

COON TRAP CATASTROPHIC BANK FAILURE IMMINENT

EMERGENCY ACTION REQUESTED

January 26, 2021

Coon Trap is the name of an Atchafalaya River diversion into the East Grand Lake Unit that was closed in 2020. The bank of the Atchafalaya River is about to be breached and a new channel will form creating a new river diversion into the Coon Trap channel, way worse than the original Coon Trap that was dammed. The original Coon Trap opening had a rock bottom that prevented the opening from becoming deeper and more efficient, not such a thing for the new channel that is about to form as soon as the Atchafalaya River water raises about 2 feet. The fact that Coon Trap is closed means that the water levels in the Coon Trap Channel are much lower greatly increasing the force of the water into the channel. The failure will be imminent and catastrophic, greatly decreasing the Basin's flood capacity, the environmental damage irreparable.

We are requesting that the Corps take immediate action, like arming with rocks the strip of land that is about collapse or other best possible means to avoid the Atchafalaya River diversion to the area. Failure to take immediate action will cost hundreds of millions of dollars in environmental damage and the permanent loss of Basin flood capacity.

Coordinates: 30°05'54.86" N 91°28'24.42" W

Massive erosion already took place about 2 weeks ago from barge waves going over the bank.

Picture taken January 5, 2021:



Picture taken January 23, 2021. Same place:



Coon Trap aerals:



If the bank is allowed to be breached, a significant percentage of the Atchafalaya River will be diverted into the East Grand Lake Management Unit, the damage to the lakes, bayous and wetlands of the East Grand Lake Management Unit will be massive and permanent. We probably will lose Grand Lake, the

most important estuary for fish in the entire Eastern Atchafalaya Basin. Please let us know if Atchafalaya Basinkeeper can assist in any way.

Sincerely,

Dean A. Wilson