Chicot Lake drawdown set
Fishing to halt while battling weeds

BATON ROUGE — The water level of Chicot Lake here will be reduced on Sept. 8, announces Jim Ball, assistant secretary of the Office of State Parks, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. This move is based upon a recommendation by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

According to Bennie Fontenot, chief of the Inland Fish Division of Wildlife and Fisheries, “Chicot Lake has a substantial amount of aquatic vegetation that is beginning to impede fishing access and may soon prevent or seriously hamper game fish access to available forage species. The drawdown is necessary to gain control of the submerged vegetation, as well as other vegetation present.”

The water level of the lake will be dropped six feet, with the option to drop it another foot or two, if necessary. Refilling of Chicot Lake will begin no sooner than January 1 and no later than January 15, 1993.

Fishing at the lake will be closed for the duration of the drawdown so that the largemouth bass management program is not adversely affected. Chicot Lake is managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as one of the state’s designated “Quality Lakes” for bass management.

KALB-TV to focus on park

KALB-TV-5 Newsmaker Rob Johnson will be reporting on the condition of Chicot State Park in a two-part series to be broadcast over the NBC affiliate on Thursday and Friday night, July 30-31.

The reports will air both nights at 6 p.m., says KALB-TV News Director Jack Frost.

The examination of the park follows reports of deteriorating conditions, says Frost. In addition to talking to state park officials and local legislators, the program will compare Chicot State Park to another state park in Miss. South.