

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

**2018 AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER COMPLEX

1. Waterbody type – Natural river system including the Tchefuncte River, Bogue Falaya River and the Abita River
2. Surface Acres-The three streams combine to total 74 river miles and drain a 192 square mile watershed.
3. Waterbody Board or Lake Commission – The State of Louisiana has authority of the state-owned water bottoms of the Tchefuncte River. The laws governing Natural and Scenic River Systems regulate some land practices along the river and also protect the river from hydrologic alterations. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) regulates fish and wildlife resources in all public waters that drain the Tchefuncte River watershed, including the Bogue Falaya and Abita Rivers.

What significant stakeholders use the lake?

Residential developments, recreational fishermen, boaters and hunters.

What are their needs and concerns?

There are minor concerns annually for nuisance plant control, primarily from waterfront residents.

Aquatic Vegetation Status:

Although aquatic plant issues do not typically restrict access in these areas, common salvinia (*Salvinia minima*), giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), duckweed (*Lemna sp.*), and alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) have been the primary focus of nuisance aquatic plant control in the system.

Limitations:

Infestations of giant salvinia persist in the shallow marshes east and west of the Tchefuncte River. Access to these areas is limited to surface drive or air boats.

Past Control Measures:

Herbicide applications have made from boat mounted sprayers when necessary. Since 2010, 694.6 acres of aquatic vegetation have been treated (Table 1).

Table 1. Acres of Vegetation Treated Annually 2010-2017

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Alligator Weed	0	20	14	0	6	18.7	35	47	140.7
Pennywort	3	8	0	0	0	0	8	0	19
Primrose	9	0	0	0	5	0.06	24	3.5	41.56
Common Salvinia	6	9	2	17	31	13.03	9	24	111.03
Duckweed	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Water Hyacinth	5	0	0	0	84		115.75	109	313.25
Giant Salvinia	0	0	0	0	4	5.06	0	57	66.06
Total	23	37	16	20	130	36.85	191.75	240	694.6

Recommendations:

Regular assessments and herbicide applications will be made to ensure all major waterways in the complex are open and accessible. Additional requests for nuisance plant treatments primarily come from waterfront residents. LDWF will continue to prioritize and make treatments as necessary in this area. Further assessments and herbicide applications will be made in areas containing significant infestations of giant salvinia. Common and giant salvinia will be treated with a mixture of glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) and diquat (0.25 gal/acre) with Turbulence (or approved equivalent, 0.25 gal/acre) surfactant from April 1- October 31. Diquat (0.75 gal/acre) and Turbulence (or approved equivalent, 0.25 gal/acre) will be used from November 1 – March 31.

Alligator weed will be treated with imazamox (0.5 gal/acre) in developed areas or imazapyr (0.5 gal/acre) in undeveloped areas with no restrictions. Turbulence (or approved equivalent, 0.25 gal/acre) will be added to either of the two alligator weed treatments to improve efficacy. Water hyacinth will be treated with a mixture of 2,4-D (0.5 gal/acre) and a non-ionic surfactant (1 pint/acre).