683388	-91.432734
Bergeron Pecans	30.67420	-91.47068
Hospital	30.68256	-91.46001
Public landing	30.692011	-91.436095

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

State/National Parks
NONE

Shoreline development by landowners
Most of the lake's shoreline (90%-95%) is developed with permanent residences, seasonal residences (camps), bulkheads consisting of either wooden or vinyl (sheet-pile) materials, and piers. Exceptions include:

1. the large tract of wooded bottomland adjacent to the south flats of the lake

2. an isolated wooded parcel along the north flats near the Cypress Cove Development in Ventress

The largest section of riparian shoreline is about ½ to ¾ of a mile long and exists between Parlange Plantation and the Mix area. Shorter lengths of isolated riparian shoreline are also found in the Oscar area where isolated 100 ft. to 600 ft. lengths of riparian habitat are present along the shoreline. The riparian shoreline consists of mainly mixed hardwood and cypress.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF WATER BODY

Shoreline length
22 miles

Timber type
Bottomland hardwoods occur west of the southern flats region and in isolated locations along the shoreline.

Average depth
21 feet

Maximum depth
65 feet
Natural seasonal water fluctuation

A study by Coastal Environments, Inc. exists that describes seasonal water level fluctuations before construction of False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal in 1947. This study also includes a discussion of the water level fluctuations in False River after the construction of the False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal. The details of this study are not currently available since the study was contracted by the Attorney General's office to serve as expert testimony in court proceedings.

EVENTS / PROBLEMS

A. 1600's to ~1722 – False River oxbow lake forms when long Mississippi River meander loop is naturally cut-off from main flow of River by 1722.

B. ~1722 to 1947 – Bayou Sere serves as primary natural outlet for False River other than connections to Mississippi River (False Bayou and The Chenal). Connections are separated completely from Mississippi River by construction of mainline levees by USACE no later than 1930.

C. 1947 – Low water sill (top elevation of MSL – 15') with box culverts and concrete wing-walls installed adjacent to LA Hwy. 1 ("False River Road") at the northern end of the False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal ("Lighthouse Canal"). The Lighthouse Canal was constructed between 1947 and 1948.

D. 1964 to 1975 – Period in which the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resource Conservation Service) developed the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project with the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury and the Upper Delta Soil and Water Conservation District. The purpose of the project was to prevent flooding, improve drainage in the watershed, and improve farming conditions. The proposed project would result in 115 miles of channel work in the 137,000 acre watershed. The installation would take approximately six years to complete at a cost of $7,351,700. In the proposed project, Channels M-1 and M-2 are scheduled for 5.15 and 3.33 miles, respectively, of excavation. The result would be a total of 532,110 cubic yards of dredged material. Runoff from these channels flow directly into False River (SEE **APPENDIX III** – MAP OF PROJECT AREA). Excavation of the M-1 and M-2 canals resulted in an increase load of suspended sediments into the lake. There is a projected 16.7 percent increase of sediments delivered into the lake if constructed for a total of 28,000 tons/year. Concerns for the fisheries resources of the lake became apparent to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Note: the completion of this project resulted in approximately 28,000 cubic yards of silt/year deposited over 1,239 acres of lake bottom.

a. In 1968, under provisions of Public Law 566, authorization was granted to the SCS to provide planning assistance on the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project.

b. 1970 – Following a field reconnaissance of the project area by USFWS and LWFC, a report from the USFWS, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife proposed that the fish and wildlife resources in the watershed were of low value. Although there was basic agreement with the report, LWFC did not concur with the opinion with respect to

fish and wildlife resources. LWFC asked that another report be submitted, giving the resources more consideration. A follow-up report indicated that the while the wildlife resources in the watershed were abundant, fishery resources (other than in False River proper) were again of relatively low value. LWFC concurred with the new report, but expressed concerns that the project would hasten land clearing in the watershed. A recommendation (SEE **APPENDIX IV** – JUNE 9, 1970 LETTER) from LWFC was then made to construct sediment traps on all tributaries of False River since the lake was already experiencing siltation problems caused by the project.

c. 1971 – The Chairman of the District Board of Supervisors, Upper Delta Soil and Water Conservation District claimed that the LWFC Fish Evaluation Report's estimated loss of $36,824 in fisheries resources due to increased turbidity from the watershed project was inaccurate. He further stated that the turbidity problem would be temporary because luxuriant growth of vegetation on the newly exposed soil would slow sedimentation rates into the lake. He also claimed that the project's additional land treatment measures would reduce silting from their current levels. The Pointe Coupee Police Jury adopted a resolution sponsoring the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project. The Police Jury further found that the LWFC's Evaluation Report was incorrect, and if the report is allowed to stand it could have affected project approval.

d. 1975 – Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury held a public meeting to discuss the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project. The police jury presented a project information sheet (SEE **APPENDIX V** – PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET) outlining the boundaries of the watershed, concerns, goals, and alternative considerations.

   The director of the LWFC, in a July 10, 1975 letter (SEE **APPENDIX VI** – JULY 10, 1975 LETTER) expressed the department's concerns to SCS associated with an unsigned, undated draft of an EIS. He stated that the projected increase in sediments entering False River from sheet erosion was particularly disturbing. He also assumed that the project would result in future conversion of woodlands and pastures to row crop agriculture that would further adversely affect False River. He also suggested that further attention was needed to reduce the current erosion problems in the project area. He stated that this could be accomplished by the development and implementation of land use zoning regulations. Another unsigned draft EIS dated August, 1975 was sent to and reviewed by the director of the LWFC. His response to the SCS in an October 19, 1975 letter expressed further concerns. In the letter, he reported that False River has a valuable fishery, both commercial and recreational, and that any significant reduction of water quality would be harmful to said fishery as well as property values and related businesses. The letter also stated concerns that the SCS did not act upon the land zoning suggestion proposed in the July 10th letter in the new EIS. The director again laments his concerns in a January 30, 1976 letter to the SCS that the degrading the water quality of False River would have negative impacts on the fishery.

   The unsigned, undated draft of the EIS was also sent to the USFWS for review. The Service's response came in an October 22 letter addressed to the SCS (SEE **APPENDIX VII** – OCTOBER 22, 1975 LETTER). The letter expressed concern that

the increased sediment that was predicted to enter False River would have an adverse effect on the lake's fishery. The letter also expressed concern that individual landowners have up to 10 years after completion of the project to install land treatment measures. These measures would decrease the sediment yields resulting from sheet erosion. There was concern that in the time allowed for landowners to install the treatment measures, their absence could subject the lake to extremely high levels of suspended sediments, nutrients, and agricultural chemicals. There was also concern that the installation of land treatment measures were at the discretion of the individual landowner. The USFWS also stated that they realized that the intent of the project was to improve watershed drainage for agricultural purposes. However, they felt that the resources of False River must be protected and that improvement of the water quality entering the lake should be an important goal of the project.

E. 1975 – Hybrid striped bass stocking initiated.

F. 1976 – The Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Work Plan is approved by Congress.

In a November 2nd letter to the LWFC, the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury requested a "letter of approval or no objection" on the watershed plan. The LWFC responded in a November 16th letter stating that there were certain project features that can severely damage the fisheries resources of False River. It also stated that the land treatment measures were a vital component of this project, yet there was no guarantee that they would ever be installed. Also mentioned was the economic value of False River to the Parish and to the city of New Roads. A substantial investment in the lake by LWFC was cited with regard to a fish stocking program, aquatic weed control, and fisheries related research.

November 24th: USFWS sent a letter to the USACE focusing on the potential damage from suspended sediments and possible pesticide contamination in fish flesh resulting from the watershed project. The USFWS requested that the USACE hold the Pointe Coupee Parish permit application for the watershed project in abeyance until they had the opportunity to provide comment on adequate pesticide sampling data.

December 14th - Pointe Coupee Police Jury held a public meeting where it was determined that sufficient planning had been done. They also agreed that the people of the area were knowledgeable of the project and confident of its intended benefits. The Police Jury then passes a resolution requesting that a permit be issued as soon as possible.

G. 1977 – USFWS's request for brief sampling program of pesticide residues was rejected by the Pointe Coupee Police Jury. The USACE responds to the service's request for pesticide data in a May 10th letter stating that there was not the manpower to obtain this information. The USACE further details that they depend upon the EPA and the Louisiana Stream Control Commission to review water quality aspects of projects. They also state that the EPA had reviewed the EIS and commented that sufficient information had been provided and that they had no objection to the proposed action. The USFWS in a March 4th letter to the EPA states that they don't oppose the project per se, that they are only concerned with the lack of proposed adequate safeguards. They also expressed their concern of the pesticide residues in the lake.

May 18th – Due to the objection of the USFWS for the issuance of a permit to work in the M-1 and M-2 channels, the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury amend their permit application to exclude any work that would be associated with those channels. The USACE issues a permit for the amended application.

H. 1980 – The Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury re-applied to have the previously deleted channels permitted. They agree to install sediment traps in the channel. USACE grants the permit. The USFWS maintains its position on the project.

I. 1983 – Three month long flooding on False River associated with heavy rains and high stages of Mississippi River (subsurface hydrologic connection exists between river and the oxbow lake due to Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer). The highest level of water recorded at 23.2 feet (MSL).

   Construction and implementation of SCS (now the NRCS) Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project completed. This project was formally initiated in 1968, including the de-snagging and deepening of existing parish canals as well as construction of several new canals. G-7 project drains an additional 30,000 acres into False River.

J. 1984 – Florida bass stockings initiated.

K. 1985 – State of Louisiana is recognized as owner of bottom of lake below a contour elevation of 15'MSL.

   LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTES: RS 9:1110
   §1110. Ownership of land adjacent to False River
   The title of the owners of land adjacent to that body of water in Pointe Coupee Parish known as False River shall extend to fifteen feet above mean sea level. The boundary line formed at fifteen feet above mean sea level marks the division between land owned by the state and land owned by private persons along the banks of False River.
   Added by Acts 1975, No. 285, §1.

L. 1988-1999 – Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project #6 completed (SEE **APPENDIX VIII** – BGT PROJECT MAP**)**

M. 1989 – Louisiana Supreme Court rules that False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal ("Lighthouse Canal") is a private non-navigable waterway.

N. 1990 – Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury initiates a project at the Lighthouse Canal to change the old sill structure. False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal low-sill weir structure is replaced with a sluice gate at each of the box culvert inlets (top of gates elevation MSL - 16') with pulleys for operation of gates

O. 1991 April 1 – Largemouth bass management plan takes effect, slot limit of 15 to 19 inches, daily limit of 8 fish of which no more than two may exceed 19 inches.

   September 20 – Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) prohibits the use of gillnets, trammel nets and fish seines in False River.

   Aquatic vegetation coverage begins decline in the north end of the False River.

P. 1991-1992 – Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project #7 completed (SEE APPENDIX VIII – BGT PROJECT MAP)

Q. 1992 – Hurricane Andrew makes landfall in Louisiana. Although there are no reports of fish kills in False River, it is observed that the lake is churned by strong winds. It is assumed that the disturbance of the lake bottom contribute to the decline in vegetation.

R. 1993 – January flood waters raised the lake level to 20.4 feet during an open gate period.

S. 1993 – Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project #8 completed (SEE APPENDIX VIII – BGT PROJECT MAP**)**

T. 1994 – Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury lower water level to 15 feet due to previous years of flooding. After charges and counter charges by the public a compromised was reached and the level is now maintained at 15.5 feet in the winter, spring and fall and at 16 feet during the summer for recreational purposes.

April 12 – Police Jury Resolution setting lake level unanimously carried as follows: "RESOLVED, that the water level of False River be set at 16 feet; and be it "RESOLVED further, that beginning June 1, 1994 the water level be set at 15.5 feet."

U. 1997 – The least amount of vegetation is recorded in 14 years.

V. 1997 - 1998 – Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury project in False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal places rip-rap in scour-hole immediately downstream of concrete wing-walls and along banks of canal for a distance of approximately 350 ft. downstream from the south side of LA Hwy. 1 a distance of approximately 350 ft. for bank stabilization. The project also consisted of de-snagging the entire length of the canal from False River to Bayou Grosse Tete.

W. 1998- LDWF fish sampling results indicate that the largemouth bass population is in decline. In March the department alters the lake classification from a trophy lake to a lake of special concern. Associated fishing regulations require that largemouth bass must be 14 inches or greater with a daily creel limit of five.

Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury pass a resolution on behalf of the False River Lake Committee requesting assistance of state and federal agencies to conduct a survey to assess the damages of the siltation in the lake.

An overlooked sediment trap on the south end that was constructed during the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed project was cleaned out. There is an increase of aquatic plant coverage following the cleaning of the trap.

X. 1999 – House of Representatives pass Concurrent Resolution NO. 275 requesting DNR and LDWF to jointly study and make recommendations relative to drainage and sedimentation of False River. The resolution states that since the completion of the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project, vast plumes of sedimentary deposits have been observed on the north and south ends of the lake. The dramatic increase of sediment had led to a loss of habitat for both the lake's flora and fauna.

Risers added to tops of sluice gates at False River - Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal control structure by Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury due to severe drought conditions

(top of gates with risers elevation MSL - 16'). Police Jury has indicated that DOTD approval was given for addition of risers at the time of their installation.

Y. 2000 – False River Aquatic Vegetation Restoration Project was conducted by the Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF). This project was funded by the parish in response to the near disappearance of aquatic vegetation. The project was to assess the potential establishment of four native aquatic plant species in the lake. The results showed that vegetation has a high potential for establishment in areas not significantly impacted by the influx of silt. It was also noted that plants that are protected from grazing had a higher success rate.

Drought conditions lower the lake level to 13.8' MSL.

Z. 2001 – Allocation of ten thousand dollars initiates USACE Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

AA. 2002 – Hydrilla is no longer present in the lake.

USACE secures first phase of funding for an Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project feasibility study. The project was authorized by Section 206, Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The project sponsors are Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury and DNR. The proposed action is to enhance and restore the ecosystem of the lake by enhancing fisheries and wildlife habitat, and to address sedimentation and water quality issues.

BB. 2004 May and June – Flooding on False River due to heavy rainfall both in lake watershed and in downstream areas over relatively short period of time (approximately 28 inches in 9 days). In response to the flooding, the False River Civic Association, a non-profit organization, was created.

CC. 2005 – NRCS completes project in the M-1 canal near the south end of the lake. Contractors performed dewatering projects to move cattle channel banks by installing fencing and water troughs. They also re-sloped and stabilized banks and installed drop pipes. There is one remaining stretch of the M-1 cannel that is in need of fencing and bank stabilization.

DD. 2006 – South end sediment trap was again cleaned out. An estimated 1,200 yards were removed, approximately half of the amount removed in 1998. It is believed that the amount of sedimentation has decreased.

DNR funds an initial reconnaissance investigation (Phase I of a six-phase planning process as developed by USACE) to identify water resource problems associated with the Upper Terrebonne Basin (UTB) Water Quality Improvement Project. UTB is a tri-parish partnership, along with LDEQ, U.S. EP. UTB, along with non-governmental stake holders, plan to address siltation, fisheries, water quality and flooding issues in False River. (http://www.utbwatershed.com/index.html)

EE. 2007 May 8 – Passage of resolution by Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury clarifying that that goal of lake level management will be a pool stage of MSL – 16' for the entire year.

FF. 2009 – USACE receives second phase of funding for the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project feasibility study

GG. 2010 – LDWF proposes a fall/winter drawdown to improve lake conditions for fisheries. Drawdown is postponed until USACE completes feasibility study. More funding has been secured to complete the study, but the study continues to be delayed due to lack of funding. LDWF maintains their position that a drawdown would be beneficial for the lake's fisheries, but agrees that the issues in the watershed must be addressed first.

NRCS completes project in the Patin Dyke canal on the north end of the lake. Construction is similar to that of the M-1 project of 2005.

HH. 2011 – House of Representatives pass Concurrent Resolution NO. 168 to urge and request that the DNR, in conjunction with the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury assume the role of lead local project sponsor for the USACE Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.

II. 2012 – A recurring commercial net season is passed. The season allows the use of commercial gill nets from November 1st to the last day of February each year.

JJ. 2012 – Formation of the False River Watershed Council with the purpose of (1) producing a report that will identify, review, and evaluate management strategies to facilitate the goal of improving the aquatic habitat of False River; (2) to provide recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the resources within the False River Watershed; (3) coordination of federal, state, and local efforts to improve and protect water quality; (4) surface water resource management and protection policies; (5) recommendations for the optimal management and protection of the natural resources in the False River Watershed; (6) identification of various funding options for ongoing maintenance of the False River Watershed; and (7) recommend changes to current procedures and practices to make the management and protection of the natural resources in the False River Watershed more efficient, comprehensive, and sustainable. Visit website for updates and project information: http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=924

KK. 2013 – LDWF releases a report titled "False River Largemouth Bass: Population and Fishery Characteristics with Size Regulation Simulations".

LL. 2014 – At the request of commercial fishermen, the recurring commercial net season is extended by one month. The extended season allows the use of commercial gill nets from October 1st to the last day of February each year.

MM. 2014 – Engineering firm PEC is awarded a contract to oversee the creation of a 16 acre island in the south flats. The island is to be constructed via hydraulic dredging with in-lake containment. Purpose of the island is to remove large amounts of sediment from the south flats and to create edge habitat for fish and wildlife. In September the lake was lowered by approximately two feet to allow for construction of the island's containment dyke. Lake levels were returned to normal pool stage in May 2015. Construction of the island is expected to commence in fall 2015.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

AQUATIC VEGETATION

Historically, submerged aquatic vegetation in False River was controlled through extensive water fluctuations associated with the Mississippi River. However, construction of the Lighthouse Canal and low water sill in 1947 stabilized the water level and resulted in ideal growth conditions for submerged aquatic plants. The earliest catalog of species on the lake dates back to 1966. The predominant species of aquatic plants listed in order of density were as follows:
Coontail, *Ceratophyllum demersum*
Milfoil, *Myriophyllum spp.*
Pond weeds, *Potamogeton spp.*
Water stargrass, *Heteranthera dubia*
Southern naiad, *Najas guadalupensis*

There was a shift in the aquatic plant community structure of the lake in the early 1970's. In 1971, there was a total of 870 vegetated acres in the lake (north end – 440 acres; south end – 280 acres; east and west fringe – 150 acres). The north end was primarily water milfoil (85%) and the south end was primarily coontail (90%). By 1977, water milfoil had replaced coontail as the dominant species on the south end. In the 1980's, prior to completion of the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project, there were dense stands of submersed aquatic vegetation on both the north and south flats of False River. There was a fringe of submersed vegetation along the shoreline as well as a small stand of American lotus (Nelumbo lutea) near the south flats. By 1990, after completion of the first phase of the project, the north flats became void of vegetation. Aquatic vegetation was in steep decline for the next couple of years, except for the lotus stand.

Due to the reduction of vegetation on the north end of the lake, the public began requesting that LDWF transplant native vegetation from the south end to the north end of the lake. This request was not filled due to monetary constraints. LDWF stated that the primary reason for the disappearance of aquatic vegetation is sedimentation and turbidity issues following storm events. The department also speculated that the unauthorized introduction of grass carp to the lake could be contributing to the decline in aquatic vegetation.

Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata) was documented for the first time on the lake in 1993 near the south end. By 1994, dense stands of hydrilla were obstructing boating access to many camps on the southern end of the lake. The PCPPJ financially assisted LDWF in clearing small areas of hydrilla for boating access. Total treatment area was approximately 10 acres. As the sedimentation and turbidity of the lake worsened, the hydrilla was no longer able to survive. In September 2001, large amounts of rainfall from Tropical Storm Allison increased the sediment load into the lake. As a result, there was no evidence of hydrilla in the 2002 vegetation surveys.

The Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility was funded by the parish in an attempt

to establish submersed native vegetation in 2000. Results of a 2003 vegetation survey indicated that there was no survival of introduced vegetation, even in the protected enclosures.

There was a stand of approximately 40 acres of lotus on the south flats annually. Turbidity did not hinder the growth of lotus because it was able to grow to the surface for sunlight and lotus has substantial root systems. Lotus has not been present in the lake since 2009.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) tested lake water for atrazine in May of 1997. Results showed that atrazine levels in the lake were less than 1 ppb. This low level of herbicides from agricultural runoff would not have contributed to the disappearance of lake vegetation.

Soil samples were collected from the littoral zones of the lake in January 2010. Analysis of sample nutrients and alkalinity suggest that the soil is suitable for plant growth. However, the instability of the soil and the continuous input of silt are not conducive to re-establishment of vegetation.

A 2011 survey indicated that there was a 15 acre stand of southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*) located in the south flats. This was the first evidence of submersed aquatic vegetation, besides lotus, in the lake since 2001. The establishment of southern naiad is evidence that lake conditions may now be more conducive to vegetation establishment. These improvements are following the work done in the M-1 canal in 2005 and the work done in the Patin Dyke canal on the north end of the lake in 2010.

Bayou Chenal was dredged approximately 20 years ago between False River and the Railroad Bridge. Original plans were to dredge the entire bayou from False River to the Mississippi River levee. However, limited funding restricted dredging past the Railroad Bridge. There is now an earthen dam underneath the Railroad Bridge that restricts water flow. These conditions have led to the growth of duckweed (Lemna spp.) and the coverage is currently 100%. Water periodically overtops the “earthen dam” allowing large amounts of duckweed to flow down Bayou Chenal towards False River. When this happens, complaints are received and the duckweed is sprayed with diquat. Bayou Chenal is inaccessible for treatment between the Railroad Bridge and the Mississippi River levee. This problem will continue until the rest of Bayou Chenal is dredged or culverts are put in place under the Railroad Bridge.

In summer of 2012, a Galleon (penoxsulam) application was made in this reach of the bayou. Galleon is an in-water treatment that is self-dispersing. The chemical was applied at a rate of 35 parts per billion. The aquatic vegetation in this area at the time of treatment consisted of 100% coverage by duckweed, water hyacinth, and common salvinia, all listed as being controlled by Galleon. Due to the inability to traverse this stretch of bayou using boats, the application was made by District personnel walking the banks and entering the water at 100 yard intervals, then applying the chemical by hand. A follow-up treatment was made some weeks later to this area. Post-treatment evaluation visits were made to ascertain the

effectiveness of the application. Water hyacinth and common salvinia were controlled nearly 100 %, while the impact on duckweed was negligible.

Currently

There is less than 5% coverage of aquatic vegetation on the lake.

Problematic species (as of December 9, 2014):

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) – 20 acres (primarily in False Bayou with a small amount in Bayou Chenal and other connecting bayous/canals)

Common Salvinia (*Salvinia minima*) – 10 acres (primarily in False Bayou with a small amount in Bayou Chenal and other connecting bayous/canals)

Duckweed (*Lemna sp.*) – 20 acres (primarily in False Bayou with a small amount in Bayou Chenal and other connecting bayous/canals)

Beneficial Species (as of December 9, 2014):

Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) – 10 acres (all in connecting bayous/canals)

Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) – 10 acres (all in connecting bayous/canals)

Type Map

Type mapping has been conducted from 1983 through 2004 and 2011 with the exception of 1989. The most current type map is found in **APPENDIX IX**. The historical type maps can be found in False River MP-C Typemap Archives.

Control Measures

Biological

NONE

Chemical

Nuisance aquatic vegetation has been treated with herbicides annually since 1991 (Table 3). Most of the acreage treated is water hyacinth and duckweed.

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 herbicide has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic use. Aquatic vegetation is treated according to the Aquatic Herbicide Application Procedures adopted by the LDWF Inland Fisheries Section (Table 4).

Table 3. Herbicide treatments of False River, LA from 1991 – 2014.

FALSE RIVER ACRES OF AQUATIC VEGETATION TREATMENT BY YEAR						
YEAR	Hydrilla	Water hyacinth	Duckweed	American lotus	Common salvinia	Mixed submergents
1991		33	5			
1992		16		24		
1993	16	2	4	2		
1994	10	126	2	7	3	
1995	18	28		15		
1996				27		
1999		25	7	42		
2000		48		6		60
2001				37		
2005		5	40			
2006		46	71	30		
2007		30	47	39		
2008		2	37	20		
2009		70	109		11	
2010		56	76			
2011		174	74		2	
2012		159	55		48	
2013		28	122			
2014		14.5	47.5			

Table 4. Types of herbicide treatments for False River, LA.

FALSE RIVER TYPES OF HERBICIDE TREATMENTS		
SPECIES	Herbicides*	Application rates
Hydrilla	Granular fluridone	2 lbs./acre
Water hyacinth	2,4-D	0.5 gal/acre
	Diquat	0.75 gal/acre
	Penoxsulam	35 parts per billion
Duckweed	Diquat	0.75 gal/acre
	Penoxsulam	35 parts per billion
American lotus	Glyphosate	0.75 gal/acre
Common salvinia	Diquat	0.75 gal/acre
	Penoxsulam	35 parts per billion
Mixed submergents	Granular fluridone	2 lbs./acre

*All foliar herbicide applications included a non-ionic surfactant at a rate of 0.25 gal/acre, except for 2,4-D which includes a non-ionic surfactant at a rate of 0.125 gal/acre.

Limitations

Water stagnates in the extremely shallow portion of Bayou Chenal above the railroad bridge crossing. This area serves as a nursery for duckweed and water hyacinth

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Recreational

Statewide recreational fishing regulations are in effect with the exception of largemouth bass regulations.

April 1, 1991 - Largemouth bass management plan requires a slot limit of 15 to 19 inches; daily limit is 8 of which only two may exceed 19 inches.

March 1998 - Trophy status of largemouth bass removed, largemouth bass must be 14 inches or greater, daily limit is five.

Visit website for all recreational regulations:
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations

Commercial

Visit website for all commercial regulations http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations
September 20, 1991 - The use of gill nets, trammel nets and fish seines prohibited.
March 2012 – Commercial net ban is removed and a recurring net season is implemented. Season starts on the first day of November and ends the last day of February.
February 2014 – Season is extended by one month. The recurring net season now starts on the first day of October each year.
(SEE BELOW)

TITLE 76
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
PART VII. FISH AND OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§158. False River, Trammel Nets, Gill Nets and Fish Seines

A. Prohibits the use of trammel and gill nets in False River, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, except their use will be allowed for the legal harvest of commercial fish during a special recurring trammel and gill netting season to commence each year at sunrise on October 1 and close at sunset on the last day of February the following year. The use of fish seines is prohibited and there is no season.

B. The trammel and gill nets allowed during the special recurring season shall have a minimum mesh size of 3½" square (7" stretched) or greater.

C. Commercial fishing will be allowed only during daylight hours except that gear can remain set overnight but fish captured shall be removed during daylight hours only.

D. Commercial fishing with trammel and gill nets will be allowed on False River Lake only during the open season and only by licensed commercial fishermen.

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

Drawdowns for control of submerged aquatic vegetation have not been conducted. Water levels are manipulated mostly for flood control. The control structure is operated by the Police Jury.

In 2014/2015, a drawdown was conducted to aid island construction in the south flats. In September 2014, the lake was lowered to a target of 2.0 to 2.5 feet below pool stage (14-13.5feet False River gage datum/12.8-12.3ft NAVD 88). The lake was held at this level until March 2015. The lake level was then held at 14.5 feet until May 1, 2015.

FISH KILLS / DISEASE HISTORY

No major fish kills have been documented in False River. Reports received of a kill restricted to largemouth bass in the summer of 2000 (LMBV suspected, but not confirmed). Subsequent sampling confirmed LMBV in bass population. A kill in 2001 was restricted to common carp and was attributed to fish parasites and bacterial infection.

CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION

Water quality

Sampled Monthly by LDEQ from October 2001 to September 2002.

- Total suspended solids elevated at inflow points.
- Sufficient nitrogen compounds present as to not be limiting aquatic plant growth.
- Lake was experiencing organic enrichment, though not eutrophic.
- Fecal coliform bacteria samples were below standard of 200 – 400cfu/100ml.
- pH levels frequently elevated.
- Dissolved oxygen levels sufficient to support aquatic life, but fell sharply below a thermocline of 6-7 meters.

Sewage discharge has been eliminated for all but a small portion of the eastern shore. This area is being closely monitored and should be in compliance soon. Results from a water quality test of 10 sites on July 25, 2005 are available from the Lake and Watershed Committee.

BIOLOGICAL

Fish samples

Table 5 below describes sampling since 1989 and scheduled sampling until 2017. This information is based on available data.

Table 5. Historical and scheduled LDWF sampling on False River, LA from 1968 – 2017.

YEAR	GEAR
1968	Rotenone, 1 stations
1971	Rotenone, 4 stations
1976	Rotenone, 3 stations
1977	Rotenone, 3 stations
1980	Rotenone, 3 stations
1983	Rotenone, 3 stations
1987	Rotenone, 3 stations
1989	Electrofishing, 4 stations - Rotenone, 1 stations – Creel
1990	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 4 stations, Creel
1991	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 4 stations
1992	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 4 stations, Creel
1993	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 2 stations - Seine, 4 stations
1994	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Seine, 4 stations
1995	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
1996	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 2 stations - Seine, 5 stations
1997	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 2 stations, Rotenone, 3 stations
1998	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
1999	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations
2000	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
2001	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Seine, 5 stations - Rotenone, 3 stations
2002	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
2003	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
2004	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations
2005	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations, Creel
2006	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 3 stations - Seine, 5 stations
2007	Electrofishing, 6 stations
2008	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Seine, 5 stations
2009	Electrofishing, 6 stations - Gillnet, 6 stations - Seine, 4 stations
2010	Electrofishing, 6 stations (LMB age and growth) - Seine, 4 stations - Creel
2011	Electrofishing, 8 stations (LMB age and growth) – Seine, 4 stations
2012	Electrofishing, 8 stations (LMB age and growth) – Gillnet, 6 stations - Seine, 4 stations
2013	Electrofishing, 8 stations – Seine, 4 stations
2014	Electrofishing, 8 stations (spring only)– Hoop nets, 8 stations
2015	Electrofishing, 8 stations (fall only) – Gillnet, 6 stations

2016	Electrofishing, 8 stations
2017	Electrofishing, 8 stations– Hoop nets, 8 stations
2018	Electrofishing, 8 stations – Gillnet, 6 stations

Lake Records

See LOWA state records http://www.rodnreel.com/LaFishRecords/ListFishRecords.asp

Table 6. State record fishes captured by anglers fishing False River, LA 1976 – 2007.

SPECIES	WEIGHT (lbs.)	DATE	STATE RANK
Freshwater drum	25.08	April 2005	1
Freshwater drum	21.94	April 2007	3
Freshwater drum	19.83	February 2005	6
Freshwater drum	18.21	February 2005	7
Freshwater drum	18.16	February 2005	8
Freshwater drum	17.58	April 2004	9
Black crappie	1.50	February 2000	3
Hybrid striped bass	11.13	March 2005	9
Common carp	16.00	July 1976	6
Flathead catfish	33.13	May 2005	8

Stocking History

Table 7. Stocking efforts by species by year for False River, LA 1984 – 2014.

YEAR	FLORIDA LARGEMOUTH BASS			STRIPED BASS	HYBRID STRIPED BASS	REDEAR SUNFISH
	FINGERLINGS	PHASE II	ADULTS			
1984	150,000					
1989	32,000					
1990	301,193	1,733				
1991	211,000					
1997	125,145					
1999	33,506				32,253	
2000	40,440			30,160		
2001	34,832			5,000		
2002	31,988					
2003	32,242					
2004	32,067					
2005	30,911					
2006					30,000	
2007					32,310	
2008	32,554					
2009					76,856	
2010	2,520					

2011		600				
2012						231,147
2013		6,528	301		26,070	
2014		9,003				

NOTE: only species of game fish have been stocked

Species profile

Fish species collected or known to occur in False River, LA are found in Table 8.

Table 8. Fish species collected or known to occur in False River, LA.

Family, Scientific and Common Names

Polyodontidae - paddlefishes
- *Polyodon spathula* – paddlefish

Lepisosteidae - gars
- *Lepisosteus oculatus* - spotted gar
- *Lepisosteus osseus* - longnose gar
- *Lepisosteus spatula* - alligator gar

Amiidae - bowfin
- *Amia calva* - bowfin

Clupeidae - herrings
- *Dorosoma cepedianum* - gizzard shad
- *Dorosoma petenense* - threadfin shad

Cyprinidae - carps and minnows
- *Cyprinus carpio* - common carp
- *Ctenopharyngodon idella* – grass carp

Catostomidae - suckers
- *Ictiobus bubalus* - smallmouth buffalo
- *Ictiobus cyprinellus* - bigmouth buffalo

Ictaluridae - North American catfishes
- *Ictalurus furcatus* - blue catfish
- *Ictalurus punctatus* - channel catfish
- *Pylodictis olivaris* - flathead catfish

Moronidae - temperate basses
- *Morone chrysops* – white bass
- *Morone mississippiensis* – yellow bass
- *Morone saxatilis* - striped bass
- Striped bass x white bass - hybrid striped bass

Centrarchidae - sunfishes
- *Lepomis cyanellus* – green sunfish
- *Lepomis gulosus* – warmouth
- *Lepomis humilis* – orangespotted sunfish
- *Lepomis macrochirus* – bluegill
- *Lepomis marginatus* – dollar sunfish

Lepomis megalotis – longear sunfish
Lepomis microlophus - redear sunfish
Lepomis punctatus – spotted sunfish
Micropterus salmoides - largemouth bass
Micropterus punctulatus - spotted bass
Pomoxis annularis - white crappie
Pomoxis nigromaculatus - black crappie
Mugilidae – mullets
Mugil cephalus – striped mullet

Genetics

Genetic analysis was conducted on largemouth bass samples collected in False River during 1990 - 2014 electrofishing samples (Table 9). Allozyme starch gel electrophoresis analyses were conducted at the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Table 9. Genetic analyses of largemouth bass populations from False River, LA 1990 – 2014.

GENETICS					
Year	Number	Northern	Florida	Hybrid	Florida Influence
1990	15	100%	0%	0%	0%
1991	8	75%	0%	25%	25%
1992	39	61%	18%	21%	39%
1994	36	67%	25%	8%	33%
1995	39	62%	18%	20%	38%
1996	29	59%	7%	34%	41%
1997	39	52%	15%	33%	48%
1998	50	56%	16%	28%	44%
1999	30	73%	3%	24%	27%
2000	30	53%	13%	34%	47%
2001	28	68%	7%	25%	32%
2002	35	60%	6%	34%	40%
2004	30	60%	13%	27%	40%
2007	40	68%	10%	22%	32%
2008	71	59%	4%	37%	41%

2009	52	67%	4%	37%	41%
2010	139	64%	5%	31%	36%
2011	130	68%	9%	22%	31%
2012	119	67%	4%	29%	33%
2014	100	55%	7%	35%	45%

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

Exotic species - Grass Carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*.

- May 1989 – Grass carp weighing approximately 52 pounds is captured near the Lighthouse Canal.
- February 1991 – During routine gillnet sampling, a grass carp is netted in the south end of the lake. The fish escapes capture by tearing the net.
- December 2005 – During routine gillnet sampling, a grass carp is netted in the north end of the lake.
- January 2010 – During routine gillnet sampling, two grass carp are netted. One in the south end and one near the Lighthouse Canal.

Creel

Recreational angler survey – to determine a relative index of fishing pressure, catch, harvest success and species fished for.

Historic information

Years Conducted 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 2005, and 2010

Current methods

Dockside survey

HYROLOGICAL CHANGES

Water holding capacity has been changed throughout False River by the Mississippi River main stem levee and the installation of a low water sill in 1947. The low water sill was later replaced by sluice gates in 1990. In 1999, risers were added to the top of the sluice gates to further increase the holding capacity of the lake.

WATER USE

Hunting - YES

Skiing - YES

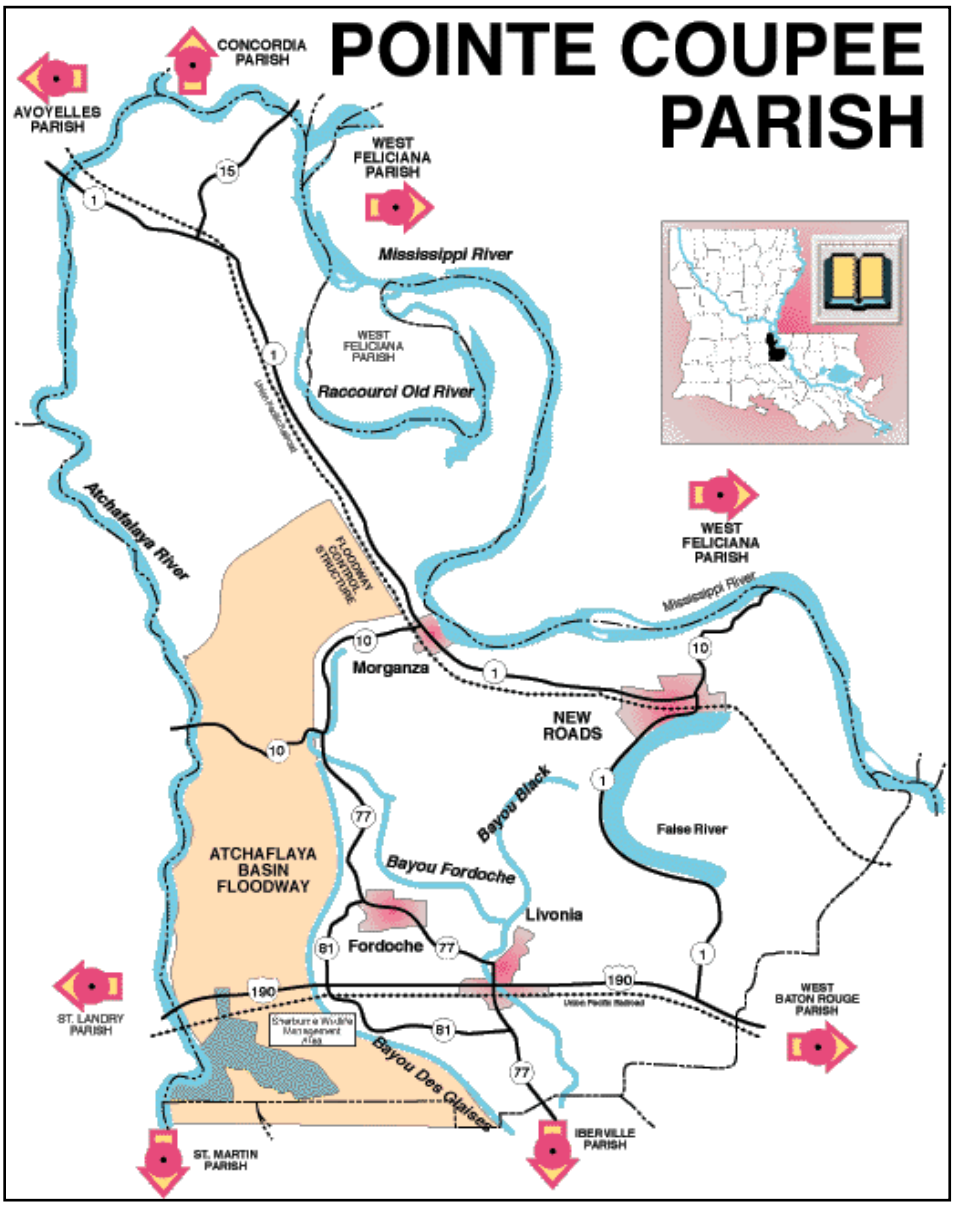
Swimming - YES

Fishing - YES

Boating - YES

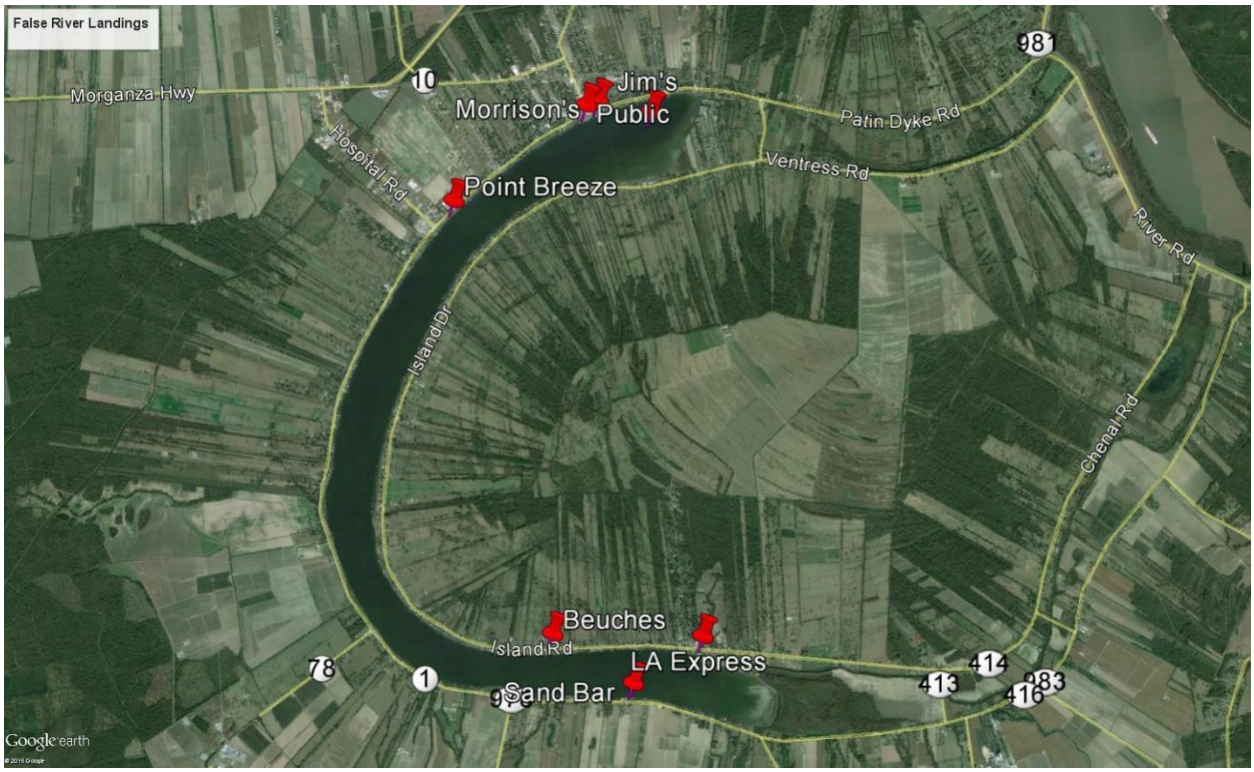
APPENDIX I
(return to parish)

POINTE COUPEE PARISH MAP



APPENDIX II
(return to boatdocks)

MAP AND LANDINGS

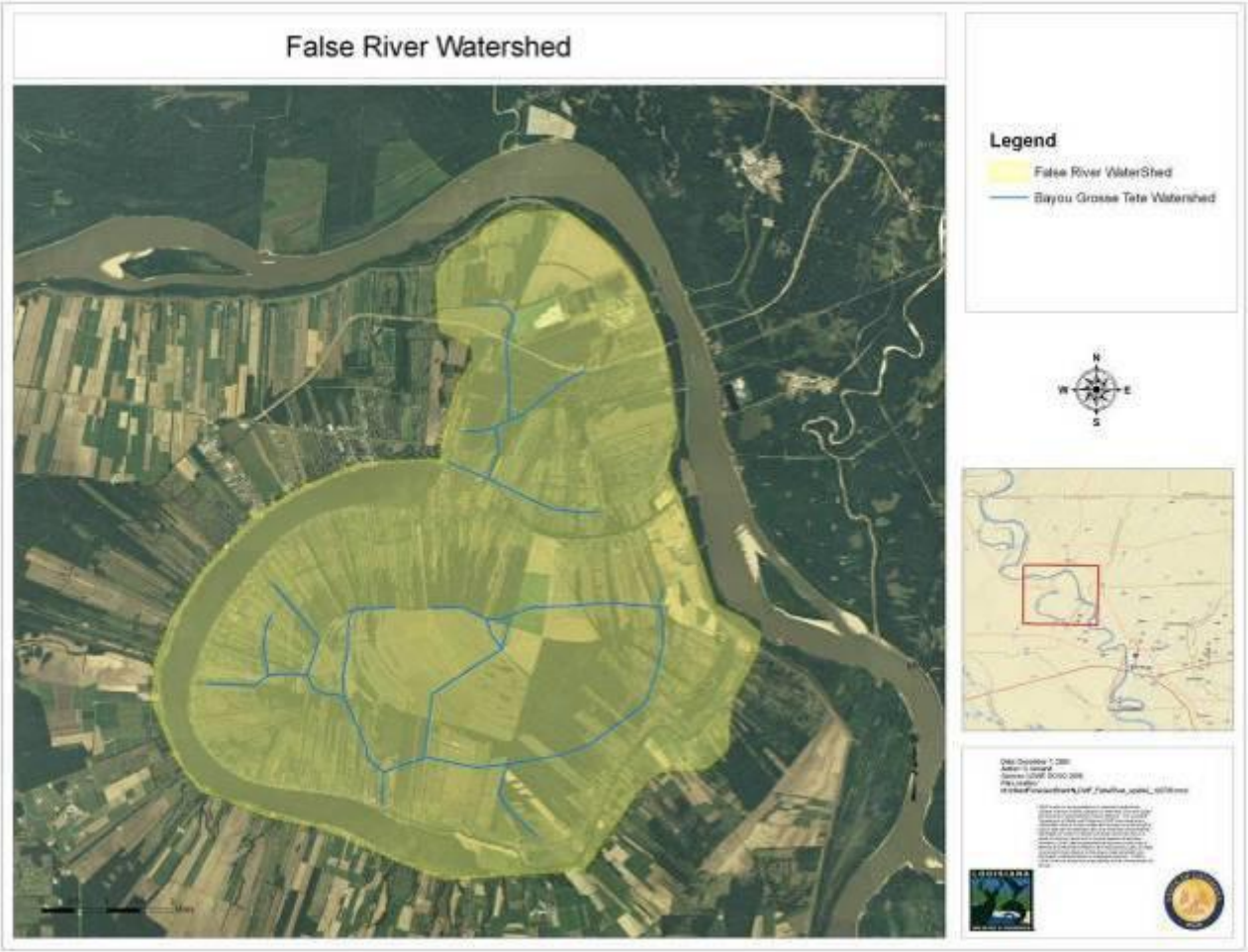


New Roads
Google
Imagery Dates: Oct 14, 2005 - Jul 23, 2007

APPENDIX III

(return to events)

MAP OF PROJECT AREA



NOTE: Shaded area encompasses the portion of the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Project that affects False River. This area is now the watershed for the lake. The canals that drain into the lake that were dredged during the project are outlined.

APPENDIX IV

JUNE 9, 1970 LETTER

(return to note)

June 9, 1970

Mr. Richard Eichhorn
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
315 Peeples-Newman Building
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

Dear Dick

With reference to my telephone conversation with Dean Fields June 8 concerning the Bayou Grosse Tete and Choctaw Bayou Watersheds, I am listing my suggested revision of paragraph 2 on page 1 of your draft report of the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed.

> We have reviewed project maps and other data supplied by your staff. A field reconnaissance of the project area was conducted by members of your staff, a representative of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and a member of our Vicksburg field office. Fishery resources other than those found in False River are of a relatively low value. Wildlife resources within the project area are of high value. Deer, squirrel and rabbit are abundant. Turkey and bear have been stocked on adjacent areas and have probably spread into this area. Information from your staff indicates that project channel work will not result in drainage of this area. Any additional land clearing resulting from better drainage will have detrimental effect on the present wildlife resources of the area.

I think a recommendation to construct sediment traps on all canals and ditches leading into False River Lake might be appropriate particularly since the lake is currently silting up at the entrances of these ditches and aquatic vegetation due to the shadow areas and increased fertilizer concentrations that are presently entering the lake. With new canals and reworked old canals the problem will certainly accelerate.

APPENDIX IV – JUNE 9, 1970 LETTER CONTINUED

Page 2
Mr. Richard Eichborn
June 9, 1970

I also suggest that the following change be made on the Choctaw Bayou Watershed report. Page 2, line 1 change "maintain" to "manipulate". According to my field notes, Paul McGowan agreed to build a control structure that would allow water level fluctuations of Lake Clause.

Sincerely yours

Gladney Davidson
River Basin Biologist

GD/pc

APPENDIX V

PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

(return to 1975)

BAYOU GROSSE ' ' ATERSHED
Pointe Coupee Pa..sh, Louisiana

Project Information Sheet

This watershed is located in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. It is bounded on the north and east by the Mississippi River main line levee; on the south by Louisiana Highway 416 from the Mississippi River to the junction of Louisiana Highway 1, thence by Highway 1 to the vicinity of Oscar, thence by local drainage and Bayou Grosse Tete to the vicinity of Kenmore where it meets the levee forming the eastern limit of the Atchafalaya Basin floodway. The eastern limit of the Atchafalaya Basin forms the west boundary of the watershed.

The watershed is comprised of 137,000 acres. This includes 41,700 acres of cropland consisting of sugarcane, cotton, corn and rice; 30,800 acres of pastureland; 50,900 acres of forest land; and 13,600 acres of other uses including roads, channels, lakes, farmsteads, communities, and rural nonfarm residences. It has a flat topography throughout its area. False River is a significant feature of this watershed.

New Roads is the principal trade center in the watershed. Other towns include Morganza, Fordoche and Livonia. The population of the watershed is approximately 13,400 people of which about 71 percent are rural. Many economic conditions in Pointe Coupee Parish, which are representative of this watershed, are below the average for the State. About 30 percent are classed as poor. The 1970 median family income was $4,957. Between 1960 and 1970, the population in Pointe Coupee Parish declined by 486 persons. Many workers in this parish are unemployed and underemployed. Rising production costs of agriculture are continuing to reduce farm incomes particularly in smaller economic units. The number of small family farms also continue to decline.

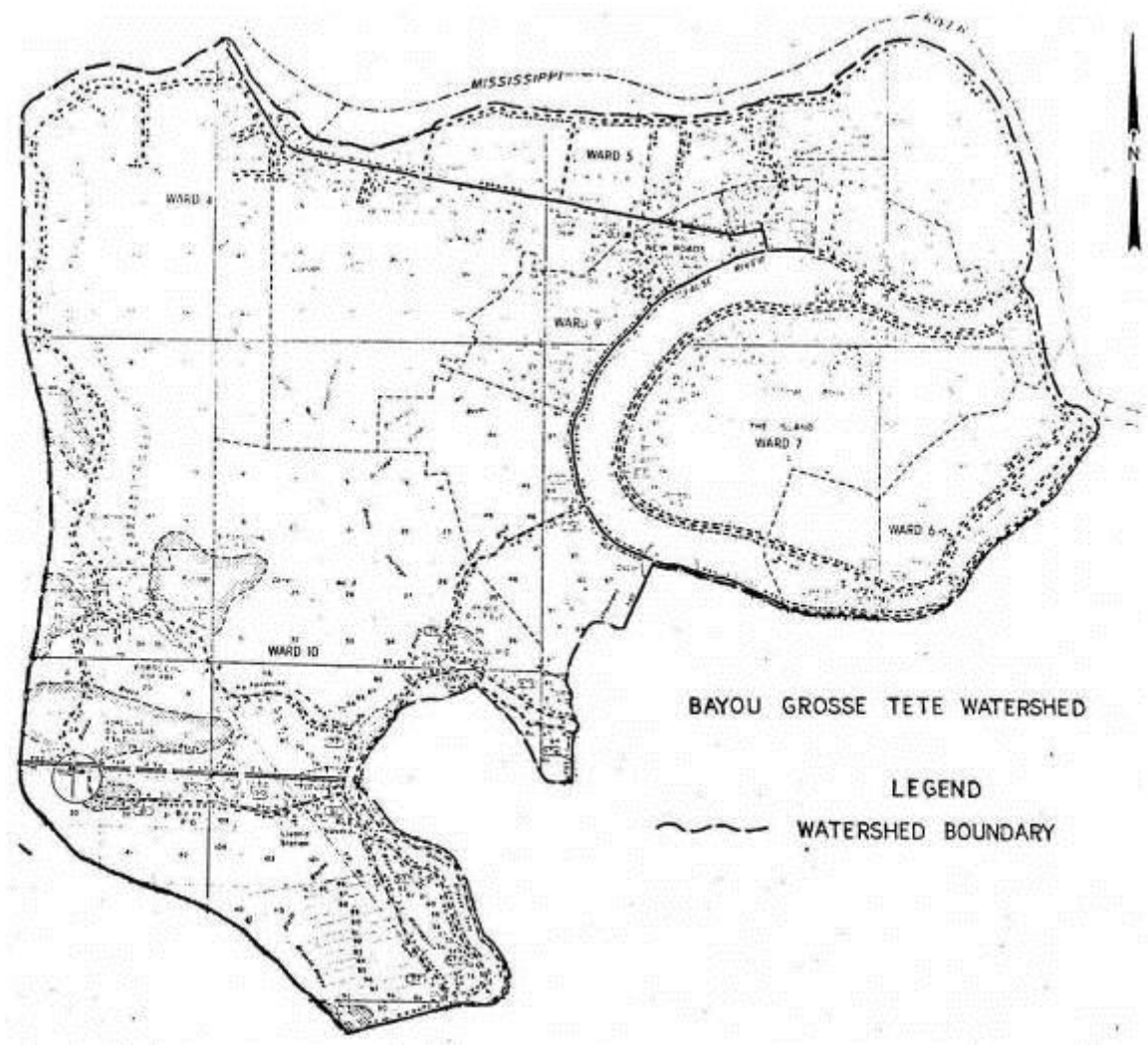
Water and related land resource problems in the watershed are flooding, inadequate agricultural drainage, erosion, and sediment. These problems are caused by inadequate drainage outlets during periods of high rainfall. Additional problems in water quality, fisheries, and wildlife are also associated with these adverse conditions.

Expressed concerns for this watershed:
1. Damages caused by flooding and sediment deposition
2. Limited yields attributed to inadequate drainage
3. Haphazard channel work with no overall comprehensive plan
4. Continuing limitations on farm income due to suppressed crop yields caused by flooding and inadequate drainage
5. A continuing deterioration of the local economy in general
6. A continuing decline in the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife resources.

Project goals are:
1. Improve farming conditions to increase farm family incomes and improve living conditions.
2. Reduce average soil loss to a minimum consistent with sound measures for conserving land and water resources.
3. Increase the level of protection from flooding and wetness problems on agricultural land in order to increase economic returns and assure sound profitable agriculture in the future.
4. Accelerate the going land treatment program in order to realize the benefits from the planned structural measures of the project.
5. Install any project measures in a manner that will be least damaging to wildlife habitat and will minimize any losses to fish and wildlife where applicable.

Alternative considerations include:
1. Land treatment only
2. Land use more tolerant to wet soils conditions
3. Floodproofing and land treatment
4. Land treatment and channel work considering various sizes of channels related to different levels of flood protection and degrees of drainage
5. No action - Continuation of present conditions and trends.

APPENDIX V – PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET CONTINUED



APPENDIX VI

JULY 10, 1975 LETTER

(return to direct)

July 10, 1975

Mr. Alton Mangum
State Conservationist
U.S. Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 1630
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

Dear Sir:

Personnel of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission have reviewed the undated, unsigned Draft EIS for the Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed. We appreciate the manner by which you recognized the input of this agency into project planning and our contribution of environmental information, but we are disappointed to see that sheet erosion and sediments will increase from the present level despite project implementation. Particularly disturbing is the projected increase in sediments entering False River which is one of the most heavily used lakes in Louisiana. Since a large portion of the drainage into this lake is from pasture and woodlands, we must assume that the increase in sediments will result in project induced conversion to row crop agriculture. The channel systems which will adversely effect False River are the M-1-L-1 system and the M-2-L-2 system.

Further attention should be given to reducing sediments and erosion to levels below those presently experienced in the project area. The project map of benefited areas (Appendix B) demonstrates drainage benefits to woodlands and various wetlands. Improvement in drainage in such areas has historically resulted in land clearing and conversion to row crop agriculture with its attendant increase in erosion rates. Also increased levels of protection will result in conversion of pastures to row crop. Not only will such conversion of pastures adversely effect water quality, fish and wildlife, but the increased runoff, erosion, and sedimentation will interfere with the proper functioning of project measures, reduce project life, and increase maintenance cost. One method of avoiding these problems is for the project sponsors to develop and implement land use zoning regulations. The SCS should investigate such a program as a part of the watershed plan.

A.C.O. (Acc.

APPENDIX VI – JULY 10, 1975 LETTER CONTINUED

Mr. Alton Mangum
Page 2
July 10, 1975

In order to determine the effectiveness of the total watershed plan, it is suggested that the scope of joint inspections (page II-26) be ehlarged to include determination of (1) percent of land treatment measures installed, (2) percent of compliance with conservation farm plans, (3) and acreages of land use changes since such factors are more important than channels in controlling erosion and sedimentation.

The sentence on page II-48 regarding gulf pipefish and southern hog chocker should be reworded to indicate that occurrance of these species is unusual in the project area.

It is doubtful that wildlife habitat will be enhanced by the project (page II-67), on the contrary, wildlife habitat will probably be reduced. Wildlife habitat retained in the project area can hardly be considered a land treatment measure resulting from the project as implied on Page II-7. Only actual beneficial habitat manipulations should be classified as habitat management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the unsigned, undated draft on this project.

Sincerely,

J. Burton Angelle
Director

JBA:MWitam

APPENDIX VII

OCTOBER 22, 1975 LETTER

(**return to unsigned**)

U S Dept of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 4753, USL
Lafayette, Louisiana
70501

October 22, 1975

Mr. Alton Mangum
State Conservationist
U. S. Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 1630
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your letter dated September 17, 1975, in which you requested our review and comments concerning the Unsigned Draft Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed Plan. Our comments on this draft are intended as a planning aid to your agency and do not represent the official views of the Department of the Interior.

The Bayou Grosse Tete Watershed contains two major areas of valuable fish and wildlife resources: Portage Swamp and False River. Portage Swamp consists of approximately 30,000 acres of woodlands and provides necessary habitats for numerous species of wildlife. The work plan indicates that much of the channel which presently runs through Portage Swamp will not receive additional excavation. Members of your staff have informed us that most of the area is below the 16 foot contour line and thus will not be drained by the proposed channel work. Furthermore, land clearing of woodlands around the perimeter of Portage Swamp appears to have reached its limits unless additional drainage is provided. Thus, the present wildlife resources in the area will probably be protected from further drainage and subsequent land clearing practices even with the completion of channelization as described in the work plan. The Soil Conservation Service should insure that the Portage Swamp is preserved in its present state.

False River is a 3,300 acre lake which supports an excellent population of sport and commercial fish. It offers tremendous

RECEIVED
JAN 8 1976
FISHERIES SECTION

APPENDIX VII – OCTOBER 22, 1975 LETTER CONTINUED

recreation potential, not only from fishing but from other water related activities as well. The large numbers of homes, camps, piers and boat ramps along the lake are evidence of its popularity. We are concerned with the increased sediment which is predicted to enter False River and the adverse effects of this increase on the fishery resources and related activities of the lake. According to the work plan, the M-1 and M-2 channel systems will both have outlets into False River. These channels are presently in existence and drain woodlands, pasture, and row crop fields. The work plan indicates that the majority of the channels within these systems are scheduled for additional excavation. Construction-induced sediment increases are expected for approximately one year as structural measuees are installed. Future sediment yields resulting from sheet erosion are supposed to be decreased by the installation of land treatment measures by the individual land owners. However, the installation period for the land treatment measures is 10 years. Thus the critical period for False River would be after the structural measures are completed and before land treatment measures are installed. Although this period may amount to only a few years the lake could be subjected to extremely high levels of suspended sediments, nutrients and agricultural chemicals. Such an introduction of elements into an aquatic system such as False River could irretrievably damage its water related resources. Additionally, the fact that the installation of land treatment measures is at the discretion of the individual land owners does not guarantee that the measures will be installed. Finally, even if land treatment measures are 100 percent installed it is doubtful that they can offset the increase in sediment which will probably occur due to increased row crop agriculture induced by more efficient drainage capabilities.

The Fish and Wildlife Service realizes that one of the primary purposes of the project is to improve the agricultural resources of the watershed by improving drainage. However, we feel that the resources of False River must be protected and that improvement of the quality of the water entering the lake should be a purpose of the project. The measures described in the work plan are insufficient in regard to this purpose. Therefore, we recommend that the Soil Conservation Service review the plans for the M-1 and M-2 channel systems and determine what structural measures or other design features could be implemented to substantially reduce the sediment load to False River.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the Bayou Grosse Tete work plan.

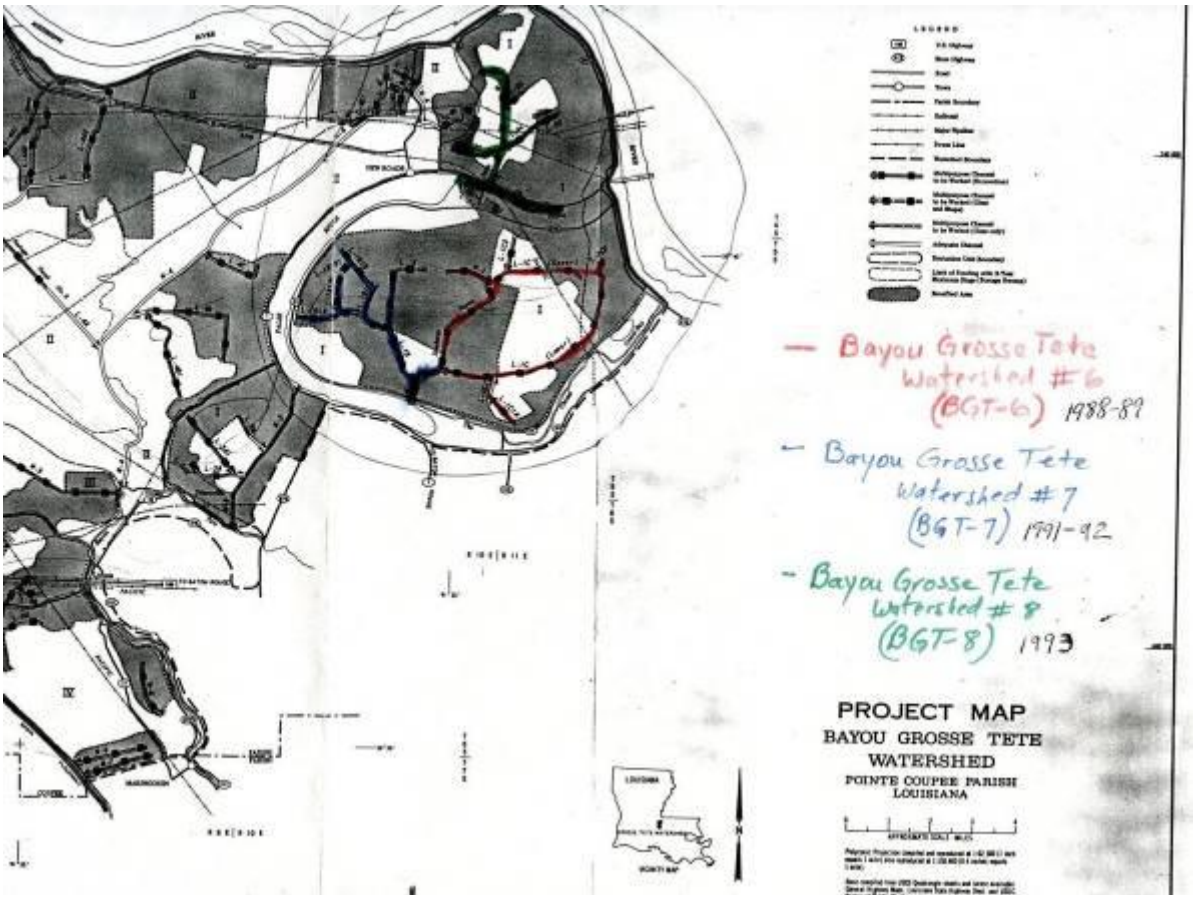
Sincerely yours,

Joseph E. Burgess, Jr.
Biologist-in-Charge

APPENDIX VIII

BGT PROJECT MAP

([return to BGT](#))



APPENDIX IX

VEGETATION TYPEMAPS

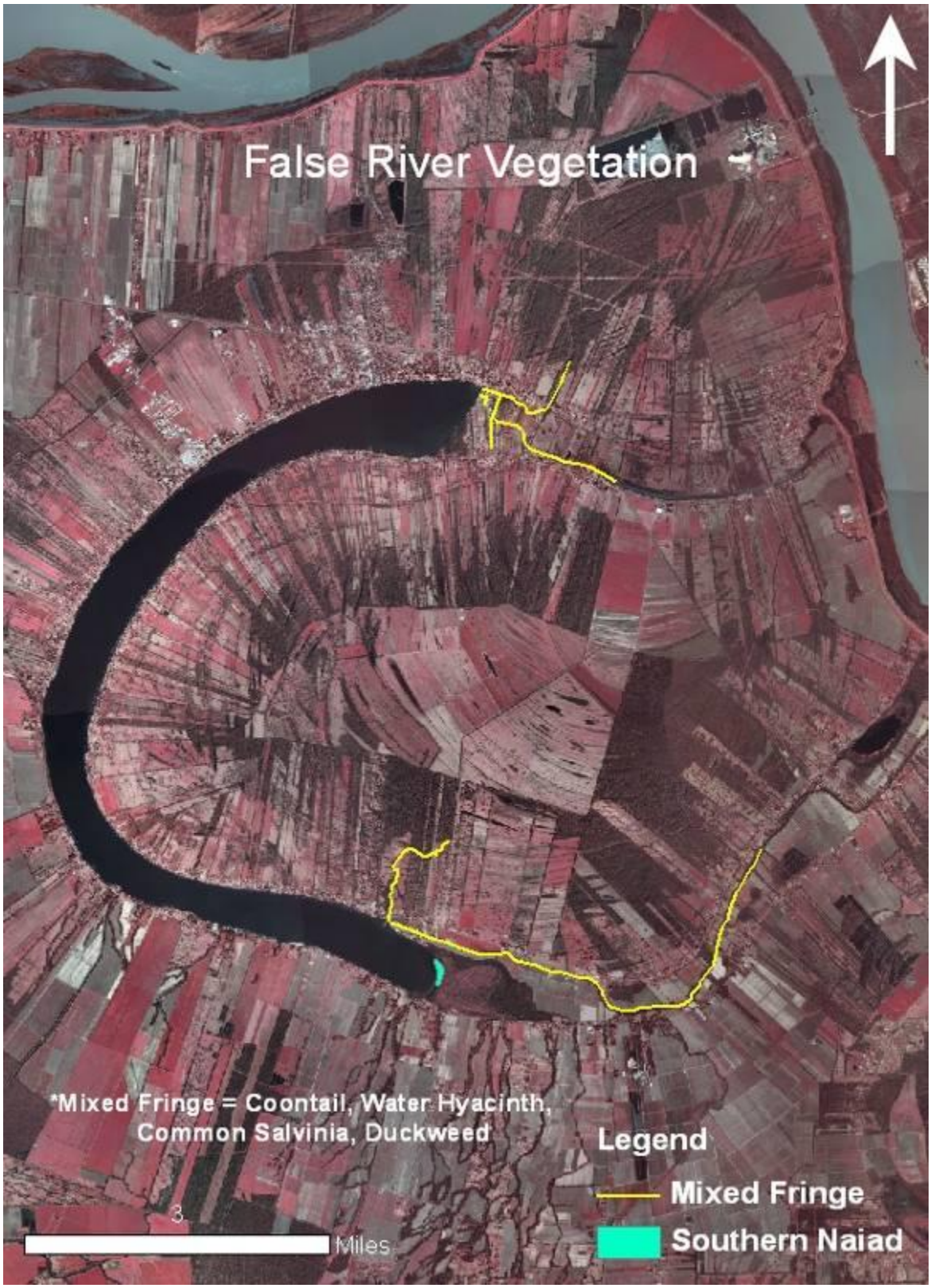
(return to typemaps)

False River Vegetation 2011

False River was surveyed on September 26, 2011 to determine aquatic plant abundance and species composition. There was a 15 acre stand of southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*) in the south flats. It occurred in water depths of 0ft-3ft. This was the predominant aquatic plant species in the lake. The north flats were void of any significant aquatic vegetation. Both the island side bank and the New Roads side bank were surveyed and also showed no signs of significant vegetation. Trace amounts of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), and duckweed (*Lemna spp.*) could be found throughout the lake along the banks. Bayou Chenal, Tee Bayou, False Bayou, and surrounding canals are all connected to False River. Each of these bayous and canals contained a healthy fringe of coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). They were also heavily infested with water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), and duckweed (*Lemna spp.*).

Jonathan Winslow
Inland Fish Biologist

2011 continued



2011 continued