

## States Work Together to Combat Giant Salvinia on Toledo Bend Reservoir

### PRESS RELEASE

Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations  
November 11, 2009

(Toledo Bend Reservoir) The Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations, comprised of the Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana and the Sabine River Authority of Texas (the Authorities) continue to work together with State agencies and local citizens to combat Giant Salvinia on Toledo Bend Reservoir. Recent heavy rains have flushed a large accumulation of the vegetation out in the open allowing better access for treatment. On November 7th and 8th over 2,000 acres of the floating vegetation were sprayed with herbicides by helicopter. Another 1,400 acres are scheduled to be sprayed in the next two weeks. This will amount to approximately 9,000 total acres treated by the two states in 2009. It takes up to two weeks for effects of the treatment to become visible. Cooler weather will help decrease the rate of growth for Giant Salvinia.

Special thanks to the leadership of Louisiana State Senator Gerald Long, Representative Frankie Howard, Texas State Senator Robert Nichols and Representative Wayne Christian for their continued assistance in working with this challenge. The Authorities would like to recognize the efforts of Ricky Yeldell and Gary Tilyou of the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries and Howard Elder of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The efforts of the Toledo Bend Lake Association and the Toledo Bi-State Alliance, as well as other lake organizations have also been instrumental in helping address this problem.

Giant Salvinia, a rapidly growing invasive plant that can double in size in seven days, has become a common nuisance on Toledo Bend and other reservoirs in Texas and Louisiana. Giant Salvinia is not new to Toledo Bend. Native to South America, the plant first showed up at Toledo Bend in 1998. It wasn't until 2004 that agencies saw more than 3,000 acres on Toledo Bend Reservoir. Since then, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been fighting this vegetation with herbicide treatment and the release of adult weevils that eat the vegetation. The continuing challenge will always be the rapid growth of the plant and the inability to reach areas where the plant is growing. With the cooperation of State Legislators, agencies and concerned citizens, the Authorities will continue to find ways to address this serious issue.

For more information, contact Jim Pratt, Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana at 318-256-4112 or Jerry Clark, Sabine River Authority of Texas at 409-746-2192.

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