

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION*

Name of Water Management Unit: Alabama Bayou

Location and Boundaries: Located in the northeast part of Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. Bordered on the north by U.S. Highway 190, on the west and southwest by the Atchafalaya River and the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel, on the south by I-10, and on the east and northeast by the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Issues: The levee along the Atchafalaya River prevents river inflows into this water management unit except via backwaters from the south, and low dissolved oxygen levels limit aquatic habitat and associated fisheries values there. Primary hydrological input is through Bayou Close at the north end of the unit. Primary outflow is through Cross Bayou to the south into the I-10 canal.

Strategies: The current strategy is to introduce Atchafalaya River inflows into this management unit by implementation of the federally authorized Sherburne Freshwater Diversion Structure. Other proposals have called for pumping water into the unit from the Atchafalaya River, connecting Big Alabama Bayou to Little Alabama Bayou with culverts to improve flow, and removing sediment from Bayou Des Ourses at Big Alabama Bayou to improve flow

Implementation Status:

The Corps of Engineers is currently evaluating possible implementation of the authorized Sherburne Freshwater Diversion Structure.

Available Funding:

Federal Funding Currently Available: To date, no federal funds have been made available for implementation of this project. However, the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program is working with the Corps of Engineers' New Orleans District to move forward with implementation of the Sherburne Freshwater Diversion Structure project.

State Funding Currently Available: None at this time.

Additional Funding Needed: Additional funding needs will be identified as part of the Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plan development process.

* Focus is on measures needed for maintaining, restoring and/or enhancing the Basin's aquatic and wetland habitats