

# False River Watershed Council



## MANAGING FALSE RIVER WATERSHED RESOURCES

*An Annual Report to the Louisiana Legislature*

*April 2022*

***To the Distinguished Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and Senate Committee on Environmental Quality of the Louisiana Legislature, and the People of the Great State of Louisiana***

April 29, 2022

Dear Members:

We, the members of the False River Watershed Council, have completed this Annual report in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 of Regular Session 2020. The original May, 2013 report was completed in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 123 of Regular Session 2012 and updated in April 2018 in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 52 of Regular Session 2017

Specifically, the False River Watershed Council has assembled and prepared this document, which presents the activities undertaken by the Council during the previous year, and lists the priorities for the upcoming year. It is the intent of this Council, interested stakeholders, and all those involved in the project to preserve, protect, and enhance the quality of False River, located in Pointe Coupee Parish, now and for generations to come.

The report includes the results of the completed False River Aquatic Resources Ecosystem Restoration Project. We look forward to any further guidance or feedback as we press forward with the False River Aquatic Resources Ecosystem Restoration Project.

We appreciate the support of the Louisiana Legislature as we move forward with this plan of action.

Sincerely yours,

***The Members of the False River Watershed Council***

## **False River Watershed Fact Sheet**

### **False River Watershed:**

- Pointe Coupee Parish
- Total area: ~35,000 acres
- Area of “The Island”: ~18,400 acres (53%)  
(defined herein as east of False River, South of False Bayou, north of the Chenal and west of the Mississippi River)
- Discharge Bayou drainage area (M-1 and associated canals): ~17,600 acres (50%)
- M-2 Canal and False Bayou drainage area: ~9,500 acres (27%)
- Cultivated area (2011): ~2,300 acres (7%)
- Developed area (2011): ~1,700 acres (5%)

### **False River (lake)**

- Owned by the State of Louisiana
- Oxbow/horseshoe lake – abandoned (~1722) meander of the Mississippi River
- Area: ~3,100 acres (3,200 acres with associated wetlands)
- Shoreline: 117,000 feet (22 miles)
- Developed shoreline: 110,000 feet (21 miles)
- Pool stage: 16 feet above mean sea level (NGVD)
- Volume (pool stage): 67,300 acre-feet (22 billion gallons)
- Maximum depth: 65 feet
- Average depth: 21 feet
- Highest water level recorded: 23.2 feet (1983)
- Lowest water level recorded: 10.6 feet (2016)
- Primary Outfall - Lighthouse Canal Structure maximum capacity: 1,400 cfs (three roller gates)
- Lighthouse Canal Structure owned by LDOTD and operated by PCPJ
- Secondary Outfall - Bayou Sere invert eight: 15 feet (outflow start at 16.5 ft).
- Estimated sediment influx (2011 - NRCS RUSLE2 model): 21,000 tons
- South Flats Island: 16.5 acres (3,500 feet of shoreline)

Sources: LDNR, 2012 & 2017; NRCS, 2011 & 2017; USGS, 1999; LDWF, 2011 & 2016; USACE, 2011

Note: Front cover picture of the North Flats is courtesy of LDWF.

**Members of the False River Watershed Council**

**Kristi Butler, Chairperson**

Director, Inland Fisheries Section  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000, 2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898  
Phone: (225) 765-2331/Email: [kbutler@wlf.la.gov](mailto:kbutler@wlf.la.gov)

**Thomas Van Biersel, PhD - Vice Chairperson**

Senior Coastal Resources Scientist  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 44487, 617 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4487  
Phone: (225) 342-1813/Email: [thomas.vanbiersel@LA.GOV](mailto:thomas.vanbiersel@LA.GOV)

**Arthur Ewing**

Appointed by the Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury  
P.O. Box 290, New Roads, La. 70760  
Phone: (225) /Email: [aoewing@gmail.com](mailto:aoewing@gmail.com)

**Joey Breaux**

Assistant Commissioner, Soil and Water Conservation  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
5825 Florida Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
Phone: (225) 922-1269/Email: [joey\\_b@ldaf.state.la.us](mailto:joey_b@ldaf.state.la.us)

**Jacob Haffner, PE**

District 2 Engineer, Office of Public Health  
Louisiana Department of Health  
P. O. Box 629, 628 N. 4th Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0629  
Phone: (225) 342-7395/Email: [Jacob.Haffner@la.gov](mailto:Jacob.Haffner@la.gov)

**Jimmy Chustz, PLS**

Appointed by the representative from House District 18  
Chustz Surveying, Inc.  
211 Richy Street, New Roads, LA 70760  
Phone: (225) 638-5949/Email: [jchustz@chustz.com](mailto:jchustz@chustz.com)

**Cy Daquila**

Selected by the senator from Senate District 17  
P.O. Box 866, New Roads, LA 70760  
Phone: (225) 718-0506/Email: [Cjdr80@bellsouth.net](mailto:Cjdr80@bellsouth.net)

**Jerry Hix**

Appointed by the mayor of the city of New Roads  
Phone: (225) 618-8867/Email: [jdrix@aol.com](mailto:jdrix@aol.com)

**Mark Ward**

Director

Pointe Coupee Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness  
P.O. Box 248, East Main Street  
New Roads, LA 70760  
Phone: (225) 638-5400/Email: [Mward@pcpsso.org](mailto:Mward@pcpsso.org)

**Stephen Chustz**

Appointed by the representative from House District 18  
Phone: (225) 335-8047/Email: [chustz@msn.com](mailto:chustz@msn.com)

**Bijan Sharafkhani, PE**

Confidential Advisor to the Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301  
Phone: (225) 219-3953/Email: [Bijan.Sharafkhani@la.gov](mailto:Bijan.Sharafkhani@la.gov)

**Major Thibaut**

Parish President

2004 False River Drive  
New Roads, LA 70760  
Phone: (225) 638-3811/Email: [mthibaut@pcparish.org](mailto:mthibaut@pcparish.org)

**Ron Pourciau**

Selected by the senator from Senate District 17  
President- Pointe Coupee B.A.S.S. Chapter  
9512 Mary Louise St, Livonia, La 70755  
Phone: (225) 240-9892/Email: [ron.pourciau@wbrsheriff.org](mailto:ron.pourciau@wbrsheriff.org)

**Jeremy LaCombe**

Representative – District 18

P. O. Box 370  
Livonia, LA 70755  
Phone: (225) 6378-3803/Email: [hse018@legis.la.gov](mailto:hse018@legis.la.gov) TVB Phone

**Rick Ward, III**

Senator – District 17

3741 Highway 1  
Port Allen, LA 70767  
Phone: (225) 246-8838/Email: [wardr@legis.la.gov](mailto:wardr@legis.la.gov)

**Other Contributors to the Report**

Brian Heimann  
Biologist Manager, Inland Fisheries Section  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000, 2000 Quail Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898  
Phone: (225) 765-2337/Email: [bheimann@wlf.la.gov](mailto:bheimann@wlf.la.gov)

Kevin Gravois, P.E., Principal  
Professional Engineering Consultants Corporation  
7600 Innovation Park Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70820  
Phone: (225) 769-2810 / Email: [kgravois@pecla.com](mailto:kgravois@pecla.com)

This second annual report update is submitted to the Louisiana Legislature, specifically the House Committee on Natural Resources, and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, in accordance with HCR 35 of 2020. Recent (since the April 2021 annual report to the legislature), and ongoing activities, concerns and maintenance issues by the False River Watershed Council (FRWC) are as follows:

### ***1. Meetings of the False River Watershed Council***

The FRWC met in person at the Parish Government offices in New Roads on July 14, 2021, and by conference call on April 21, 2022. The agendas and minutes of the council meetings can be found on the False River Watershed Council webpage on the LDNR website at <http://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=924>

### ***2. Ongoing repair to the lake and Discharge Bayou shoreline***

The project along Discharge Bayou involved the repair of approximately 300 linear feet total of shoreline on both sides of Discharge Bayou (Figure 1 and Appendix A). The repair was due to a failure of the existing timber bulkhead. The repair consisted of removing the existing timber bulkhead and replacing with new 40 feet long steel cantilever sheet piles. Also, backfilling of the areas behind the bulkhead to bring site to original grade.

### ***3. Fall 2021 Lake Drawdown***

Beginning in 2016/2017, LDWF and Pointe Coupee Parish have conducted water level drawdowns at regular intervals. Lake drawdowns were performed in the fall/winter of 2016/2017, 2019/2020, and 2021/2022 (Figure 2). Going forward, water level manipulations will be performed every 3 years, meaning the next scheduled drawdown will be in fall/winter of 2024/2025.

Drawdowns commence after Labor Day during scheduled years. The lake is dewatered at a rate of 1.5 inches per day to a maximum of 6 feet below pool stage. The lake is held at the lowest level possible until January 15th of the following year, at which time the water control structure is closed and the lake is allowed to refill. During drawdowns, the lake remains open to fishing and other recreational activities.

In 2021/2022, a drawdown was conducted for habitat improvement and sediment consolidation. The water control structure was opened on September 7, 2021 and was closed on January 15, 2022. The lake reached a low level of 10.5' MSL and remained below 12' MSL for the majority of the drawdown (Figure 2).





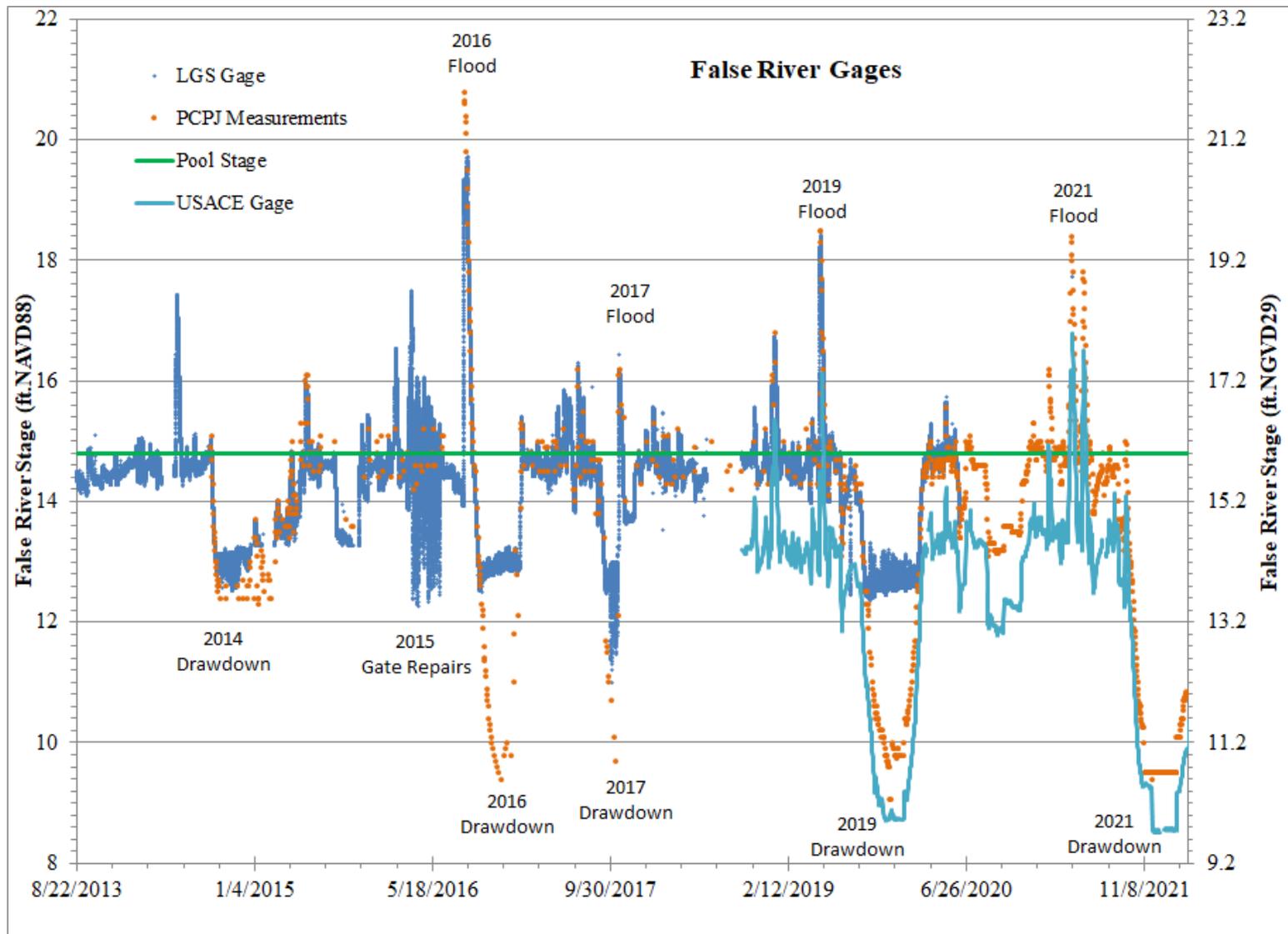


Figure: 2: False River Stage

The watershed to lake ratio for False River is 10:1. This sizeable watershed typically results in rapid refilling of the lake upon water control structure closure. However, limited rainfall during the winter of 2021/2022 allowed the lake to remain lower for a longer period of time than is normally observed during False River drawdowns. Pointe Coupee Parish was included in a geographical area listed as being under “Extreme Drought” conditions by the USDA during this time period.

Drawdowns are a commonly used tool for lake/reservoir managers, not only in Louisiana, but also by a majority of natural resource management agencies across the United States. They are most commonly utilized in lakes/reservoirs where water levels, if left to themselves, fluctuate infrequently. The infrequency of fluctuation often has an intended purpose, which is to maintain a stable water level for a variety of reasons. Water levels are often controlled by weirs, dams, siphons, etc. Sometimes levels are controlled for flood mitigation, or aesthetics, or access, etc. The consequence of these actions is often an increase in organic matter deposition, reduced sportfish populations, increased turbidity, and loose substrates. In natural systems, not influenced by dams or weirs, often there is a flood pulse in the spring when water levels increase above normal, followed by a period of low water in the fall when water levels are below normal. Drawdowns mimic this natural cycle that has been interrupted by anthropogenic factors. The benefits are multiple, many of which are already being observed in False River after a series of drawdowns. Drawdowns often lead to an increase in sportfish production due to habitat improvement. Lake substrate is improved and utilized as spawning habitat and a base for beneficial aquatic vegetation (Figure 3 and see Appendix B). Pre-spawn body condition of predatory sportfish is improved due to increased availability of forage. Sediments are consolidated and organic matter is decomposed and compacted, thus creating depth as well as a firmer substrate. Turbidity is reduced by consolidation of exposed sediments. Herbaceous terrestrial plants are often established, offering increased productivity and habitat once water levels return to normal.

Water level manipulations are an integral part of the management of False River. Drawdowns will continue to be implemented at regular intervals as part of the overall management strategy to further improve the habitat quality and productivity of False River.

#### ***4. Lake Habitat and Fisheries Update***

The following is a brief summary of LDWF Inland Fisheries activities with regard to False River since 2018. For a complete history of LDWF management of False River, please see the LDWF Waterbody Management Series for False River, parts MP-A and MP-B, located here: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/resources/category/freshwater-inland-fish/inland-waterbody-management-plans>

False River continues to be stocked annually with Florida strain Largemouth Bass (Figures 4 and 5). Other species are also stocked, although not on an annual basis.

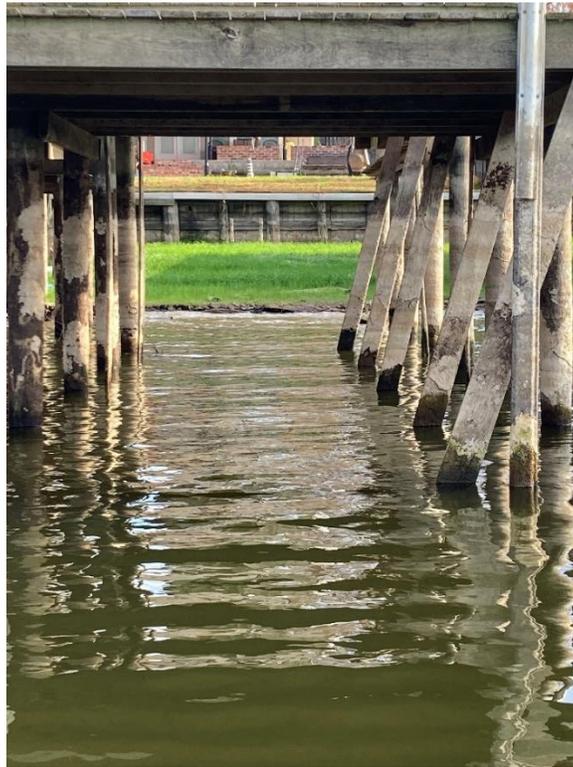
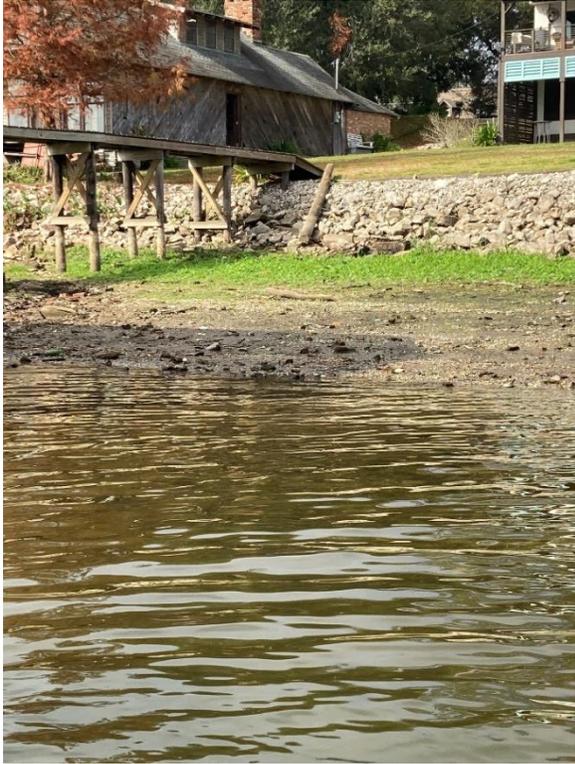


Figure 3: Emerging vegetation on the exposed lake substrate (photographs by Brian Heimann)

	FLORIDA LARGEMOUTH BASS	HYBRID STRIPED BASS	BLUEGILL SUNFISH	CHANNEL CATFISH	BLACK CRAPPIE
<b>2018</b>	8,916	5,025	4,682		16,838
<b>2019</b>	6,090	16,430		7,240	
<b>2020</b>	6,080				
<b>2021</b>	6,070				
<b>2022</b>	6,000 (requested)		5,000		10,970

Figure 4: Stocking efforts by species by year for False River, LA 2018 – 2022.



Figure 5: Photograph of stocking efforts on False River.

	GEAR
<b>2018</b>	Electrofishing, 8 stations, spring & fall / Lead nets – 6 stations / Gill nets – 6 stations / Seine – 5 stations
<b>2019</b>	Electrofishing, 8 stations, spring only / Seine – 5 stations
<b>2020</b>	Electrofishing, 8 stations, spring & fall / Lead nets – 6 stations / Gill nets – 6 stations
<b>2021</b>	Electrofishing, 8 stations, spring only / LMB genetic sampling
<b>2022 (scheduled)</b>	Electrofishing, 8 stations, spring & fall / Lead nets – 6 stations / Gill nets – 6 stations / LMB genetic sampling

Figure 6: LDWF sampling on False River, LA from 2018 – 2022.

LDWF Inland Fisheries continues to sample the fishery of False River, utilizing a variety of gears and methods. All samples are performed per LDWF Inland Fisheries standardized sampling protocol. A summary of samples collected since 2018 is described in Figure 6.

Data collected from standardized sampling are utilized to analyze various characteristics of the fishery of False River. Below are graphs representing catch rates of Largemouth Bass, captured by electrofishing. In recent years, beginning in 2015 and following water level reductions at regular intervals, dredging, and improvements in the watershed, total catch rate as well as catches of stock-, quality-, and preferred- size LMB have shown to be increasing (Figure 7). Not only is there an increasing trend in catch rates from 2016 to 2021, there is also less variability in catch rates over the same time span (Figure 8). These higher numbers and reduced variability indicate that more habitats are available for successful spawns and that the fishery is responding positively to improved habitat conditions in the lake. Not since the lake was designated as a “trophy lake” have catch rates reached the level of magnitude and consistency evident in recent years.

LDWF Inland Fisheries is responsible for managing freshwater fisheries resources through a variety of methods, including habitat improvement. One means of habitat improvement is the addition of complex cover for fish. It is known that anglers often enjoy increased success when they target objects that provide cover. In the spring of 2019 and 2020, LDWF Inland Fisheries staff hinge-cut approximately 500 yards of willow trees along the east bank of the island in the south end of False River (Figure 8). The trees were cut near-shore, along the bank, and allowed to fall into the water perpendicular to the shoreline. In the summer of 2019, LDWF Inland Fisheries created an artificial reef made of 120 structures in False River. The structures were constructed from scrap polyethylene pipe (Figure 9), and were placed in 15-20 foot depths in an area of the north flats. Dense areas of cover can provide nursery habitat for young fish and ambush points for feeding fish. These downed trees and artificial structures will also be colonized by periphyton, which in turn is a food source for macroinvertebrates.

### ***5. Lighthouse Canal Control Structure***

The Lighthouse Canal bulkhead of vinyl sheet piles was replaced in areas where the sheets showed failure (Appendix D).

### ***6. False River Big Bass Program***

The 2021 replicas were presented at the Bass Tournament on Sunday March 20, 2022. (Appendix E).

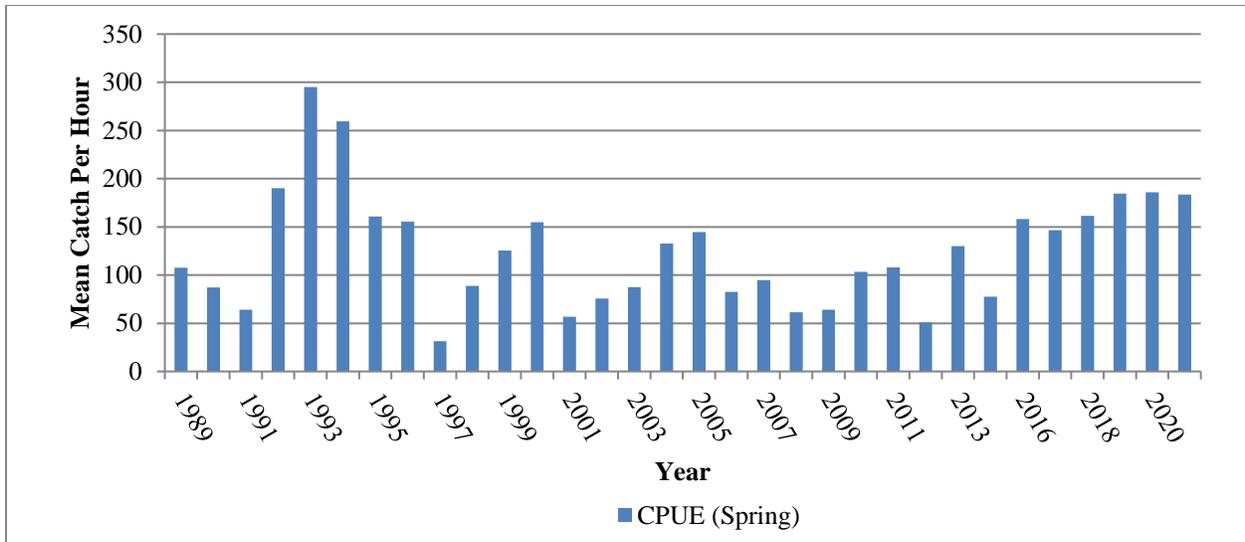


Figure 7: The mean CPUE in number per hour for Largemouth Bass collected from False River, LA, during spring electrofishing from 1989 to 2021.

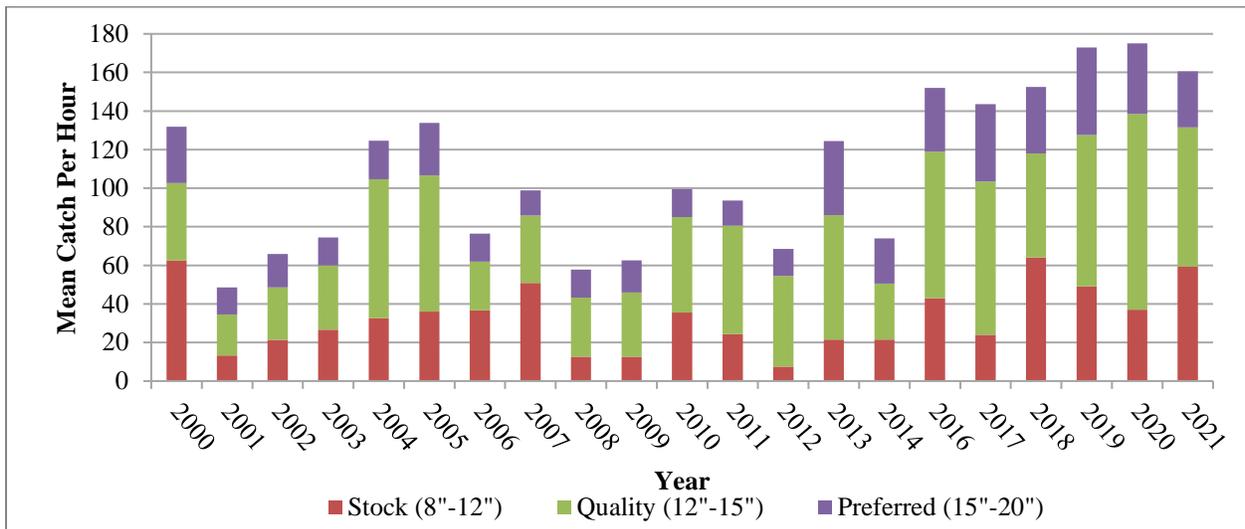


Figure 8: The mean CPUE for stock- (8"-12"), quality- (12"-15") and preferred-size (15"-20") largemouth bass collected from False River, LA during spring electrofishing from 2000 to 2021.



Figure 9: Hinge-cut willow trees along the east bank of the South Flats Island and artificial reefs

### **References:**

False River Watershed Council, 2013. An Interim Report on HCR 123 of 2012 Regular Legislative Session: report submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, pp. 125.

False River Watershed Council, 2018. False River Watershed Interim Report on HCR 52 of 2017 Regular Legislative Session: : report submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, pp. 165.

False River Watershed Council, 2021. False River Watershed Annual Report on HCR 35 of 2020 Regular Legislative Session: : report submitted to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, pp. 26.

Appendix A  
Discharge Bayou Shoreline Work





Photo A1: Northwest view across Discharge Bayou near LA 413 bridge. Final grading and bulkhead shown on both side of the bayou.



Photo A2: Northeast view across Discharge Bayou near LA 413 bridge. Final grading and steel sheet piling with cap shown on both side of the bayou. Stormwater drain shown on the foreground.



Photo A3: Southeast view across Discharge Bayou near LA 413 bridge. Final grading and bulkhead shown on both side of the bayou.



Photo A4: Pre-repair picture of failed bulkhead on Discharge Bayou near LA 413 bridge.

Appendix B  
Fall 2021 Drawdown



Photo B1: Reinforced bulkhead – LA 1 side, during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)



Photo B2: Exposed shell & sand – LA 1 side, mid-lake, during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)



Photo B3: South flats from Bayou Chenal during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)





Photo B4: Exposed sandy/silty point near Bayou Chenal during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)



Photo B5: Exposed sand flat – island side – during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)



Photo B6: Large exposed shell & clay point in north flats during 2021/2022 drawdown (taken by Brian Heimann on 12/5/21)

Appendix C  
March 27, 2022 News Article

# OUTDOORS

## False River producing like its glory days

Long-term sediment removal has revitalized 13-mile oxbow lake in Pointe Coupee Parish

BY JOE MACALUSO  
Contributing writer

Fishermen knew it and state fisheries biologists knew it, too.

False River, that grand ol' oxbow lake with its northernmost anchor in the town of New Roads, arguably was the biggest jewel in Louisiana's freshwater fishing crown.

Wildlife and Fisheries biologists had the numbers, year after year, proving this 13-mile long lake — cut off from the Mississippi River more than two centuries ago — was among the top five fisheries in the country when it came to pounds of fish per acre.

Then it happened. Landowners surrounding the lake tired of spring rains inundating their fields and came up with a plan to send runoff into the lake's south end. A couple of years later, interests between the lake and the Mississippi River got a plan approved to drain even more lands.

The moves more than doubled the lake's watershed, and, despite assurances from federal, state and local officials to reduce sediment loads from these two drainage projects, the lake began to fill with silt.

The result was a dramatic decrease in spawning success of the largemouth bass, sac-a-lait, bluegill and the always-popular redear sunfish, a species locals call "chinquapin."

With those species in decline, species like buffalo and gar, among other undesirable species, took over because water quality suffered, too.

Now, with the hope spring brings, False River is soft on its way to regaining its lofty perch on our state's fishing ladder.

"It started in 2009 with our proposal for sediment removal," state Inland Fisheries Section biologist Brian Heimann said. "We wanted to begin a series of drawdowns, too, but we didn't get much traction there."

Lakeside homeowners were concerned about some unfounded effect of lower water levels on their backyards.

Heimann said it took work to get those projects from the drawing board to the lake.

"We partnered with the (Department of Environmental Quality), the (state) Ag and Forestry, the Corps (of Engineers), (Pointe Coupee) parish, the city (New Roads) and waterfront owners to set up the False River Watershed Council," he said. "And, after laying out the plans, we became unified in the vision of improving False River."

"The sediment was suffocating False River, covering spawning beds and reducing aquatic (plants) growth."

Heimann said 2012 was the jumping-off year with weirs and

baffles to slow the sediment load, then a 2014 project to dredge the soft sediment from the south end. The sediment was pumped into a retaining area to create on the lake's once fish-rich South Flats.

"We lowered the lake 2.5 feet to do that work, and the drawdown worked," he said.

So the next step was to dredge the northern end. Problem was there was no place to put an island and the dredge material was pumped into large geotech bags on dry ground. Drawdowns followed in the next years, the latest in 2021 into this year, and Heimann said the results are beyond good.

"In 10 years, there are a number of improvements," he said. "Fishing has increased. Catch rates are up. We never stopped sampling and the last four years' samples are the highest in the last 30 years, ever since (state fisheries biologists) Tim Morrison and Mark McElroy were working the lake before the drainage projects. "We're on the right path. The things we're doing are doing right for the lake. The biomass of fish is there and indicates the potential of the lake is there," he said.

**Bigger bass**  
Lost in the history of this lake is it produced the 12-pound-plus, state-record largemouth bass in the late 1970s.

Hopes for anglers now is another state record after Heimann's crew electro-shocked up a 13-pound plus largemouth earlier this year. That's a story for another year.

And, just last weekend, a 9.75-pounder came in a weigh-in for the Westside Bassmasters tournament, and last Sunday's annual Pointe Coupee Kiwanis tournament had a 9-pounder for the second-place team of Jeff David and Aaron Boudreaux.

Heimann said the plan was to stock Florida-strain largemouth bass during the early recovery years, but he said only 6,000 fingerlings per year have been added in recent years.

"The only reason to stock (Florida bass) was not to increase numbers, but to introduce the Florida strain into the lake, to have the potential to incorporate Florida genetically, and now our tests show 76% of the bass have some type of Florida influence," he said.

Sac-a-lait and channel catfish are also part of the restocking planning and, Heimann said, populations are rebounding.

Hybrid striped bass have been reintroduced to control what he called, "an abundant shad population."

Beyond all that, gravel was placed on the north end to mimic the vast clam shell beds, although Heimann said the clams have re-emerged in the most recent drawdown. Because the lake has



PROVIDED PHOTO

Walter Lemoine, left, teamed with Ryan Mitchell to catch a five-bass limit weighing more than 19 pounds to take top money in last Sunday's annual Pointe Coupee Kiwanis tournament on False River. Event organizer Kenny St. Romain said this winning catch proves this oxbow lake has returned to being among the top bass lakes in the state.

### FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

#### Pointe Coupee Kiwanis

**NEW ROADS** — Top 10 and top 2 in big-bass standings from the annual Pointe Coupee Kiwanis Bass tournament held from Morrison Parkway with anglers and their five-bass catch weights in pounds and ounces:  
**Top 10:** 1. Ryan Mitchell-Walt Lemoine (5) 19 pounds, 6 ounces, 2. Jeffrey David-Aaron Boudreaux (5) 16-2.3, Gerald Butler-Vernon Silver (5) 15-5.4, Hunter Gyon-Hunter Gyon (5) 15-0.5, Stuart Woodward-Storm Randall (5) 14-2.

6. Dwayne Guerin-Karl Schneider (5) 13-14.7, "Brother" Pourciau-Tanner Pourciau (5) 13-7.8, Steve Fontana-Kim Orcino (5) 13-3.9, Doug Bergeron-Beau Smith (5) 13-1.10, Rodney Higginbotham-Edward McMillan (5) 13-0.  
**Big Bass:** 1. David-Boudreaux, 9 pounds, 2. Guerin-Schneider, 5-1.

#### Bassmaster Elite

**CLARENDON COUNTY, S.C.** — Monday's final top 10 from the four-day Bassmaster Elite Series event held on Santee Cooper Lakes with anglers, their hometowns, number of bass weighed in parentheses (5-bass daily limit), total weight in pounds and ounces and prize winnings. Also listed are other Louisiana anglers, big-bass daily/overall

winners & contingency money winners. Only the top 47 in the 94-angler field moved to the third round, and only the top 10 advanced to the final round:

**Top 10:** 1. Drew Cook, Cairo, Georgia (20) 105 pounds, 5 ounces, \$100,000, 2. Caleb Kuphal, Mukwonago, Wisconsin (19) 103-1, \$35,000, 3. Brandon Palaniuk, Rathdrum, Idaho (20) 98-0, \$30,000, 4. Luke Palmer, Coalgate, Oklahoma (20) 95-7, \$25,000, 5. Cory Johnston, Cavan, Canada (20) 88-9, \$20,000.

6. Brandon Cobb, Greenwood, South Carolina (20) 85-6, \$19,000, 7. John Cox, DeBary, Florida (20) 84-6, \$19,000, 8. Greg Hackney, Gonzales, Louisiana (20) 82-1, \$17,000, 9. Drew Benton, Blakely, Georgia (19) 78-13, \$16,000, 10. Pat Schlapper, Eleva, Wisconsin (19) 77-15, \$15,000.

**Other Louisiana anglers:** 37. Tyler Rivet, Raceland (15) 51-8, \$10,000, 42. Derek Hudnall, Denham Springs (14) 48-7, \$10,000, 56. Darold Gleason, Many (10) 31-1, \$2,500, 72. Caleb Sumrall, New Iberia (10) 27-12.

**Phoenix Beats Big Bass Overall (ans Day 2):** Schlapper, 9 pounds, 10 ounces, \$2,000; Day 1, Todd Auten, Lake Wylie, South Carolina, 8-15, \$1,000; Day 3, Palmer, 9-4, \$1,000; Day 4, Cook, 7-14, \$1,000.

**VMC Monster Bag (one-day catch):** Palmer, 33-5, \$2,000.

### "False River is back, and that's made a lot of people happy."

KENNY ST. ROMAIN, bass tournament organizer

not filled as fast — because of drought conditions — vegetation is growing in what was shallow-water areas.

"When we get another couple of feet of water, the bream will move into those areas," he said.

That's music to Kenny St. Romain's ears.

St. Romain is in the forefront of the P.C. Kiwanis' efforts to make False River friendly for all user groups.

Funds raised from the club's 40-plus tournaments are used to place buoys along False River's entire shoreline.

"This year's tournament was the best one we've ever had. We had 75% of the boats weigh in five fish (the limit) and it took 13 pounds to make the top 10," St. Romain said. "We had that 9-pounder, and

almost everyone reported catching lots of bass, yes, small fish, but small fish will be big fish one day."

St. Romain said working with the Wildlife and Fisheries-led efforts and parish officials, the lake is getting healthy, and with the club's buoy project — the 220 buoys make no-wake zones 300 feet between the buoys and the banks — wave wash is reducing erosion along unprotected banks.

"Yes, it's for safety and erosion, and it's reduced boating accidents on the river, and we're seeing a lot more boats on the river in the past four years."

"False River is back, and that's made a lot of people happy."

Email Joe Macaluso at [jmacaluso@theadvocate.com](mailto:jmacaluso@theadvocate.com)

Appendix D  
Lighthouse Canal Control Structure and Approach



Photo D1: Photograph of the inlet to the Lighthouse Canal water control structure.

Appendix E  
False River Big Bass Replica Program 2022





Photo E1: False River Big Bass program. The 2021 replicas were presented at the Bass Tournament on Sunday March 20, 2022.