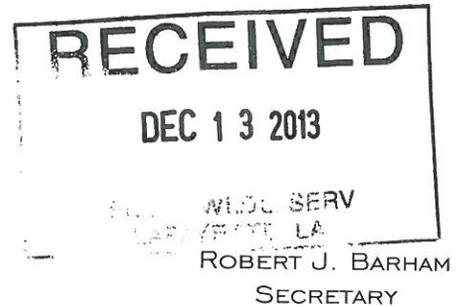




BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



December 11, 2013

Angela Trahan
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Blvd, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

2010 - CPA - 2605

RE: *Application Number: CS-54 Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for C20110534*
Applicant: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)

Dear Mrs. Trahan:

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF) agrees with the proposed water quality monitoring plan for dissolved oxygen, salinity, and temperature within the lake, however, we are concerned to see that suspended sediment monitoring has not been included in the plan. Throughout the planning process for this project LDWF has maintained that a suspended sediment monitoring plan should also be included. The EA indicates that limited field data has been collected for suspended sediment movement and only during low current conditions. The report also quotes from a 1983 report examining suspended sediment levels in Texas. The EA makes no mention of recent data (less than 30 years old), water flow or tidal regimes within Calcasieu Lake. The report also fails to mention the number or type of heavy draft vessels that will be utilized prior to and during dredging operations or the effect these vessels may have on the movement of any sediment plumes within the lake. This lack of recent or relevant data is very concerning to us, and we strongly recommend the inclusion of a turbidity monitoring plan.

There has not been a project like this attempted in Calcasieu Lake in recent history and the potential impacts to commercial and recreational fisheries, including oyster, crab, and shrimp among others, are unknown. This project may set the standards for future removal of material from Calcasieu Lake and data regarding suspended sediment movement within the lake is critical to understanding potential impacts to fisheries and to ensure that any impacts on local aquatic species are minimized.

We respectfully request that this project include a plan to monitor suspended sediment levels both at the dredging location and at the LDWF cultch plant and that USFW provide that data to the appropriate state agencies. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appreciates the opportunity to review and provide recommendations to you regarding this proposed activity.

Sincerely,

Glenn Thomas
Director

Cc: Brian Marcks, LDNR