

## Davis Pond Advisory Committee

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Davis Pond Diversion Structure

**Project Year:** 2010

**Category:** Water Quality

**Status:** Open

**Project #:** None

**Location:**

Barataria Basin

### Project Partners:

EPA, LUCMON, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, Army Corps of Engineers

### Problem Addressed:

BTNEP staff members are active on many key-issue governmental committees that determine the outcome of coastal restoration projects with the goal of keeping those projects consistent with the goals of the BTNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).

### Problem Description:

The Davis Pond Diversion structure was completed in 2002 with operation of the diversion structure beginning that same year. The Davis Pond Advisory Committee is a collection of various public and private organizations, established to guide operation of the Davis Pond Structure.

Saltwater intrusion is one of the fundamental problems affecting freshwater habitat change in coastal Louisiana and a major factor affecting Louisiana coastal land loss. Davis Pond is currently the largest Mississippi River diversion and is used to control salinities and enhance wetland growth by the addition of freshwater, nutrients, and small amounts of sediment into the Barataria system.

The Davis Pond Advisory Committee holds meetings annually to authorize and direct the operation of the structure. This includes an annual report of the operation and an annual decision to accept or reject the existing operational plan.

Currently the Modification of Davis Pond Diversion Project Delivery Team is re-evaluating the Davis Pond operational plan so that the diversion can be operated in such a way that the total area of wetlands in the lower Barataria Basin is enhanced through the operation of the diversion. An increase in freshwater can enhance wetlands; however, this can also lead to significant impacts to estuarine-dependent species.

BTNEP plays an active role in the Advisory Committee and Project Delivery Team, representing the diverse stakeholders and uses of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.



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