

The Local Coastal Program's Outlook



Contents

News from the Assistant Secretary's Office:	1
OCM's Mitigation Evaluation White Paper	
The Creation of BOEMRE and the OCM response	
OCM's 312 Review	
Coastal Zone Boundary Update	
Revision of Enforcement Procedure	
2010 Gulf of Mexico Regional CZM Meeting	
Meet the new LDNR Secretary	
Jindal Appoints Jody Montelaro to Mineral Resources	
Office of Coastal Management to hold LCP Periodic Review Public Meetings	6
LDNR's Atchafalaya Basin Program from Ideas to Actions	6
Meet the New Orleans' Parish Local Coastal Management Administrator Charles E. Allen III	7
Mississippi Canyon 252/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Role in the Response	9
Plaquemines Parish Proposes an Exploratory Strategy to Help Minimize Natural Resources Damage from Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill	10
Parish Coastal Management Program	
Phone List	11
Coastal Resilience Information	12

News from the Assistant Secretary's Office



Louis E. Buatt
Assistant Secretary
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Office of Coastal Management

“Welcome to the second edition of our Coastal Parish Newsletter focusing on Louisiana parish coastal management issues. Our newsletter is intended to alert parish coastal resource stakeholders of news and events we believe will be of significant interest to them. This edition will provide up to date information on our Mitigation Evaluation, Coastal Zone Boundary Study, and Enforcement Evaluation as well as other news of interest. Please send in any questions, comments or other information you want to see published in future additions to my local program staff. As always my local coastal program staff remains ready to assist you in all your coastal management needs.”



OCM's Mitigation Evaluation

The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) has recently performed a thorough evaluation of its current mitigation program. Within the next few months, the OCM will begin to present the findings of the mitigation evaluation to a broad spectrum of coastal resource user groups. OCM recommendations brought forth are based on the refined goals and objectives of the mitigation program that have previously been distributed to the Local Coastal Program participants.

While the current mitigation program achieves "no net loss" of wetlands from development within the coastal zone, the State of Louisiana recognizes that this activity and associated wetland mitigation are crucial considerations in the state's overall coastal restoration and protection efforts. It is in the best interest of taxpayers and landowners that public and private resources be utilized in the most cost-effective manner and toward the greatest common good. This includes resources that are expended on compensatory mitigation for impacts to our coastal wetlands. In an effort to achieve this intent and complement the critical mission and objectives of the Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast, the State of Louisiana is recommending modifications to its compensatory mitigation program. The mitigation program must contribute to the comprehensive sustainability of our coastal wetlands and coastal communities, rather than purely compensate for wetlands impacted.

The mitigation program must provide additional options for mitigation of public works projects to ensure that mitigation activities work in concert with protection projects to provide multiple lines of defense and help establish additional wetland habitat. If mitigation alternatives like the creation of marsh adjacent to levees have the potential to increase the surge protection and environmental benefits of a hurricane levee system we must give serious priority to these alternatives. Similarly, creating coastal forest can reduce hurricane wind velocity and provide a certain measure of protection to coastal communities and facilities. Louisiana's Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coastal resources will be enhanced by allowing public entities such as levee districts, ports, and municipalities etc. to protect the citizens of our great state and more effectively mitigate impacts associated with protection projects all in greater concert with the State's Master Plan.



The Creation of BOEMRE and the OCM response:

In the wake of the BP oil spill, the Department of the Interior took several steps intended to help prevent similar accidents in the future. The Minerals Management Service was reorganized and renamed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). The offshore industry was informed that their plans for exploration and development in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) would have to include a great deal more information about their safety, engineering, and oil spill response planning, and the controversial six-month moratorium on drilling in water deeper than 500 feet was imposed by the Federal Government.

LDNR-OCM carried out a comprehensive examination of our review process for OCS Plans and their consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Louisiana reviews OCS Plans for their potential impacts to the state's coastal resources. While the final review of the Oil Spill Response Plans and engineering practices are not a part of our jurisdiction, we can and do require confirmation that the industry is providing information that BOEMRE needs to complete their analyses.

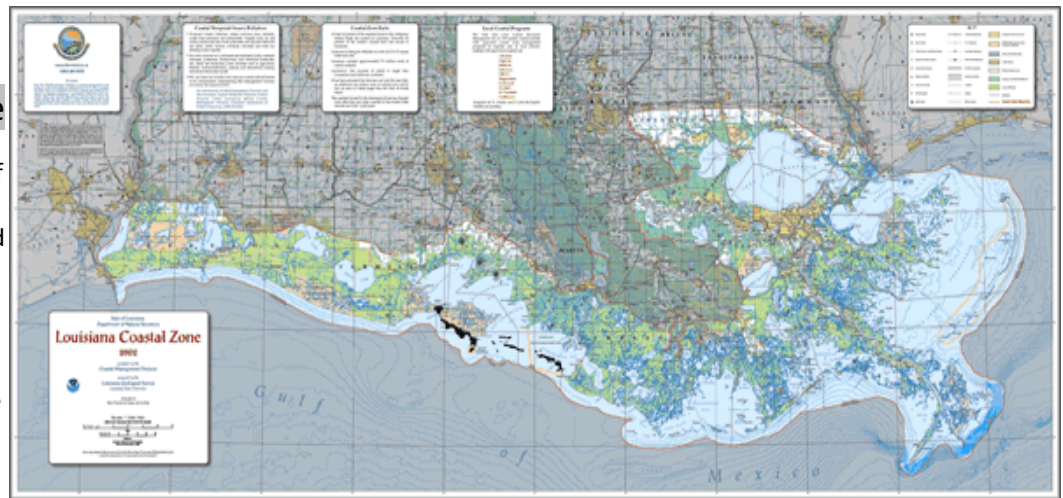
OCM has begun the process of revising and updating our requirements for OCS Plan content. Through meetings and correspondence with BOEMRE and industry representatives, Consistency Section staff is refining the types of information and analyses that offshore operators must provide and clearing up any ambiguities that may have existed about our requirements. When completed, BOEMRE will issue a Notice to Lessees, detailing to the offshore industry the information the state finds necessary to assess the potential for impacts to Louisiana's coastal zone resources.



OCM's 312 Review

The Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) is partly funded through grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Pursuant to that granting process NOAA is required to perform periodic reviews of the coastal state management programs to assess how well they are implementing their programs, what comments their constituents might have regarding the implementation of the programs, how they might be able to improve the programs, etc. This is a very collaborative process. NOAA views this as an opportunity to meet with the coastal states and their various partners and work together to improve coastal management by the states and NOAA to better serve the nation's coastal waters, users, and resources. This year's NOAA review for Louisiana will be held in January 2011. The NOAA team will be in the state and wishes to meet with as many of our partners as they can. Each of you will be hearing from us at the Office of Coastal Management as we try to arrange these meetings in order to afford the opportunity for you to participate in this important process.

The Current Louisiana Coastal Zone



Coastal Zone Boundary Update

On Thursday, August 18th DNR's Office of Coastal Management presented the results of the report reviewing the inland boundary of the coastal zone to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority at their monthly meeting in Baton Rouge. The report uses current best available science data sets to define areas subject to high and moderate coastal processes or characteristics.

The report recommends a two-tiered management approach with a Coastal Use Permit Area, and an Intergovernmental Coordination area. The permit area would function as the current coastal zone now functions. The coordination area would extend further inland, but permits would not be required; instead, there would be increased coordination and oversight of actions of governmental bodies to insure their consistency with policies of the state coastal resources program and with the goals and objectives of the Master Plan.

The recommended adjusted permit boundary would increase the number of parishes in the permit area from 19 to 20 by adding part of Ascension Parish to that area. The permit area of Calcasieu, Cameron, St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Assumption will all have additional area in the permit area if report recommendations are adopted. Livingston and Tangipahoa could have small reductions in area within the permit area if the recommendations are adopted.

It is anticipated that the CPRA will take the report under consideration and receive comments from interest parties for a period of time and may make a final recommendation regarding the report at their October meeting. During this time, OCM Assistant Secretary Louis Buatt and staff will be meeting with parish coastal program or advisory committee members along with local stakeholder groups to ascertain if any local issues remain which need to be considered before final action by the CPRA.

After CPRA action on the report, any changes to the coastal zone boundary would need to be approved by the legislature during the 2011 session and approved by the federal government (NOAA) before formally being incorporated into the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. A period of time would be needed to educate the public regarding these changes, so implementation of report recommendations would likely occur no earlier than January, 2012.



The OCM's Enforcement Policy Revisions

As part of our continuing efforts to review our agency processes and with an eye toward finding ways to deliver more and better service to the public we serve, while being good stewards of the public funds we receive, OCM has directed an internal review of the enforcement function of the Office of Coastal Management. The review was performed and while many of the suggestions would require legislative action there are some measures that can be accomplished within the existing framework of statutes and regulations.

The items that do not require legislative change, items that we can change now, are the elements that we are currently focusing on. Our expectation is that improved results and better data will provide at a minimum a solid defense of the efforts of the department in the short term, and could serve as the foundation of justification for state, federal, or even non-governmental funding or legislative requests, in the long term.

The changes that are being implemented are primarily internal changes to bring uniformity and standardization to the processing of complaints, and to standardize various documents used in the enforcement process. Things like standardization of notice letters, documentation of the initiation and closure of enforcement files and some internal procedural guides (desk references) have been developed and are being implemented to add transparency and consistency, and to expedite the processing of enforcement matters. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact our Office attorney, O.C. Smith, III or the Field Services and Compliance Scientist Manager, Tim Killeen at 1-800-247-4019 or by email at tim.killeen@la.gov or o.c.smith@la.gov



2010 Gulf of Mexico Regional CZM Meeting will be November 2-4, in Tallahassee FL

This meeting will bring together coastal managers from the Southeast, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean, plus officials from NOAA, other federal agencies, and local governments. The meeting will allow coastal managers to share information and hear from their colleagues on pressing regional and national issues. The purpose of the meeting is to further improvements to the regions coastal management programs. Coastal scientists, local government officials and resource managers from the southern United States and Caribbean region will gather to share their experiences and discuss a wide range of resource management topics.

NOAA is responsible for helping U.S. states and territories manage and protect coastal and marine areas under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The agency implements coastal management programs through partnerships with state and local governments, other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Office of Coastal Management is tasked to protect, develop, and, where feasible, restore or enhance the resources of the state's coastal zone and to balancing competing needs among the state's coastal resource users.

NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Resource Management, southern and Caribbean region includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The region borders the Gulf of Mexico coast and the Atlantic Ocean and contains shoreline of approximately 29,952 miles, with a coastal population that exceeds 24 million.

Meet the New LDNR Secretary Mr. Robert D. Harper



With DNR Secretary Scott A. Angelle's appointment to serve as Lt. Governor of the State of Louisiana, longtime DNR Undersecretary Robert Harper was appointed as the twelfth Secretary to head the department since its creation in 1976. Lt. Governor Angelle will be returning as Secretary of DNR upon completion of his tenure as Lt. Governor. The Office of the Secretary serves as DNR's executive management and policy office. The Secretary is the chief officer of the department, in charge of its policy, administration, and operations.

Secretary Harper knows all aspects of the agency, having been head of the management and finance arm, since 1992 - serving as DNR Undersecretary. He is the longest serving Undersecretary in the history of the cabinet style of state government. Secretary Harper was appointed Undersecretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources 18 years ago and has been reappointed by 4 consecutive governors.

He is responsible for oversight of the Offices of Conservation, Mineral Resources, Coastal Management and the state Energy Office. He has been recognized for his achievements in implementing effective Records and Data Systems for the agency and for Crisis Management and Policy efforts. He has a Bachelors of Arts degree from Louisiana State University in political science and is married to Sherry Penney Harper. They reside, with their dog, Wilson, here in the capitol city.

Governor Bobby Jindal Appoints Jody Montelaro as New Assistant Secretary of the Office of Mineral Resources and Secretary of the State Mineral and Energy Board

Governor Bobby Jindal has appointed Jody Montelaro as Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Assistant Secretary with in the Office of Mineral Resources and Secretary of the State Mineral and Energy Board. DNR's Office of Coastal Management Assistant Secretary Louis E. Buatt has served in the Mineral Resources post in addition to his Coastal Management duties since early 2010. Assistant Secretary Buatt will remain with the Office of Coastal Management. Lieutenant Governor Scott A. Angelle, Chairman of the Mineral and Energy Board, former Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, said "Montelaro enters the job with strong experience in the dynamic issues of energy and the management of Louisiana's natural resources."

Montelaro, a resident of New Orleans, has been serving as senior policy advisor to Governor Bobby Jindal regarding the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Department of Corrections and State Police issues. Montelaro has also previously served as the Governor Jindal's designee on the Louisiana Shrimp Task force, formed in 2009, and as an assistant executive counsel.

"As former secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, I saw firsthand the understanding of issues and the skill set Jody possesses as the state has continued to move forward to craft energy policies that give our people the best return for the responsible use of our natural resources - never compromising our duty to ensure they are appropriately managed," Angelle said. "I also appreciate Lou's service to the state in taking on the additional responsibility in the interim. He more than justified the confidence placed in him to capably handle the new situation and make the best use of his staff in managing the challenges presented to both offices within the Department."

DNR Secretary Bob Harper said that Buatt's leadership in the Office of Mineral Resources gives Montelaro a staff that is ready to both support him and follow his lead on new ideas and initiatives. "Jody's familiarity with our Department and his knowledge of its interactions will be an asset to the state not only in giving him a strong start, but in making the Office of Mineral Resources an efficient as possible in the future," Harper said.

Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Montelaro spent several years practicing corporate litigation at the law firm of Adams and Reese, LLP, and was also chosen for and served a one-year clerkship for now-Chief Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball on the Louisiana Supreme Court. Montelaro, a native of Eunice, graduated from Loyola University School of Law, where he served as law school president.



Parish Local Coastal Management Programs to be Reviewed Public Meetings to be announced September/October 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program will be conducting periodic reviews of the 10 approved parish Local Coastal Programs (LCPs): Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. James, St. Tammany, and Terrebonne, pursuant to La. R. S. 49:214.28(H)(3).

Documentation relevant to the review will be available to the public at the Louisiana Office of Coastal Management offices on the 10th floor of the LaSalle Building at 617 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The public is invited to submit comments by mail or email for consideration during the review. Correspondence and additional information regarding the reviews should be addressed to: Jon A. Truxillo, or Linda Pace, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487 jon.truxillo@la.gov linda.pace@la.gov 1-800-247-4019.

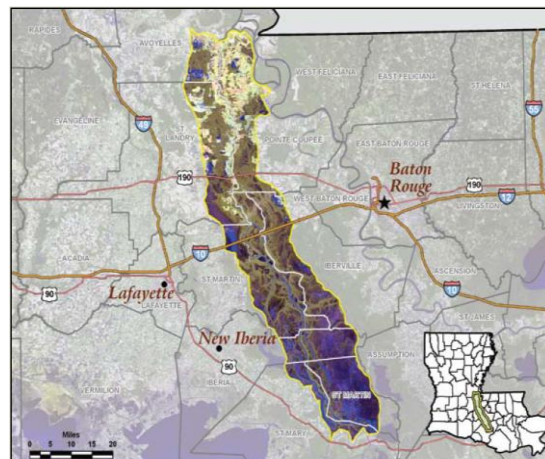
The Atchafalaya Basin Program: From Ideas to Actions by Antoinette DeBosier, LDNR Coastal Resources Scientist

Unlike most of our sister states along the gulf coast that have more mineral soils, South Central Louisiana, boasting of fertile, organic marshes and productive estuaries, was built over thousands of years from sediment that was transported and deposited by the Mississippi River as it meandered across the delta, ever searching for that shorter route to the Gulf of Mexico.

During this same time period, as the Mississippi River constantly changed her course, a new river channel once known as Atchafalaya Bayou, was formed. That waterway today is known as the Atchafalaya River.

Approximately 170 miles in length, from its origin at the Old River Control Structure to its end at the Gulf of Mexico, the Atchafalaya River is the largest of the Mississippi River's distributaries and is the lifeline to the nation's largest river swamp or basin.

This Basin was born from decades of flood events that happened as natural levees formed along with this new channel, creating the landforms and floodplain known today as the Atchafalaya Basin or locally as "The Spillway". (Continues on Page 6)



The Atchafalaya Basin, within the heart of the State of Louisiana

"Our goal, through implementation of the Annual Plans, is to build a program that brings forth the importance of the Basin's ecology and its natural resources. Our objective is to insure that science leads management decisions through the use of our Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment System, and our focus is on encouraging the public to give input through our public meetings since this is a metamorphosis of your backyard, from ideas to actions." Toni DeBosier

Meet the Orleans Parish Local
Coastal Management
Administrator Charles E. Allen III



Mayor Landrieu has appointed Charles E. Allen III the Director of the Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs.

Allen most recently served as Assistant Director of the Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research. He earned a MSPH in Environmental Health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. A dedicated member of the New Orleans community, Allen served as Director of the Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development and is presently a member of the Louisiana Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation.

The activities and focus of the Office of Coastal and Environmental Affairs include public education, increasing community involvement, collaborating with local and federal officials, and a host of other initiatives and issues including environmental justice.

The previous director was Ms. Wynecta Fisher. Ms. Fisher has left the Orleans Mayor's Office to further pursue her military and educational careers and we wish her the greatest of success. In the meantime we are thrilled and excited to have this opportunity to work with such an exceptionally dedicated and accomplished professional as Mr. Allen. Please join me in wishing him a hearty welcome.

Jon A Truxillo, Coastal Resources
Scientist

The Basin encompasses roughly 889,000 acres, with 400,000 acres being publicly owned. The public acres include state and federal fee title lands, federal easement lands, and a myriad of state water bottoms. The public lands most often share some piece of ancient river bed, cypress-tupelo swamp, deep-water lake, or bottomland hardwood forest.

The remaining 489,000 acres are privately owned and include upland forest habitat, deep-water swamps, and open freshwater marsh areas. The State's historically commercial, navigable waterways (bayous) run through both public and private lands.

The Basin boasts of a number of wildlife species such as alligators, deer, squirrel, bull frogs, bald eagles, spoonbills, warblers, and an abundance of fish. For over a hundred years, the Basin has been a part of many peoples heritage; including loggers, trappers, and fishermen who have all made their living harvesting the natural resources of the Atchafalaya.

Louisiana citizens, having long recognized the ecological value of the Atchafalaya, began efforts to attract federal support for its restoration in the 1960's but had little success, as the federal government's interest in the Basin was as a floodway and the focus for the Atchafalaya River was on navigation.

Eventually, in 1982, the federal government, prompted by stakeholders, came forward with a plan to mitigate for damages to the environment in the Basin by developing a multipurpose plan known today as the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project.

In 1985, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to spend \$250 million to preserve and restore the Basin's ecosystem. In 1998, the Atchafalaya Basin Program was created within the Office of the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and was to be the non-federal cost-share partner to the Corps for restoration projects. In 1999, the Louisiana Legislature authorized the State to spend \$85 million, subject to future appropriations, over 15 years for access, easements, and water management and recreation projects.

While these projects proved to serve the citizens of the State well, the desire for ecosystem restoration within the Basin continued to grow, and in 2007, as Congress directed a study of the effective use of water and sediment from both the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers for coastal restoration, the Louisiana Legislature took up a bill authorizing the Secretary of LDNR, through the Atchafalaya Basin Program, to submit an Annual Plan to the Legislature each year for the Basin.

(Continues on Page 7)

**Toni
DeBosier,
LDNR,
getting
water
depths in
Beau
Bayou
Swamp**



Spoonbills and Egrets in fresh marsh, Atchafalaya Basin



Belle River Boat Launch, Basin-East Side



In 2008, Act 606 was adopted and in 2010, the first Annual Plan rolled off the press. The projects in this and future plans would include water quality, sediment management, access projects, and other projects consistent with the mission statement of the Atchafalaya Basin master Plan, written and adopted by the Louisiana Legislature in 1998.

Some of the projects from the 2010 and 2011 Atchafalaya Basin Annual Plans include:

- Atchafalaya Basin Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment Tool
- Dog Leg Canal Sediment Trap Maintenance Dredging
- East Grand Lake/ Flat Lake/ Upper Belle River WMU Modifications
- Krotz Springs Boat Launch
- Cocodrie Swamp
- Location Canal North of Bayou Sorrel
- Bayou Fourche
- Bayou Sorrel Boat Launch
- Primitive Campgrounds

For questions or additional information about the Atchafalaya Basin Program please contact Ms. DeBosier at the LNDR: antoinette.debosier@la.gov (sources cited: ABP 2010, 2011 Annual Plans)





Mississippi Canyon 252/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Role in the Response

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Office of Coastal Management (OCM) is a state trustee for Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) as defined by the Oil Pollution Act and the Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act and as delegated by the Governor of Louisiana. As part of that responsibility OCM is tasked with identifying injured natural resources, quantifying the damages, developing a draft assessment restoration plan, and responding to public comments.

The NRDA process is broken into three tiers. The first tier involves a determination of the extent and degree of oiling on, and within, the natural resources of the state. The second tier is a more complete collection of data leading to the assessment of injury. The final tier entails the development of restoration plans to compensate the public for lost services from the inability to fully utilize the state's natural resources.

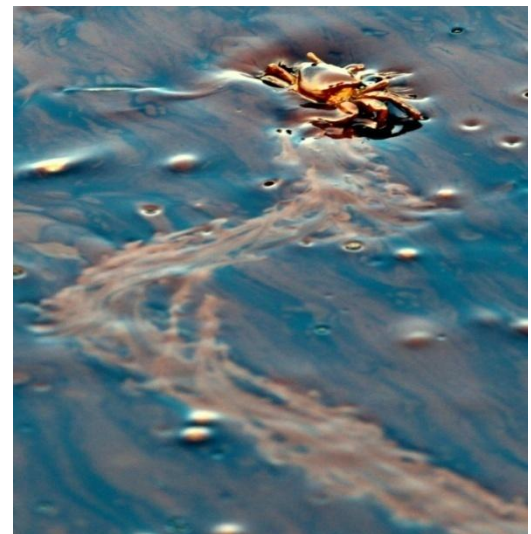
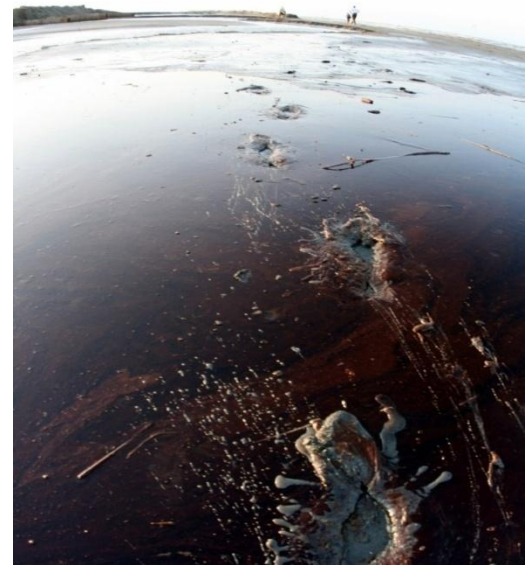
The primary role of OCM is to assess the injury to vegetated wetlands, including marsh, mangrove, and submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). In addition, OCM works with Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to assess injury throughout the water column and water bottoms of the state of Louisiana. The OCM represents the state as a trustee in a number of different technical working groups within the NRDA process, including shoreline, SAV, near-shore sediment and water, water column, fish, and data management/GIS.

The duties of the staff of OCM working on NRDA include working with other state and federal trustees, resource personnel and the responsible party to plan daily sampling trips throughout the impacted area, preparation and review of sampling protocol plans, staffing field crews for sampling and survey design trips, representing the state at meetings related to the incident, analysis of injury assessment data, and participation in restoration planning. In addition, OCM provides staffing for oversight of field operations and planning.

As part of the NRDA process the work of OCM as a trustee began as soon as a determination that an injury to natural resources would occur as part of the incident, within days of the well blowout in this instance. Due to the extent of the incident the involvement of OCM personnel in the NRDA process will be necessary for years to come.

There has been speculation that it may take ten years to tally the damage to natural resources: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-15/128038507940560.xml&coll=1>

For more information contact Harmon Brown or Nicholas LaCroix , Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management, P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487 harmon.brown@la.gov nicholas.lacroix@la.gov 1-800-247-4019.





Plaquemines Parish Proposes an Exploratory Strategy to Help Minimize Natural Resources Damage from Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Can dredging save us from the oil spill? by P.J. Hahn, Plaquemines Parish Director of Coastal Restoration and Management

A bright reddish orange sun begins to emerge from the marsh against a deep blue sky. A variety of birds take off from the marsh and waters, as our boat passes through an open bay. It appears to be another beautiful day on the coast in Plaquemines Parish. Taking a closer look, an oily sheen covers the water and the once white Egrets are brown in color. Other birds that pass by, like the pelicans and the normally bright pink Rosetta Spoonbills are now a rusty, shiny brown.

The sheen on the water begins to turn to brown, thick patches of heavy oil, which can be seen floating along the water as it makes its way into the Bay from out of the Gulf of Mexico. A strong petroleum smell is present in the air. An eerie sight of shrimp boats lineup across the Bay, stacked high with clean white oil boom, and where their nets once hung, are now replaced by neon red skimmer booms. So much has changed for the people and wildlife that call this area their home. This region has endured its share of disasters, most recently the largest hurricane ever to hit the Gulf coast, Katrina. And now, after nearly five years of a slow recovery for this area, yet another setback - The Deep Horizon oil spill, the largest environmental disaster in American history, blankets the coastal waters with its black gold, threatening the precious marsh and all who come in contact with it.

Just one week after the oil spill began; I had had a chance meeting with Dutch engineers that were visiting Baton Rouge as part of an annual exchange program with the state. Our conversation quickly turned to the then, recent disaster in the Gulf. When I posed the question of "what would they do", their response was to look at our barrier islands for protection from the oil. After thinking about this for a moment, I was reminded of a plan we had been working on for years, a plan to rebuild the dwindling barrier island chain. Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser quickly pitched a bold and aggressive long term plan to pump dredge material along the skeletal remains of the Louisiana coastal barrier islands, and create a sand berm barrier.

I had actually witnessed (and first to report) the oil traveling well below the water column at depths of 25 – 30 feet, after diving offshore with Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of the late Jacque Cousteau. Large plumes of black oil could be seen rolling slowly beneath the lifeless sea for miles. I can remember looking up from underneath the water and watching Sargassum seaweed, a vital nursery and cover to the many newly hatched ocean fish like the Blue tuna, passing overhead completely covered in thick, pasty oil. As we passed through the water I could feel the oil coating my body and creating a burning sensation.

Plaquemines Parish holds one of the most active estuaries on the planet, producing nearly fifty percent of the nation's seafood. Many of those fishermen who made their living catching fish, crabs, shrimps and oysters are now finding themselves working the same waters, only this time they are cleaning up oil from this once pristine and fertile estuary. (Continues on Page 10)



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(Plaquemines Proposes Oil Spill Strategy Continues from
Page 10)

Those fishermen involved in the clean up are considered the lucky ones. Many others in this area, who made a living in the oil business, now find themselves out of work with the U.S. government's moratorium on drilling for oil. The Louisiana coast is rich in oil production which has made this region a major player in the oil business. Much of South Louisiana is dependent upon the oil industry and the many jobs it has created.

While the people of Plaquemines and South Louisiana are strong rebuilders, many wonder what the future will hold for them. Will the land and waters that so many generations have made a living from, offer them a second chance? Will Mother Nature bail us out, correcting herself or have we pushed Mother Nature to her limits? One thing is for certain, the recovery efforts will be more challenging than ever, since we are now in hurricane season and the threat of oil laden waters will need to be reckoned with.

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Coastal Resiliency

The Coastal Resilience Index is a tool communities can use to examine how prepared they are for storms and storm recovery. To complete the index, community leaders get together and use the tool to guide discussion about their community's resilience to coastal hazards. http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/focus/documents/HRCC/resiliency_index_7-15-08.pdf

Coastal Resilience Index

Purpose

- Provides a simple, inexpensive method for community leaders to perform a self-assessment of their community's resilience to coastal hazards
- Identifies weaknesses a community may want to address prior to the next hazard event
- Guides discussion within a community, not intended for comparison between communities

Coastal Resilience Index

Contact information

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For information on Coastal Community Resiliency in Louisiana including future meetings contact:

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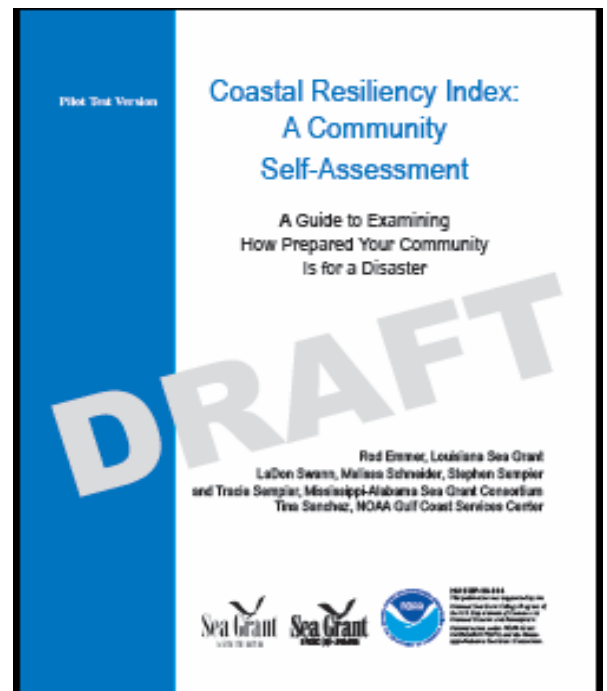
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Useful Links to Agencies with Important Information about Coastal Community Resiliency

<http://la.stormsmartcoasts.org/>

<http://www.southernclimate.org/about.php>



The NOAA Coastal Services Center provides training to the nation's coastal resource management community. Classes can be taught at the Center <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/facilities/index.html> or brought to your organization; the cost is minimal for participants and host organizations. To learn more about the trainings, review the class links below.

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/> **Please let us know if you have an interest in any of these classes.**

Here are some more excellent tools on resiliency and hazards planning from NOAA:

The Coastal County Snapshots tool provides local officials with a quick look at a county's demographics, infrastructure, and environment within the flood zone. <http://csc-s-maps-q.csc.noaa.gov/CountySnapshots/>

The Hazard Assessment Tool is an easy-to-use Internet mapping application that helps users identify the potential hazards that affect a location. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/hat/>

The Habitat Priority Planner takes away much of the subjective nature of the planning process. This tool aids in making decisions about habitat conservation, restoration, and land use planning. <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/hpp/>

The Legislative Atlas supports coastal management efforts by displaying spatial data for state and federal laws and jurisdictional boundaries. The atlas allows users to search through legislative summaries of laws applicable in their regions. <http://csc-s-maps-q.csc.noaa.gov/legislativeatlas/index.html>