LAFAYETTE — A French television crew has completed two weeks of filming a documentary on the people who live in the Atchafalaya Basin.

Vincent Steiger, operation manager for Canal Plus, said the documentary probably will air in Europe this October as part of the company’s series “Man and Nature.” An English-language version will also be made in hopes of selling it to the American television industry, Steiger said.

“It is an amazing place,” he said of the Atchafalaya. “Our main goal of the program is to introduce a host (Stephan Peyron) to the people who live in the basin, and then for him to live with them and become one of them. This was the perfect place to show the interaction between man and nature.”

The documentary will focus on basin residents featured in Catahoula photographer Greg Guirard’s work. Guirard served as a guide to the Frenchmen and was interviewed extensively for his photography of the Atchafalaya, Steiger said.

The crew of 12 followed people like crawfisherman Roy Blanchard, froggers Shane Doucet and his wife Donna, and 94-year-old Myrtle Bigler, who used to fish with her late husband, Guirard said.

He said he was impressed with the French crew because its members delved so deeply into the lives of the people. Guirard said he is often approached by news media that are doing documentary type reports on the Atchafalaya, but most spend very little time actually getting to know their subjects.

“These guys were different. They stayed a day and a half with Roy Blanchard crawfishing. They were here long enough to get plenty of good stuff,” Guirard said.

Steiger said the crew used a unique airplane, built in Idaho, to film the basin. The plane’s sides open in order to give the camera lenses full range, he said. Also, it has a very low stall speed, 50 mph, which allowed it to move slowly over the basin to film, he said.