

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

RODEMACHER LAKE

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

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LAKE HISTORY

General Information

Date reservoir formed

The Rodemacher Lake dam was completed in 1974. The lake serves as a cooling reservoir for the CLECO Boyce Power Plant.

Impoundment

Ownership – Central Louisiana Electric Company (CLECO Corporation)

Purposes for creation – Rodemacher Lake serves as a cooling water reservoir for the CLECO Boyce power plant. The lake was designed with a series of earthen dikes and canals to allow heat to dissipate from the plant water effluent prior to uptake as cooling water for the plant boilers. The lake is privately owned; however the general public is allowed to use the lake for recreational purposes.

Size

3,070 acres

Water shed

35 square miles (ratio 7.1:1) of upland pine land in northwest Rapides Parish. Rodemacher Lake receives minimal inflow from Bayou Castor, Campbell Creek and Odom Creek.

Pool stage

100.0 mean sea level (MSL)

Parish/s located

Rodemacher is located within Rapides Parish.

Drawdown description

No drawdown information is available. Due to a daily need for cooling water of the CLECO Boyce Power Plant no drawdowns have been conducted. The maximum drawdown rate is undocumented; however, according to elevations listed in Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) dam inspection documents, the water level can be lowered at least 5.0 feet.

Spillway

The principle spillway is a 100 feet long semi-circular sharp crested weir with a crest elevation of 100.0 feet MSL. The spillway is located on the southeast side of the lake. There is an auxiliary spillway that is 850 feet wide concrete broad-crested weir that transitions into an earthen swale.

Description of the Dam

Rodemacher Lake dam is an earthen embankment that is 6,050 feet long that runs along the southeastern shore of the reservoir. The earth fill embankment has soil-cement shoreline protection.

Dam height is 25 feet.
Structural height is 25 feet.
Hydraulic height is 22 feet.
Maximum discharge is 81,554 cubic feet per second
Maximum storage is 89,692 acre-feet.
Normal storage is 37,464 acre-feet.
Surface area is 3,112 acres.
Drainage area is 35 square miles.

Outlet Works (Drawdown Structure)

There is a 5 feet tall by 8 feet wide steel stop log sluice gate embedded in the concrete weir's wall; it has an invert elevation of 95 feet MSL. The frame of the gate has been sandblasted and painted and is operational.

Who controls

Operation and maintenance procedures are the responsibility of the owner, CLECO Corporation.

Lake Authority

Rodemacher Lake is owned by CLECO Corporation.
Primary contact information-

Mr. Jacob Hudson, Environmental Operations Specialist
CLECO Rodemacher Plant
257 Rodemacher Road
Lena, La 71147
Tel: 318-793-1194
Fax: 318-793-1142
Email: jacob.hudson@cleco.com

Access

Maps with locations (see [Appendix I](#))

1. Sharps Landing – concrete ramp – No Fee - Lat: 31.397111 N; Long: -92.766408 W
2. Red Store Landing – concrete ramp – No Fee - Lat: 31.378681 N; Long: -92.732019 W

Boat docks

No public or private boat docks

Piers

No public fishing piers are available. No private piers are located on the lake. The shoreline property is owned by CLECO and not available to the public for purchase or lease.

State/Federal Facilities

NONE

State/National Parks

NONE

Artificial Reefs

LDWF in conjunction with CLECO Corporation placed four artificial reefs in Rodemacher Lake. The reefs are marked with buoys at Latitude and Longitude:

Reef 1 – Lat: 31.388611 N; Long: -92.713611 W

Reef 2 – Lat: 31.382639 N; Long: -92.720917 W

Reef 3 – Lat: 31.391528 N; Long: -92.724639 W

Reef 4 – Lat: 31.393750 N; Long: -92.721556 W

Shoreline development by landowners

The shoreline is NOT developed by landowners with homes and camps. CLECO Boyce Power Plant is located adjacent to the lake.

Physical Description of lake

Shoreline length

28.0 miles

Timber type

Rodemacher Lake is an open water lake. Approximately 10% of the lake has visible dead timber and stumps above the water line. No live timber is found in the lake.

Average depth

9 feet

Maximum depth

25 feet

Natural seasonal water fluctuation

Due to the small watershed (7.1: 1), water levels rarely rise above the normal pool elevation. However, water fluctuations of 1' to 2' below pool elevation are common during periods of

low rainfall.

Events / Problems

Hydrilla, a submersed exotic plant to Louisiana, became established in Rodemacher Lake in 1989. By the summer of 1992, the submersed plant had spread to 50% of the lake and began to reduce water flow at the cooling water intake of the power plant. CLECO was issued a permit to stock triploid grass carp (TGC) in an effort to control the vegetation. Between March 1993 and October 1995, thirty two thousand, two hundred and fifty (32,250) carp were stocked in the lake. This stocking rate equaled 10.5 carp per surface acre. By the spring of 1997, hydrilla and all native submersed vegetation had been eradicated from the lake. At this time no submersed vegetation is found in the lake, even though the carp have died out.

Currently Rodemacher Lake is experiencing high turbidity levels. The increased turbidity levels were first documented in 2004. Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) sampling has documented a significant decrease in sport fish populations including largemouth bass. Several factors are involved that may be contributing to the high turbidity.

- The majority of the timber in the watershed has been clear cut and site preparation for replanting has included a deep bedding process that exposes clay particles to run-off.
- The CLECO Boyce power plant circulates the water through the plant to cool boilers; this creates a mixing effect of the lake water.
- There is no submersed vegetation in the lake to act as a filter to remove clay particles from the lake water.

In April 1991, a 14 – 17 inch protected slot limit was implemented by LDWF to establish a quality bass fishery on Rodemacher Lake. With the loss of aquatic habitat, excessive turbidity and greatly declined largemouth bass populations, the 14-17 inch protected slot limit on largemouth bass was removed on April 20, 2014.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Aquatic Vegetation

Aquatic habitat is a primary influencing factor in the management of any water body. LDWF recognizes the importance of submersed aquatic vegetation as complex cover and has designated an areal coverage range of 15% - 30% as a desirable habitat component for sport fish species.

Hydrilla, an invasive submersed aquatic plant to Louisiana, became established in Rodemacher Lake in 1989. By the summer of 1992, hydrilla had spread to almost 50% of the lake and began to cause access problems at the water intake of the power plant. A permit for the introduction of triploid grass carp in the spring of 1993 was granted to CLECO in an effort to control the vegetation. The lake was stocked with 15,000 TGC (12 inch fish) in March 1993. A supplemental stocking of 8,000 TGC was made in November 1994 after a vegetation survey that summer indicated an 8.5% increase in hydrilla. In October of 1995, an additional stocking of 9,250 TGC was made in the impoundment for a total of 10.5 fish per surface acre. By the spring of 1997, all submersed plants had been eradicated from the lake.

Aquatic herbicide treatments on Rodemacher Lake have been limited. Foliar herbicide applications were conducted in 2009, 2013 and 2014. The spraying in 2009 was done at the request of CLECO due to a concern about the presence of common salvinia. The main concern was the possibility that the salvinia found in the lake could be giant salvinia. CLECO personnel were aware of the serious problems caused by giant salvinia in other lakes. The 2013 and 2014 spraying was done to control a spreading population of water hyacinth. LDWF spray personnel applied herbicide that was purchased by CLECO. Only a small amount of common salvinia was found and the total acreage treated was less than 10 acres.

A vegetation survey was conducted on April 2, 2013. Approximately 90 acres of water hyacinth were documented. The hyacinths were treated with herbicide.

An additional vegetation survey was conducted on July, 30, 2013. There was no submergent vegetation in the lake. Emergent vegetation observed included alligator weed, American lotus, primrose, and a small remnant population of water hyacinth. The combined acreage of these species was less than 50 acres. Approximately 40 acres of white water lily were found in shallow coves on the east side of the lake. This vegetation provides beneficial cover for fish and protection from shoreline erosion. The most recent vegetation survey was conducted in August of 2014. A minimal amount of emergent and floating vegetation was observed. No vegetation problems are expected in 2015. Vegetation species or acreage has not changed in several years and is expected to be similar to those listed above.

Type map

Aquatic vegetation surveys have been conducted sporadically by LDWF personnel since 2000 due to a lack of vegetation, and lake surveys are also conducted quarterly by the CLECO environmental specialist. No significant vegetation problems have been documented since the late 1990's. The most current vegetative survey was conducted in August of 2014. A minimal amount of emergent and floating vegetation was observed. The type map can be viewed in [Appendix II](#).

Biomass

No biomass sampling has been conducted.

Treatment history by year available

Biological

CLECO was granted a TGC permit in 1993 and stocked 15,000 TGC into Rodemacher Lake. A 1994 summer vegetation survey indicated an 8.5 % increase in hydrilla, so an additional 8,000 TGC were stocked. In 1995 an additional 9,250 TGC were stocked, bringing the total to 10.5 TGC per surface acre stocked between 1993 and 1995. By the spring of 1997, all submergent vegetation had been eradicated. Currently no submersed vegetation is found in Rodemacher Lake.

Chemical

Prior to 2009, no herbicide treatments had occurred on Rodemacher Lake. However, from 2009-2014 LDWF spray personnel treated 183 acres of emergent vegetation. For a complete summary of herbicide applications see Table 1.

Table 1. Herbicide treatment acreages for aquatic plants sprayed on Rodemacher Lake, Louisiana 2009 to 2014.

Year	Acres Treated	Vegetation
2009	68.34	Water Hyacinth
	1.33	Alligator Weed
	6.94	Common Salvinia
2010	None	
2011	None	
2012	None	
2013	46.60	Water Hyacinth
	20	Alligator Weed
2014	25.27	Water Hyacinth
	3.33	Alligator Weed
	11.31	American Lotus

Herbicide applications in the past have been applied at the following rates:

Imazapyr (Ecomazapyr): Used at a rate of 0.5 gal/acre with Turbulence (0.25 gal/acre) surfactant to treat alligator weed.

Glyphosate (Aquamaster, Aquastar, etc.): Used at a rate of 0.75 gallons per acre to treat alligator weed, water hyacinth, and giant and common salvinia during the active growing period.

Diquat (Reward, Knockout): Used at a rate of 0.75 gallons per acre to treat alligator weed, water hyacinth, and giant and common salvinia during the slower growing period or winter months.

Surfactant is added at a rate of 1:4 (surfactant: herbicide) for all herbicides.

Future herbicide applications for the treatment of giant and common salvinia will be in accordance with the approved LDWF Aquatic Herbicide Recommendations effective March 18, 2013. Schedule and rates listed below:

April 1-October 31: glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) and diquat (0.25 gal/acre) with Aqua King Plus (0.25 gal/acre) and Air Cover (12 oz. /acre)

November 1 – March 31: diquat (0.75 gal./acre) and a non-ionic surfactant (0.25 gal/acre)

Physical Characteristics

Rodemacher Lake has not been drawn down.

History of Regulations

Recreational

Statewide regulations for all fish species, the recreational fishing regulations may be viewed at the link: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

Rodemacher Lake was designated a Quality Lake in 1991 and a 14”- 17” slot limit on black bass was in effect from 1991-2014. The slot limit was removed in April of 2014 after biological evaluation determined the length regulations have not been effective. The removal of the slot limit will increase the opportunities for angler harvest.

Commercial

The commercial fishing regulations may be viewed at the link: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

Drawdown history

No drawdowns have been conducted to date. The primary purpose of the lake is to provide cooling water for the CLECO Boyce Power Plant.

Fishing closure

N/A

Depth below pool

Unknown

Estimated % exposed

Unknown

Who operated structure?

Drawdowns are at the discretion of the lake owner – CLECO Corporation.

Fish kills

No documented fish kills have occurred on Rodemacher Lake.

Fish kills / disease history, LMBV

A review of the records indicates Rodemacher Lake was not sampled for LMBV. No fish kills or disease history has been documented.

Contaminants / Pollution

No documented records of contaminants or pollution have been located in the files. Currently there are no fish consumption advisories for Rodemacher Lake. However, annual updates can be found at the DEQ and LDWF links below:

<http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2201/Default.aspx>

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/fish-consumption-advisories>

Water level

Normal pool elevation for Rodemacher Lake is 100.0 MSL. Water levels do not fluctuate greatly due to the small watershed.

Biological

Fish samples

Table 3. Historical and scheduled fisheries sampling on Rodemacher Lake, Louisiana.

YEAR	SAMPLING GEAR
1979	Rotenone – 2 Stations
1990	Electrofishing (Fall – 1 Station) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
1991	Electrofishing (Fall – 4 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
1992	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 2 Stations) Rotenone – 2 Stations
1993	Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring – 5 Stations and Fall – 2 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station) Rotenone – 3 Stations
1994	Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring – 1 Station and Fall – 3 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
1995	Gill Net (Winter – 2 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring – 3 Stations and Fall – 2 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
1996	Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring – 3 Stations and Fall – 2 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
1998	Seine Net (Summer – 3 Stations) Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring – 6 Stations and Fall – 5 Stations) Frame Net (Winter – 3 Stations)
1999	Seine Net (Summer – 3 Stations) Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 5 Stations)
2000	Seine Net (Summer – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations) Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations)
2001	Seine Net (Summer – 3 Stations) Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations)

2002	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations) Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations)
2003	Frame Net (Winter – 2 Stations) Lead Net (Winter – 2 Stations)
2004	Gill Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations) Frame Net (Winter – 3 Stations) Lead Net (Winter – 3 Stations)
2006	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations)
2007	Lead Net (Winter – 4 Stations)
2008	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations)
2009	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations)
2013	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall – 4 Stations) Forage (Fall – 1 Station)
2014	None scheduled
2015	None scheduled
2016	None scheduled
2017	Electrofishing (Spring and Fall - 4-stations) Forage (Fall – 1 station)

Lake records

No official records are kept for Rodemacher Lake.

Stocking History

Florida largemouth bass were stocked in Rodemacher Lake annually from 1993 to 2006. No stocking has occurred since 2006. Due to the increased level of turbidity, the lake does not meet the LDWF stocking criteria at this time. Stocking records can be found in Table 4.

Table 4. Fish stocking records for Rodemacher Lake, Louisiana, from 1993 to present.

Year	Florida largemouth bass
1993	149,860
1994	17,850
1995	175,680
1996	19,954
1997	16,587
1998	50,816
1999	157,290
2000	154,221
2001	154,785
2002	155,743
2003	152,409
2004	152,926
2005	157,238
2006	27,783

Genetics

Genetic testing of largemouth bass was first conducted in 1998 and occurred in 2006, 2008 and 2009 for Rodemacher Lake, LA. The complete record of genetic testing is found in Table 5.

Table 5. Genetic analysis of the largemouth bass population in Rodemacher Lake, Louisiana for 1998, 2006, 2008, and 2009.

Year	Sample Size	% Northern	% Florida	% Hybrid	% Florida Influence
1998	37	70	6	24	30
2006	67	40	15	45	60
2008	66	46	15	39	54
2009	35	43	14	43	57

Species profile

As per Freshwater Fishes of Louisiana by Dr. Neil H. Douglas, fish species listed in Table 6 have been collected or are likely to occur in Rodemacher Lake.

Table 6. Fishes collected or likely to occur in Rodemacher Lake, LA

Lamprey Family, PETROMYZONTIDAE

Southern brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon gagei* Hubbs and Trautman

Chestnut lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon castaneus* Girard

Gar Family, LEPISOSTEIDAE

Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Bowfin Family, AMIIDAE

Bowfin, *Amia calva* Linnaeus

Freshwater Eel Family, ANGUILLIDAE

American eel, *Anguilla rostrata* (Lesueur)

Herring Family, CLUPEIDAE

Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)

Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Günther)

Minnow Family, CYPRINIDAE

Blacktail shiner, *Cyprinella venusta* (Girard)

Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus

Cypress minnow, *Hybognathus hayi* Jordan

Striped shiner, *Luxilus chrysocephalus* Rafinesque

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)

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)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE

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

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

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

Sunfish Family, CENTRARCHIDAE

- 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)

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

None documented.

Creel

Access point creel surveys with trailer counts were conducted on Rodemacher Lake in 1993 and 1999.

Hydrological Changes

Hydrological changes have been minimal since the lake was created in 1974. Development around the shoreline has been limited. The majority of the shoreline is owned by CLECO Corporation.

Water Use

Hunting

CLECO Corporation does not allow hunting on Rodemacher Lake.

Recreational watersports

Recreational water sports are limited. High turbidity levels (muddy water) make the lake unpopular for recreational watersports.

Fishing

Rodemacher Lake is utilized extensively for recreational fishing -- primarily for largemouth bass, white crappie and channel catfish.

Scuba Diving

No scuba diving is done on Rodemacher Lake due to limited water clarity (muddy water).

Swimming

Limited due to the turbidity (muddy water).

Irrigation

Rodemacher Lake is not used for irrigation purposes.

Appendix I
[\(return to boat ramps\)](#)

Map of Rodemacher Lake Boat Ramps.



Appendix II
([return to Typemap](#))

Vegetation survey for Rodemacher Lake, Rapides Parish, Louisiana

