



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

Project Fact Sheet

Official Project Name

Mermentau River, LA Operations and Maintenance

Location

The Mermentau River is located in southern Louisiana. The Mermentau River, Gulf Navigation Channel is a 4.6 mile channel beginning at the point of entry of Mermentau River into Lower Mud Lake and extends in a southerly direction to the Gulf of Mexico. The project also provides for enlargement of the lower Mermentau River below Grand Lake and of the Inland Waterway from Vermillion Bay to Grand Lake. Catfish Point Control Structure is located at Mile 24 of the Mermentau river, and Schooner Bayou Control Structure is located in the enlarged White Bay to Vermillion Bay channel, approximately 5 miles southwest of Intracoastal City.

Purpose

Catfish Point and Schooner Bayou Control Structures reduce saltwater intrusion into the Mermentau Basin, which consists of hundreds of thousands of acres of rice and crawfish farms dependent on freshwater. Channel improvement of the Mermentau River below Grand Lake and existing channels between Grand and White Lakes and White Lake and Vermillion Bay provide channels with areas of 3,000 square feet for floodflows. Navigation channels include the Mermentau River, North Prong of Schooner Bayou, Schooner Bayou Cutoff, Waterway from White Lake to Pecan Island, and the Inland Waterway from Franklin, LA to Mermentau River west of Vermillion Bay.

Authority

The project is Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 18 August 1941, as modified by River and Harbor Act of 24 July 1946. The Act provides for enlargement of the lower Mermentau River below Grand Lake to a minimum cross-sectional area of 3,000 square ft below MLG for discharge of flows. It also provides for channel enlargement and realignment of the Inland Waterway from Vermillion Bay to Grand Lake to provide a minimum cross-sectional area of 3,000 square ft below MLG for discharge of flood flows and interflow between lakes. It provides for the enlargement of the North Prong of Schooner Bayou and Schooner Bayou Cutoff to a channel -6 ft MLG by 60 ft. It also provides for a sector gated control structure at Catfish point, mile 24 of the Mermentau River, and Schooner Bayou Lock on Schooner Bayou. The act further provides for incorporation the existing projects of "Waterway from White Lake to Pecan Island, LA" and the portion of "Inland Waterway from Franklin, LA to the Mermentau River" west of Vermillion Bay. The waterway from "Inland Waterway from White Lake to Pecan Island, LA" consists of a channel -5 ft MLG by 40 ft.

The project was reclassified as an O&M project under navigation by authority of the Office, Chief of Engineers, in 1st Indorsement, 23 April 1956, on letter of the Division Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer Division, Lower Mississippi Valley, 6 March 1956, subject, "Classification of the Mermentau River and Bayou Teche and Vermillion River, Operation and Maintenance, General Projects."

The Mermentau River, Gulf of Mexico Navigation Channel was constructed by East Cameron Port, Harbor, and Terminal District of Cameron Parish in 1971. Federal assumption of maintenance of the channel was authorized by congress on 22 October 1976, under the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-587).

Scope

The Mermentau River requires dredging approximately every three years. The Catfish Point Control Structure is operated daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Schooner Bayou Control Structure is operated daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Progress to Date

The project is operated and maintained as described in the Project Scope above.