

2026 DAVIS POND FRESHWATER DIVERSION OPERATIONS PLAN

From January 01, 2026 through May 31, 2026, and resuming for December 01–31, 2026, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) will operate the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion to maintain the 14-day salinity moving average within an established salinity range associated with the 15 parts per thousand (ppt) isohaline (Figure 1). Operations during this time will be based on salinity data from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Barataria Bay near Grand Terre Island, LA gage (Figure 2). The USGS Hackberry Bay NW of Grand Isle, LA gage will be used as a secondary gage for the 15 ppt isohaline (Figure 1).

From June 01, 2026 through November 30, 2026, the diversion will be operated to maintain the 14-day salinity moving average within an established salinity range associated with a 5 ppt isohaline (Figure 1). Operations during this time will be based on salinity data from the USGS Little Lake near Bay Dosgris E of Galliano, LA gage (Figure 3). The Barataria Waterway at Mud Lake S of Lafitte, LA gage will be used as a secondary gage for the 5 ppt isohaline (Figure 1).

The diversion may be operated above the baseflow of 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) when the 14-day salinity moving average is above the low salinity trigger for the gage in use (Figures 2 and 3). The low salinity trigger is the higher of either the low salinity range (- 1 standard deviation, SD) for the 10-year average monthly salinity or 5 ppt. Discharge will be decreased to 1,000 cfs (baseflow) when the 14-day salinity moving average drops below the low salinity trigger and will remain at baseflow until the moving average re-enters the operational range. The 10-year average monthly salinity is calculated on the most recent complete and USGS-approved 10-years of salinity data, which for this plan is 2015–2024. Diversion discharge is not to exceed 10,000 cfs.

The 2024 Davis Pond Advisory Committee (DPAC) meeting was held on December 11, 2024, to discuss and vote on whether to approve the 2025 Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Operations Plan. During this meeting, it was proposed and overwhelmingly supported by the Committee that the CPRA maximizes diversion operations to meet project objectives when it is feasible and within the Plan's guidelines. This 2026 Operations Plan acknowledges and incorporates the DPAC's recommendation.

Discharge may deviate from the 2026 Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Operations Plan as outlined below:

- Changes to diversion operations may be required in response to forecasts of local coastal flooding, chemical spills in the river, diversion maintenance, local emergency situations, and the potential for diversion backflow.
- The diversion may be operated above baseflow for public relations and/or educational purposes, though discharge is not to exceed 5,000 cfs for a duration of longer than two hours.
- The CPRA will coordinate diversion operations with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) during brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*) and eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) recruitment and reproductive seasons (Figures 2 and 3). Consultation periods occur in March for brown shrimp and May through June and September through October for oysters.



Figure 1. Map of USGS real-time salinity gages and isohalines in the Barataria Basin to be used for guidance and operations of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion.

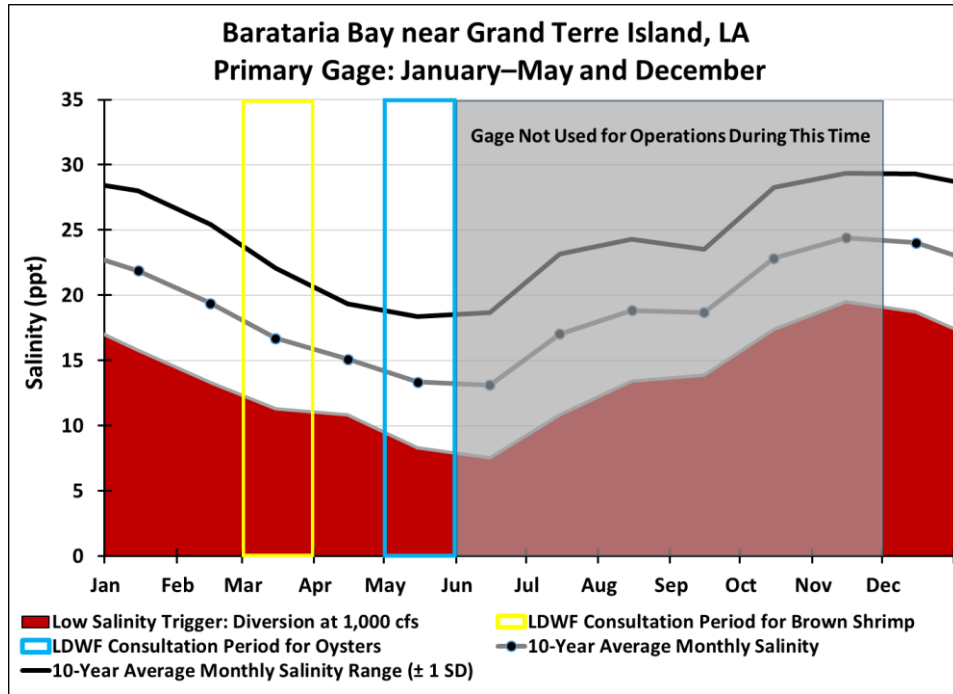


Figure 2. Ten-year average monthly salinity (± 1 SD) at the Barataria Bay near Grand Terre Island gage (USGS 291929089562600). January through May and December, the diversion may be operated above 1,000 cfs (baseflow) if the 14-day salinity moving average is above the low salinity trigger.

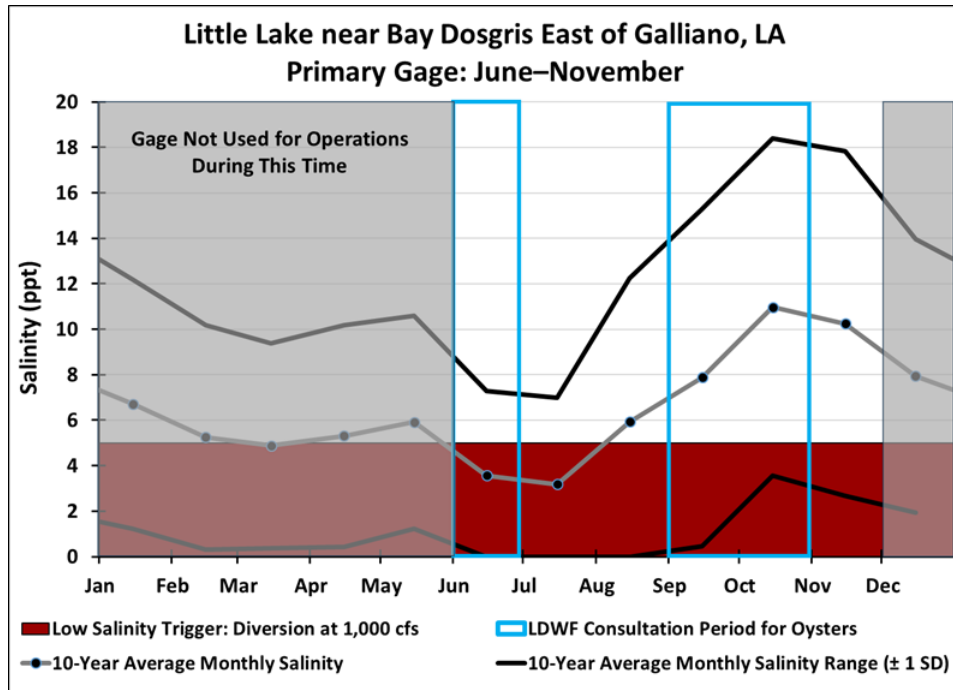


Figure 3. Ten-year average monthly salinity (± 1 SD) at the Little Lake near Bay Dosgris gage (USGS 292800090060000). June through November, the diversion may be operated above 1,000 cfs (baseflow) if the 14-day salinity moving average is above the low salinity trigger.