EXPLAINING THE PROGRESS

Lafayette, a long-time supporter of the Port
Council, explains some of the problems
faced by the Army Corps of Engineers during
the Waterways Committee of the Greater
Council held a public hearing in the Basin
Council to discuss and hear public opinion
regarding the progress of the Corps'
operations. The Corps has been working
on dredging projects in the basin, including
the Atchafalaya Basin, which serves as a
major source of fresh water for the
Mississippi River valley. Water that enters
the Atchafalaya Basin through the Mississippi
River is eventually carried by the Atchafalaya
Basin to the Gulf of Mexico. However, the Corps
is concerned about the impact of these dredging
projects on the natural biodiversity of the basin.

Another negative effect of the Corps' projects
is the loss of habitat for the many species of
fish that live in the basin. The Corps is working
to minimize these effects, but it is a delicate
balance. The Corps has also faced criticism
from local residents who are concerned about
the loss of recreational opportunities in the basin.

Despite these challenges, the Corps continues
to work on these projects to ensure the
safety and functionality of the basin. The Corps
is committed to finding a balance between
the needs of the basin and the needs of the
country as a whole. The Corps is also
working with local communities to ensure
that their concerns are heard and addressed.

The Corps is aware that its operations in the
basin have had an impact on the local
community, and it is committed to working
closely with them to ensure that their needs
are met. The Corps is also aware of the
importance of the basin to the country as a whole,
and it is committed to finding a solution that
will benefit everyone.
Atchafalaya river, thereby allowing excess water to more swiftly find its way to the Gulf. However, to do this the Corps found it necessary to dam a majority of the bayous draining into the Atchafalaya river from the swamp.

**Dead Water**

The Atchafalaya river offers a much shorter route to the Gulf of Mexico than does the Mississippi river. For this reason the Corps decided that deepening of the Atchafalaya river would allow high water a quicker, more direct passage to the Gulf.

By damming small bayous draining into the Atchafalaya river the Corps would create a funneling effect which would accelerate water flow. However, the Corps was having some trouble seeing over the levees guarding the Atchafalaya river to see that at the same time that they were getting high water to the Gulf more quickly, they were

This means that the water has little or no chance of flushing out the old water and bringing in new oxygen rich water. Aquatic life needs oxygen in the water if they are to survive, explained Skerrett, “and

of this year by the Corps. No definite date has been set, but when the meeting is held, any one interested in the Basin is urged to attend and express their views on the great Atchafalaya Basin.