

News Release

**Department of the Interior / U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge
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Lake Arthur, LA 70549
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Lacassine Pool Closed to Motorized Boats

The water level in Lacassine Pool has become too low to allow motorized boats to use it any longer, announced Refuge Manager Larry Narcisse this morning. The borrow ditches are the only areas that contain more than a few inches of water due to the continued drought and summer heat. Beginning today the Pool is closed to motorized boats. Non-motorized boats may be used if launched from the old boat launch to the west of the Pool entrance kiosk. Bank fishing is also still open to the west of the Pool entrance kiosk. Due to the road improvement project at the Pool, the road will remain closed from the Pool entrance kiosk to the east, including the wildlife drive and the east boat launch. For additional information regarding this closure, call Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge at 337-774-5923.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses more than 540 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. The agency also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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