

# **Giant Salvinia Hearing**

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How to protect our ecosystems. That was the topic Monday at a hearing at LSU. Louisiana Congressman, John Fleming hosted the three hour meeting along with other officials from Texas to discuss the growing problem of Giant Salvinia in the Ark-La-Tex.

The invasive plant grows very rapidly and can blanket a lake. That can stop oxygen from getting to fish and can also have an economic impact on tourism and property values around those lakes.

The group also visited Caddo Lake to view the plant up close. Rep. Fleming says the purpose of the meeting was to spread awareness and hopefully find solutions to the growing problem. "It affects everyone," said Fleming. "Also, this problem is moving across the south. It's finding its way to Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and we don't know how far it's going to spread."