



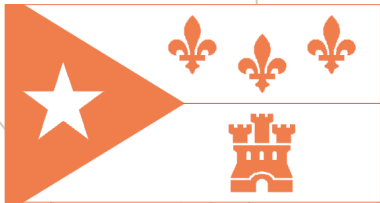
Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AMERICA'S FOREIGN COUNTRY

ANHA Designated by Congress in 2006
Public Law No: 109-338 (Section B)

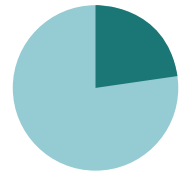


The Basin has an estimated average annual commercial harvest of **nearly 22 million pounds of crawfish!**



The region's cultural significance centers around the Louisiana French language and the prominent Cajun & Creole cultures

ANHA COVERS **14/64** parishes



The Atchafalaya River begins at the **Old River Control Structure** near Simmesport

1,338,772 acres ANHA makes up 20% of the geographic land mass of the state
29% of Louisiana's population lives in the ANHA

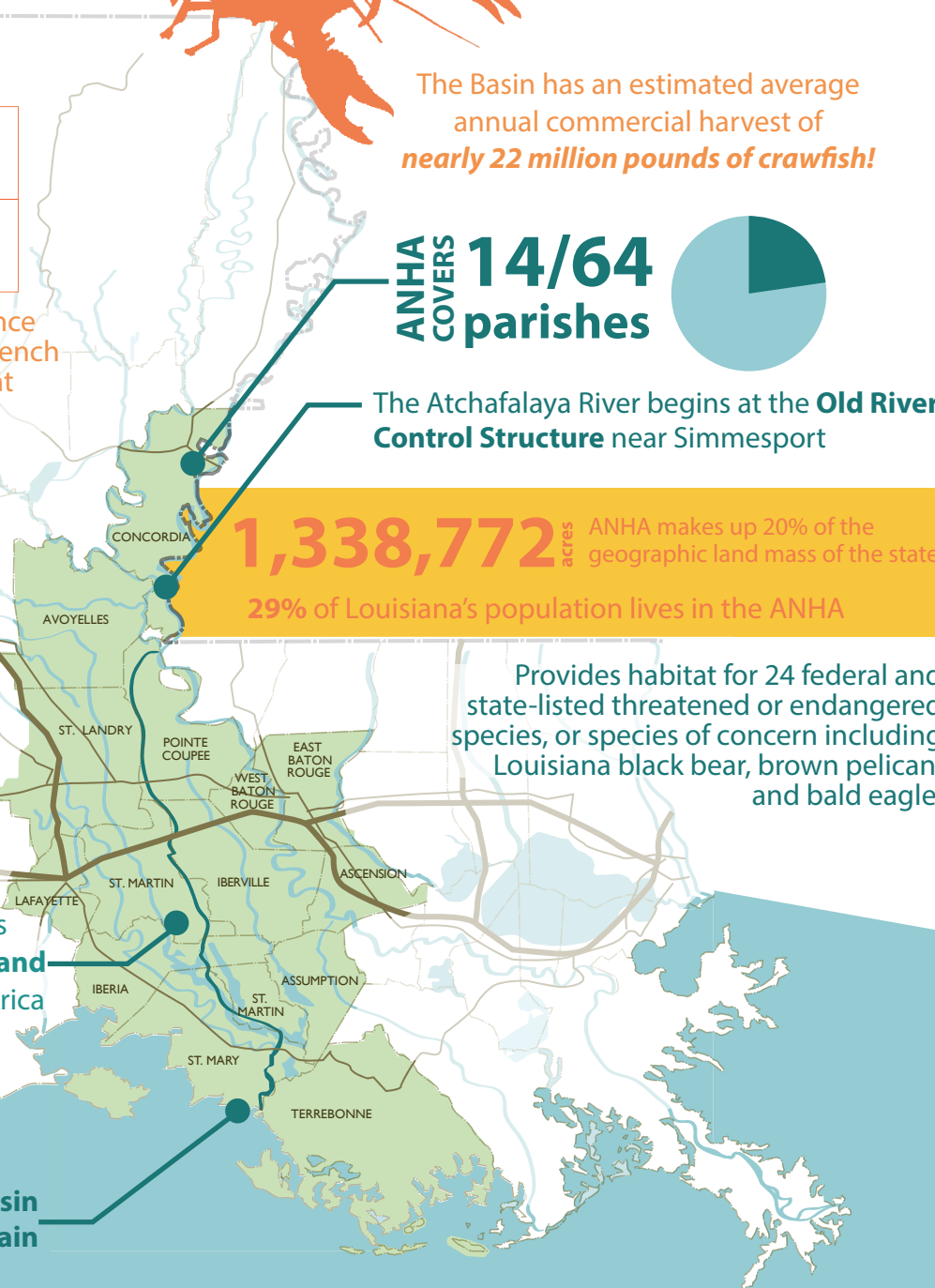
The Atchafalaya is home to the **LARGEST** river swamp in the United States

The Atchafalaya Swamp is **larger than the Florida Everglades**

The Atchafalaya Basin contains the largest contiguous **bottomland hardwood forest** in North America

Provides habitat for 24 federal and state-listed threatened or endangered species, or species of concern including Louisiana black bear, brown pelican, and bald eagle.

The Atchafalaya Basin is the only basin in LA experiencing net land gain



Community Engagement and Pride – By engaging community members in heritage conservation activities, NHAs strengthen sense of place and community pride.

Estimated number of volunteer hours leveraged since 2006: **16,000**

Estimated value of volunteer hours since 2006: **\$386,000**

ANHA sponsors/promotes over **200 events** in the region annually

Annually, heritage area supported events and programs impact **50,000+** residents and visitors.



280+ identity signs around the region

Approximately **450,000** cars a day see ANHA identity signage on LA's major roads

ANHA represented at events and conferences in over 30 states

Staff & Commissioners have presented at 20+ conferences around the US and abroad

ANHA engages with over 200 parish/state entities and over 350 cultural assets/organizations

BR Zoo Atchafalaya Exhibit sees over **200K** visitors per year
(1.4 million since 2014)

Atchafalaya Welcome Center receives over **115,000** visitors annually from all 50 states and over a dozen countries
(over 1.5 million since 2006)

Sustainable economic development – NHAs leverage federal funds (NHAs average return \$5.50 for every \$1.00 of federal investment) to create jobs, generate revenue for local governments, and sustain local communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.

ANHA has directly leveraged over **\$5,000,000** in matching funds over the life of the program. That's nearly 3:1, much greater than NPS required 1:1 match!



Education and Stewardship – NHAs connect communities to natural, historic, and cultural sites through educational activities, which promote awareness and foster interest in and stewardship of heritage resources.

Developed *Artisans of the Atchafalaya* video series available online that highlights traditions of ANHA
Language | Native American History | Cultural Arts

Developed Ed Curriculum | Distributed to 1,700 schools

Funded over 150 educational speaker series sessions

Healthy environment and people – Many NHAs improve water and air quality in their regions through restoration projects and encourage people to enjoy natural and cultural sites by providing new recreational opportunities.

The Water Heritage Trail program phase one placed 52 kiosks in 14 parishes. Each kiosk provides historical, scientific, and cultural data on how we live with and manage water throughout the region.

ANHA has given out 99 grants in the life of the program totaling over \$700,000!
Events | Recreation Improvements | Cultural Signage | Language Programs | Research

Atchafalaya
**WATER
HERITAGE**
TRAIL