



# Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Seismic Section LAKE MAUREPAS SEISMIC PROJECT FACT SHEET



Since at least 1954 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has designated how seismic exploration shall be conducted as it relates to the fish, seafood, aquatic life, oysters, wildlife, and water bottoms of the state. Furthermore, LDWF has administered and enforced all seismic regulations to ensure compliance during seismic operations.

The protection of threatened and endangered species and critical habitats from the effects of seismic exploration is a priority of LDWF. A Natural Heritage Review is conducted to identify possible rare species and provide conditions to avoid impacts to these species and their habitats. A few important species and habitats that may be present on the Lake Maurepas seismic project include Waterbird Nesting Colonies, Bald Eagle and West Indian Manatee.

## BACKGROUND

- ▶ Since 1967, seven 2D and 3D Seismic Jobs have taken place in Lake Maurepas.
- ▶ This project will take place in 6 phases beginning in the southeast part of the lake. The proposed time line is December 2022 - June 2023. Limiting work in the fall, winter and spring will lessen impacts to boaters and other recreational users.

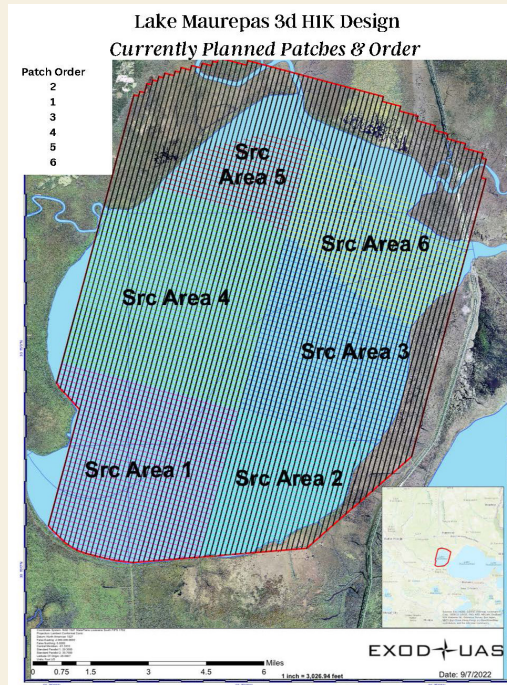


Image courtesy of Exoduas

## IMPORTANT LDWF SEISMIC AUTHORIZATION CONDITIONS

- ▶ An independent third party environmental monitor shall be present during all shooting activities to ensure compliance with LDWF regulations.
- ▶ This monitor will immediately report any manatee sighting to LDWF and detonations will cease until it is determined that the manatee(s) has left the area.
- ▶ LDWF will further monitor all seismic activity for compliance.
- ▶ Restitution shall be provided for the incidental take of fish or wildlife.
- ▶ Charge size of 5.5 pounds will be set at a depth of at least 60 feet below the bed of Lake Maurepas. Rules and regulations allow for a maximum charge of 20 pounds at this depth, but parties have agreed on the smaller charge size (5.5 lbs).
- ▶ Charge detonation is only allowed during daylight hours.
- ▶ All portions of Lake Maurepas will be open to the public during the entire seismic project.
- ▶ All equipment will be marked with the seismic company's name.
- ▶ All equipment and trash is required to be cleared from the project area when the project is complete.
- ▶ No detonations will occur in marshes, forests and swamps that surround Lake Maurepas.
- ▶ Buffer zones around any Bald Eagle nests and waterbird colonies will be in place to prevent disturbances.



## LDWF'S LAKE MAUREPAS SEISMIC TIMELINE

### FEBRUARY 2022

**FEB. 23:** First discussion of seismic with Air Products

### MAY 2022

**MAY 4:** Authorization requested

**MAY 11:** Technical meeting with Air Products

**MAY 26:** Technical meeting with Air Products

### JUNE 2022

**JUNE 22:** LDWF meets with Coast Guard & Air Products

### JULY 2022

**JULY 11:** LDWF issues WMA seismic approval

**JULY 19:** Ad began running in Official Parish Journal (The Daily Star)

**JULY 20:** Ad began running in Official Parish Journal (L'Observateur)

**JULY 21:** Ad began running in Official Parish Journal (Livingston Parish News)

### AUGUST 2022

**AUG. 2:** Air Products presents at the Crab Task Force meeting

**AUG. 11:** LDWF meeting with Coast Guard

**AUG. 24:** Required LDWF public meeting in Reserve

### SEPTEMBER 2022

**SEPT. 7:** LDWF attends public meeting in Springfield

**SEPT. 14:** LDWF attends Mineral Board public meeting

**SEPT. 22:** LDWF site visit to Lake Maurepas

**SEPT. 27:** LDWF attends public meeting in Livingston

**SEPT. 28:** LDWF site visit & meeting with Exoduas

**SEPT. 29:** LDWF revises WMA seismic approval

### OCTOBER 2022

**OCT. 4:** LDWF issues seismic permit

**OCT. 17:** LDWF attends public meeting in Ponchatoula

*This timeline does not include dozens of other informal internal discussions that LDWF technical staff had over the past 10 months.*