

**USER REPORT: BATON ROUGE SE, BATON ROUGE SW,  
LAKE CHARLES SE, LAKE CHARLES SW**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetland Inventory is producing maps showing the location and classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. The Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States by Cowardin et al is the classification system used to define and classify wetlands. Photointerpretation conventions, hydric soils lists, and wetland plant lists are also available to enhance the use and application of the classifications system.

**A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the notes to users is threefold: (1) to provide localized information regarding the production of NWI maps, including specific imagery and interpretation discussion; (2) to provide a descriptive cross-reference from wetland codes on the map to common terminology and representative plant species; and (3) to explain local geography, climate, and wetland communities.

**B.** The maps in this report have been grouped because of physiographic similarities. The major ecological regions in the Coastal Louisiana are palustrine forested areas and estuarine salt marsh. The Lake Charles SE and SW 1:100,000 scale maps and the Baton Rouge SE and SW 1:100,000 scale maps are predominately palustrine forested and share the same vegetation species and soil types.

**II. Field Reconnaissance**

**A. Project Area 1:100,000 Scale Maps:**

Lake Charles SW (32 quads)  
Lake Charles SE (32 quads)  
Baton Rouge SW (32 quads)  
Baton Rouge SE (32 quads)

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E. COLLATERAL DATA

1. 7'5" and 15' U.S.G.S. topographic quads
2. 1:250K U.S.G.S. topographic maps
3. Chabreck, R.H. and G. Linscombe. 1978. Vegetative Type Map of the Louisiana Coastal Marshes, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, New Orleans.
4. Hydric Soils List of the State of Louisiana. 1985 (S.C.S.).
5. Wetland Plant List of the State of Louisiana. 1986 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
6. Soil Surveys of the following parishes and counties:

Arcadia	Newton
Ascension	Orleans
Assumption	St. Charles
Calcasieu	St. James
Cameron	St. John Baptist
E. Baton Rouge	St. Landry
Iberia	St. Martin
Iberville	Tangipahoa
Jasper	Vermillion
Jefferson	W. Baton Rouge
Jefferson Davis	
Lafayette	
N. Iberia	
7. Lazarine, P. Common Wetland Plants of Southeast Texas. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston, TX
8. A Guide to Selected Florida Wetland Plants and Communities. 1988. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL
9. Gosselink, J.G., C.L. Cordes, and J. W. Parsons. (1979) An Ecological Characterization Study of the Chenier Plain Coastal Ecosystem of Louisiana and Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, Slidell, LA

The swamps and marshes around Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain are important overwintering areas for ducks and rookery sites for wading birds. Lake Pontchartrain contains commercially exploited Rangia clam beds and is an important fish and shellfish nursery ground.

B. Climate:

The region has a subtropical marine climate influenced by the Gulf of Mexico. The summers are long and warm. Winters are mild with only occasional freezing temperatures. Annual average rainfall is approximately 40-60 inches. Heaviest rainfalls occur during the growing season, June through August.

C. Vegetation:

The western portion of the study area is in Bailey's Beech-Sweetgum-Magnolia-Pine-Oak Forest Section. Common trees are oaks, sweetgum and magnolias. The Atchafalaya and Mississippi floodplains which occupy most of the eastern portion fall within the Southern Flood Plain Forest Section. Characteristic trees include red maple, hydrophilic oaks, willow, sweetgum, hickory, hackberry, locust, cottonwood, elm, sycamore and ashes. There is usually a well-developed lower stratum of vegetation that includes shrubs, palmettos and herbaceous plants. Extensive swamps are dominated by baldcypress and tupelo. In the Atchafalaya Basin, cypress-tupelo sloughs intermingle with the hardwood forest, creating an alternating hardwood ridge and cypress-tupelo swale pattern. Pines occur in temporary wetlands and uplands, and live oaks are found in well-drained upland areas. Where the native loblolly pine (Pinus taeda) has been logged over, it has often been replanted with slash pine (Pinus elliotii). Lianas and epiphytes, especially Spanish moss, are common.

D. Soils:

The soils are derived primarily from Coastal Plain sediments. Clayey soils predominate in the Lake Charles SE and Lake Charles SW 1:100,000 maps where rice is the major agricultural crop. In the eastern Baton Rouge portion, which is mostly alluvial plain formed by the sediments of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, loamy soils occur on the natural levees of the rivers and smaller bayous. Sugarcane is the major crop here. Clayey soils are found in the backwater swamps and are primarily forested.

The forested wetlands are primarily temporarily-flooded hardwoods (PFO1A), which occur in the floodplains of the smaller rivers, and semi-permanently flooded cypress-tupelo swamps (PFO2/1F), which appear in the floodplains of the larger rivers and around Lake Maurepas (PFO2/1T). Seasonally-flooded hardwoods (PFO1C) occur predominately in the Atchafalaya Basin along with the cypress-tupelo sloughs. Temporarily-flooded pine forest (PFO4A) and mixed-pine forest (PFO4/1A) are found on the poorly-drained plains on either side of the Sabine River and north of Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain.

Most of the scrub shrub areas are fields undergoing secondary succession or clearings succeeding back to forest or pine plantations that have not yet reached 20 ft. in height. Naturally occurring shrub can be found in the flood plain of rivers at the transition-zone between saltmarsh and cypress swamp. The most common species here are Baccharis sp. and wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera).

#### C. Riverine System

The riverine system contains both tidal (R1UBV) and lower perennial (R2UBH) subsystems. The tidal riverine systems extend only a short distance above the estuarine/riverine interface. These R1 systems are usually characterized by adjacent emergent (PEM) or shrubby (PSS) marsh, while the R2 systems usually support cypress-tupelo floodplains (PFO). The Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers are lower perennial rivers throughout these maps. Many of the natural streams have been ditched, dredged and connected to irrigation canals especially in the western regions. In some places different drainages have been connected. Some irrigation ditches carry water only seasonally (R4SBCx).

#### D. Lacustrine System

The largest freshwater lake is Lake Maurepas which is tidally influenced (L1UBV). Freshwater lakes are not prominent features in this landscape and most of the non-tidal lakes (L1UBH) are located in the Atchafalaya Basin. Many of these lakes contain aquatic bed, but unless it was visible on the photography, the lake was labelled L1UBH.

**WETLAND CLASSIFICATION CODES AND WATER REGIME DESCRIPTIONS**

<b>NWI CODE (Water Regime)</b>	<b>NWI DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COMMON DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>VEGETATION/ SUBSTRATE</b>	<b>SOILS</b>
R1UB (V)	Riverine, tidal, perennial, unconsolidated bottom	River, canal	Sand, mud	
R1US (N)	Riverine, tidal, unconsolidated shore	Sand bar	Sand, gravel	
R1AB4 (H)	Riverine, tidal,	River, canal	<u>Eichornia crassipes</u> (water hyacinth) <u>Lemna</u> sp. (duckweed)	
R2UB (H)	Riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom	River, canal	Sand, mud	
R2AB4 (H)	Riverine, lower perennial, floating aquatic bed	River, canal	<u>Eichornia crassipes</u> (water hyacinth) <u>Lemna</u> sp. (duckweed)	
R2US (A,C)	Riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated shore	Sand bar	Sand, gravel	
R4SB (C,F)	Riverine, intermittent stream bed	Stream, canal	Sand, mud, gravel	

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PAB4 (H,G,V)	Palustrine, aquatic bed, floating vascular	Pond	<u>Lemna</u> sp. (duckweed) <u>Azolla caroliniana</u> (mosquito fern) <u>Pistia stratiotes</u> (water lettuce) <u>Eichornia crassipes</u> (water hyacinth) <u>Salvinia</u> sp. (water fern)	
PEM1 (A)	Palustrine, emergent, persistent, temporarily flooded	Wet prairies	<u>Juncus</u> sp. (rush) <u>Cyperus</u> sp. (flat sedge) <u>Carex</u> sp. (sedges) <u>Eleocharis</u> sp. (spike rush) <u>Setaria</u> sp. (foxtail) <u>Panicum virgatum</u> (switch grass)	Jasco Harahan Caddo-Messer Carroll Iberia Frost Haplaquall Sharkey Calhoun Frozard Crowley-Vidrine Judice Kinder Leton Midland Morey Mowata Baldwin Latanier Lebeau

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PSS1A PSS1/4A	Palustrine, scrub shrub, broad-leaved deciduous/mixed broad-leaved deciduous and pine	Scrub, shrubby forest	<u>Baccharis</u> sp. (saltbush) <u>Sambucus canadensis</u> (elderberry) <u>Rubus</u> sp. (blackberry) <u>Pinus elliotii</u> (slash pine) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (loblolly pine) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle)	Gladewater Iuka Mantachie Bleakwood Urbo Waller Caddo-Messer Judice Leton Midland Morey Mowata Una Carrol Iberia Wrightsville Baldwin Frost Haplouall Sharkey Calhoun Commerce Falaya Frozard Latazier Lebeau Convent Robinsonville Tunica Fountain Myatt Ochlockonee Vacherie

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NW CODE (Water Regime)	NW DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	VEGETATION/ SUBSTRATE	SOILS
PFO1A	Palustrine, forested,	Bottom-land	<u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak) <u>Q. phellos</u> (willow oak) <u>Liquidamber</u> <u>styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Populus deltoides</u> (E. cottonwood) <u>Fraxinus</u> <u>pennsylvanicus</u> (green ash) <u>Q. falcata</u> (S. red oak) <u>Salix</u> sp. (willow) <u>Plantanus</u> <u>occidentalis</u> (sycamore) <u>Celtus laevigata</u> (sugarberry) <u>Q. lyrata</u> (overcup oak) <u>Sapium sebiferum</u> (Chinese tallow) <u>Carya</u> sp. (hickory) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Ulmus</u> sp. (elm) <u>Morus</u> sp. (mulberry) <u>Acer negundo</u> (box elder) <u>Ostrya virginiana</u> (ironwood) <u>Serenoa repens</u> (palmetto)	Gladewater Iuka Mantachie Bleakwood Urbo Waller Caddo-Messer Judice Leton Midland Morey Mowata Una Carrol Iberia Wrightsville Baldwin Frost Haplall Sharkey Calhoun Commerce Falaya Frozard Latanier Lebeau Convent Robinsonville Tunica Fountain Myatt Ochlockonee Vacherie

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PFO2F (C,R,T) PFO2/1F (C,R,T) PFO1/2F (C,R,T)	Palustrine, forested, needle-leaved deciduous/needle- leaved-deciduous and broad-leaved deciduous mixed	Cypress swamp, Cypress-tupelo swamp, slough	<u>Taxodium distichum</u> (baldcypress) <u>Nyssa aquatica</u> (water tupelo) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Salix</u> sp. (willow) <u>Fraxinus</u> <u>pennsylvanica</u> (green ash) <u>Carya aquatica</u> (water hickory)	Deweyville Arat Barbary Fausse

## V. Water Regime Description

### Tidal

#### Salt and Brackish Areas - Marine and Estuarine Systems

- (L) Subtidal-The substrate is permanently flooded with tidal water.
- (M) Irregularly Exposed- Land surface is exposed by tides less often than daily. This corresponds to the area on NOS charts from seaward edge of light green tone (mean low water) to depth contour approximating extreme low water.
- (N) Regularly Flooded-Tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.
- (P) Irregularly Flooded- Tidal water floods land surface less often than daily. The area must flood by tide at least once yearly as a result of extreme high spring tide.

#### Freshwater Tidal Areas - Lacustrine, Palustrine and Riverine Systems.

- (N) Regularly Flooded- Fresh tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.
- (R) Seasonally Flooded- Tidal
- (S) Temporarily Flooded- Tidal
- (T) Semi-permanently Flooded- Tidal
- (V) Permanently Flooded- Tidal

### Non-Tidal

- (A) Temporarily Flooded- Surface water present for brief periods during growing season, but water table usually lies well below soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands are characteristic of this water regime.
- (B) Saturated- The substrate is saturated to surface for extended periods during the growing season, but surface water is seldom present.

Collateral data included USGS topographic maps, SCS soil surveys, local climate, vegetation, and ecological information.

The user of the map is cautioned that, due to the limitation of mapping primarily through aerial photointerpretation, a small percentage of wetlands may have gone unidentified. Since the photography was taken during a particular time and season, there may be discrepancies between the map and current field conditions. Changes in landscape which occurred after the photography was taken would result in such discrepancies.

Aerial photointerpretation and drafting were completed by Geonex, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida.

### **VIII. SPECIAL MAPPING PROBLEMS**

None.

### **IX. MAP ACQUISITION**

To discuss any questions concerning these maps or to place a map order, please contact:

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Atlanta, GA 30303

To order maps only, contact:

Earth Science Information Center (ESIC)  
National Cartographic Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
507 National Center  
Reston, VA 22092

1-(800)-872-6277

Maps are identified by the name of the corresponding USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle name. Topographic map indices are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

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1:250 000 SCALE

