



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Corps OKs lower water on Henderson Lake**

*Clears way for St. Martin parish to control water-choking weed hydrilla*

HENDERSON—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit to lower the water level on the 5,842-acre Henderson Lake, allowing St. Martin Parish to attack the waterway-choking weed hydrilla.

The permit allows the parish to open the Atchafalaya Basin lake's water-control structure and gradually reduce water levels by 2 to 3 feet. It is expected that the lake would fall no more than 2 to 3 inches per day.

The drawdown, now underway, will facilitate the treatment of the noxious aquatic plant, *Hydrilla verticillata*. Lake levels are being dropped to 6 to 7 feet on the gauge at Interstate 10 near Henderson. This will expose the hydrilla to be sprayed with herbicides.

More than a third of Henderson Lake is included in the 50,000 acres in the Atchafalaya Basin that the Corps of Engineers has acquired for public access. It is used by boaters, fishermen, hunters, bird watchers, hikers and others as a component of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway Project.

On Henderson Lake, boaters are urged to exercise caution, as the drop in water levels might increase vulnerability to underwater hazards.

Lower lake levels might also expose archeological or historical properties and artifacts. So, the Corps cautions that destruction or disturbance of archeological properties, including removal of artifacts, from federal lands, are subject to criminal charges and civil penalties under the

Archeological Resources Protection Act. Metal detectors are also prohibited on Corps lands.

Visitors should be aware that driving any vehicle, including ATVs and motorcycles, along a shoreline or exposed lake bed on Corps lands is prohibited and the driver can receive a citation and fine.

**[Information and maps](#)** of Corps of Engineers Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System:

**[Recreation](#)** in New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers

**[Henderson Lake water management unit](#)**

**[Henderson Lake water levels](#)**