

PHASE IV DEBRIS REMOVAL SURVEY
Preliminary Environmental Unit Review

Waterway: 8529 Saint Tammany Parish nearshore waters (GOMMDP)

NOAA reviewer: Jordan Stout

Date: 11APR2008

Checklist of Environmental Factors – Assess the potential for impacts to the following resources/areas and coordinate as necessary:

Habitat/environmental sensitivity

Restrict survey to waterway. Do not cause physical damage to wetland shorelines.

Threatened/endangered species

Gulf Sturgeon occur within the Tchefuncta River, Bayou Castine and Bayou Cane. Removal actions at the mouths of these waterways that impact water quality or the physical aquatic substrate requires emergency consultation with USFWS.

Cultural/historical resources

Oyster habitat

State/federal/tribal lands

Coordinate with the LDWF, Wildlife Division (225/765-2360) for survey and removal of items along the shores of the St Tammany Refuge WMA. Coordinate with Big Branch Marsh NWR for survey and removal of items along the shores of the Refuge, Daniel_Breaux@fws.gov (985/882-2000).

Scenic waterway

The Tchefuncta River, Bayou Cane and Bayou LaCombe are Natural and Scenic Rivers. Any survey and removal operations that occur at the mouth of these waterways may require coordination with LDWF (Keith Cascio 318/343-4045).

Summary and Conclusions of Environmental Review:

Habitat/environmental sensitivity: ESI index indicates a mixture of fresh-water and intermediate marsh habitats dominate the shoreline from the Tangipahoa/St. Tammany Parish line east to Bayou LaCombe; brackish marsh dominates between Bayou LaCombe and the LA-11 Bridge;

and freshwater marsh dominate between the I-10 bridge and St Tammany/Orleans Parish line.

Restrict survey to waterway. Do not cause physical damage to wetland shorelines.

Threatened/endangered species: ESI index does not indicate Federally-listed species in open waters of Lake Pontchartrain; though Gulf Sturgeon (a Threatened species) are known to occur within the Tchefuncta River, Bayou Castine and Bayou Cane. Removal actions at the mouths of these waterways, particularly activities causing disturbance to sediment and fauna, require consultation with USFWS. Contact Karen Soileau (337/291-3132) for endangered species emergency consultation beyond what has already been provided in the USFWS' March 18,2008 memorandum.

Cultural/historical resources: No arc available.

Oyster habitat: No oyster lease areas occur in this waterway.

State/federal/tribal lands: ESI index indicates the St Tammany Refuge Wildlife Management Area occurs along the shoreline between Green Point and Bayou Cane and the Big Branch Marsh NWR occurs from Bayou Cane and Big Point (west of LA-11 Bridge). Coordinate with the LDWF, Wildlife Division (225/765-2360) for survey and removal of items along the shores of the St Tammany Refuge WMA. Coordinate with Big Branch Marsh NWR for survey and removal of items, Daniel Breaux@fws.gov, (985)882-2000.

Scenic waterway: ESI index indicates that the Tchefuncta River, Bayou Cane and Bayou LaCombe are Natural and Scenic Rivers. Though the Act does not prohibit the use of motorized boats in the waterways, there is a potential that constraints may be applied to other operations in accordance with the waterway-specific management plan. Any survey and removal operations that occur at the mouth of these waterways may require coordination with LDWF (Keith Cascio 318/343-4045).