**Battle over Basin**

Trappers at odds with corps over river levels

Richard Burgess
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**LAFAYETTE** — Crawfish trappers in the Atchafalaya Basin have complained for years that less and less fresh water is flowing into the swamp.

The fingers have been pointed at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the federal agency that controls how much water goes down the Atchafalaya River.

One group of crawfish trappers now says it plans to take the corps to court over the issue, and the group has been joined by a law clinic based out of Tulane University in New Orleans.

### Above, gauge inspector George Laborde finishes checking the well gauges to the Old River Auxiliary Structure on the inflow channel at the Sidney A. Murray Jr. Hydroelectric Station. Below, The Atchafalaya River side of the station shows a ruler measuring water levels.

**Photos by P.C. Piazza/pizzap@theadvertiser.com**

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