

The Local Coastal Program's Outlook

News from the Assistant Secretary's Office



Stephen Chustz

Acting Assistant Secretary

Office of Coastal Management

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Coastal Management (OCM) continues to be extremely active addressing issues that are of utmost importance to local coastal managers. OCM staff continues to further integrate Ascension Parish into the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program as the State's 20th coastal parish. As you know, OCM is constantly striving to implement new innovative mitigation habitat analyses and work towards adding more compensatory mitigation options to adequately compensate for resources impacts in the Louisiana coastal area in compliance with, and through a goal towards furtherance of, the State's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. There have been several recent permitting initiatives undertaken at OCM: continued improved beneficial use of dredged material from permitted activities, improved policies and procedures for needs,

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alternatives, and justification from permitted impacts analysis, and an upcoming workshop will be offered to the regulated community and natural resources stakeholder groups. This issue also contains relevant news on beneficial use from our Federal Consistency Section, as well as happenings on the local coastal programs front. I hope that you enjoy this newsletter edition. Please send in any questions, comments or other information that you would like to see highlighted in future editions of the newsletter to my local program staff. As always my local program staff remains ready to assist you with all of your coastal management needs.

Sincerely,



Stephen Chustz, Acting Assistant Secretary

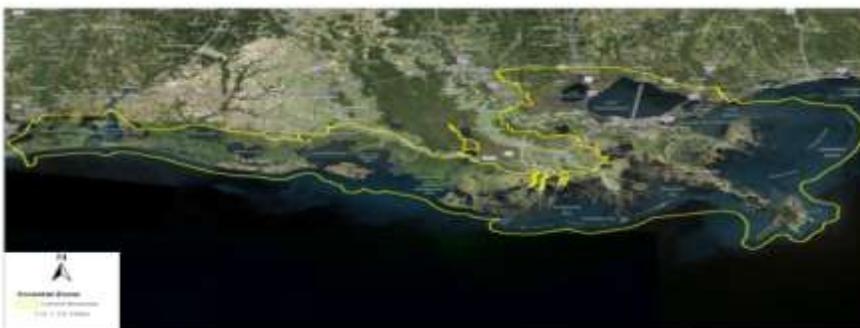


Ascension Parish Further Integrated into the Louisiana Coastal Zone as State's 20th Louisiana Coastal Parish by Terry Howey

Working closely with the staff of Ascension Parish local government, OCM has now fully integrated Ascension Parish as the 20th coastal parish into the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). The parish was operationally added to the coastal zone by a May 17, 2011 resolution of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) pursuant to provisions of Act 956 of the 2010 legislative session. Following CPRA approval, OCM applied for and received permission from NOAA to include the new portion of Ascension into the federally approved state coastal management program and began taking the necessary steps to smoothly transition the parish. In addition to an outreach program within the parish; which included presentations to the parish drainage board, the East Ascension Sportsmen's League, and a segment on the local cable news program for the parish; OCM had to modify internal processes so that coastal use permits and consistency determinations by federal agencies could be more efficiently accommodated.

Additionally, OCM staff has modified our electronic permitting process so that coastal use permits can be easily processed from Ascension Parish and has coordinated with the Corps of Engineers' regulatory section so that permitting in this area will function within the federal/state joint public notice system and be subject to provisions of the programmatic general permit of the Corps. Notification of federal agencies has been carried out so that relevant federal activities can be reviewed by OCM under the provisions of the federal consistency section of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Ascension Parish staff has begun to develop a Local Coastal Program for the parish and OCM's Local Coastal Program Section's staff is standing by to provide assistance in finalizing the program document and shepherding it through the NOAA federal approval process so that Ascension can begin to implement a local coastal program as soon as possible.

Louisiana Coastal Zone



OCM's Recent Mitigation Initiatives *by Kelley Templet*

The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) completed a comprehensive evaluation of the State's entire Coastal Mitigation Program and formally presented these findings to the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority on Wednesday, December 8, 2010. This evaluation process led to the development of a white paper that provides the research, statistics and other information needs necessary for implementing programmatic changes. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' (LDNR) Coastal Management Program continually strives to implement sustainable and meaningful mitigation for permitted activities to complement the critical mission and objectives of the State's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. The New Orleans District (NOD) USACE is being brought to the understanding that current federal mitigation rules that may be appropriate for Wyoming, Montana and Nebraska are not always appropriate for coastal Louisiana, that banks need to be located where they most appropriately compensate for coastal wetland habitat impacts, and that there is a strong need for a robust and flexible state in-lieu-fee mitigation option. In addition, regulations need to be updated and simplified in order to make the mitigation process more complimentary with the goals and objectives of the State Master Plan. DNR has been gathering strong stakeholder support through its ongoing outreach efforts, by initiating conversations with mitigation bank sponsors and investors, and has concurrently been actively and directly engaged with other State and Federal agencies in seeking programmatic change since this information was presented to the CPRA in December 2010.

Louisiana Coastal In-Lieu Fee Program Update:

The OCM has been actively and aggressively developing the State's Coastal In-Lieu Fee Program Instrument with the cooperation of the NOD mitigation staff and the NOD's Interagency Review Team (IRT) comprised of representatives from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). To fully comply with all requirements of the revised federal mitigation regulations promulgated in 2008, the State must revise its In-lieu Fee (ILF) Program (currently consisting of contributions to the Louisiana Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund). Among other items that changed under the new federal rules, the regulations establish performance standards and criteria for ILF programs to improve the quality and success of compensatory mitigation projects. The OCM is in the process of developing, with the cooperation of the NOD staff and IRT members, an ILF program that will comply with these new federal regulations. The ILF Program's Prospectus was placed on public notice on April 26, 2010. Since that time, OCM has been actively developing its Program instrument and responding to IRT agency comments. On May 19, 2011, the OCM submitted its first revised In-Lieu-Fee Instrument, incorporated comments, and submitted its second revised ILF Instrument on October 24, 2011. All comments on those revisions were received by December 15, 2011. Once those comments have been addressed, the LDNR anticipates approval of the ILF Instrument within a rapid time period. It is noteworthy that approximately two-thirds of the time spent developing the program has been devoted to public notice periods or review periods by the NOD and the IRT.

Modified Charleston Method Update:

OCM will continue in its effort to assist in improving the results and performance of the Modified Charleston Method (MCM). The OCM is presently running the MCM concurrently with the WVA for all determinations of wetland impacts and mitigation requirements to increase scientific accuracy of mitigation assessments. The public comment period for the MCM ended on October 25th. The IRT met to discuss comments on October 26th. Colonel Fleming with the NOD sent out a letter that was received by OCM on December 15, 2011. The letter stated that the NOD will consider the OCM's comments as well as others received during the public comment period and will provide the OCM a comment response document describing the NOD's approach to all comments received. Other federal agencies also had comments/suggestions and concerns. The Colonel stated in the letter that prior to releasing the revised MCM Workbook and Guidebook to the public, copies will be provided to the IRT in mid-December for review and comment. To date, the OCM has not yet received the revised MCM Workbook or Guidebook. The NOD anticipated the release of the revised MCM to the public in early January 2012. Since the OCM has not received any revisions from the NOD, the OCM anticipates this deadline will be extended.

Rules and Procedures for Mitigation Update:

The OCM's Mitigation Section is working on revisions of the Rules and Procedures for Mitigation (Louisiana Administrative Code, 724) in order to update, simplify, and make mitigation processes more consistent and complimentary with the goals and objectives of the State's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast (2007). OCM intends to initiate the formal rule promulgation process in early summer, 2012. For questions and additional information on OCM's Mitigation Program please contact Ms. Kelley Templet at 225-342-3124.



Recent Permitting Initiatives *by Christine Charrier*

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material from Permitted Activities

New rules for the beneficial use of dredged material were approved in October of 2009. Recently, OCM implemented internal guidelines to further streamline the beneficial use review process. Applicants now have four choices to attain compliance, in no ranked order: use of the dredged material on site, dredge and beneficially use extra material at an alternate site, donate to a Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority coastal restoration project in compliance with the State's Master Plan project or contribute to OCM's beneficial use trust fund. New beneficial use of dredged material policies and procedures has increased beneficial use from 22% to 100%.

Needs, Alternatives and Justification (NAJ) Analysis

OCM Permitting Section has been developing new NAJ guides for various types of uses: subdivisions; marinas; pipelines; municipal activities - utilities, drainage levees and transportation; commercial/industrial; oil and gas facilities and ports. Permitting is also working on developing guides for drainage and coastal hazard analyses. We anticipate finalizing most guides for general use by the end of 2012, with the first release being the subdivision guide in late January to early February. Guides will offer a predictable process and clear understanding of the information requested and why OCM requests the information. They also will provide potential sources from which to obtain the information.

Upcoming Workshops

OCM's Permitting Section is planning to host workshops in March in Baton Rouge and Lafayette with all the major regulatory and commenting agencies participating to inform coastal users of the responsibilities of each agency and the inter-coordination efforts that go on during the state and federal permit processes. Benefits of the workshops include clear understanding of what each agency does and how that fits into the regulatory process.

For additional Information on these Permitting Section initiatives please contact Christine Charrier at 225-342-7953.

Upcoming Workshop: March 28th

NOAA Estuarine and Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center

Conference Room, 646 Cajun dome Blvd., Lafayette, La.



OCM Denies Consistency Determinations for Federal Navigation Channel Maintenance for Lack of Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

by Jeff Harris and Brian Marcks

Mississippi River Navigation Maintenance Channel Dredging

The New Orleans District Corps of Engineers regularly maintains the navigation channel in the Lower Mississippi River through Southwest Pass and into the Gulf of Mexico. This involves the dredging of shoals that form as sediment is dropped by the river and which will rapidly accumulate and restrict the travel of deep draft ships to ports as far inland as Baton Rouge. Unimpeded, safe navigation is vital for the economic welfare of the state and the nation. This annual channel maintenance is subject to Consistency review by the LDNR-Office of Coastal Management (OCM) as the maintenance activity is a direct federal action.

The amount of sediment removed from Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River each year by the Corps varies from six and ½ to 18 million cubic yards. Most of this material is removed by hopper dredges, which carry the sediment to two disposal sites: one upstream at the heads of Pass-a-Loutre and South Pass, and the other downstream at the mouth of Southwest Pass in an Deep Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site. OCM has attempted for many years to have the Corps of Engineers utilize this material beneficially, to restore and protect deteriorating wetlands as required by the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. Though there is some limited beneficial use, the large majority of sediment either is lost to the Gulf of Mexico, or accumulates in the Passes where it chokes off water and sediment to the eastern Delta, an area subject to ongoing natural subsidence.

Other natural resource agencies, including the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and others, have joined OCM in objecting to this practice. After years of studies, discussions and negotiations, OCM has had no choice but to disagree with the Corps' consistency determination, and find the disposal of dredged material at the head of Pass-a-Loutre to be inconsistent with the LCRP. This was first done for the Corps' FY 2010 dredging plan, and for the two fiscal years since. Nonetheless, the Corps has continued to dispose of the dredged sediment in the same manner, and has refused mediation of this dispute by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Management and by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. OCM continues to request the Corps to alter its disposal practices, and has ongoing discussions on the ways and means by which beneficial use could be done; and is evaluating other options to see that more of this valuable sediment resource is more effectively utilized. OCM continues to encourage the Corps to seek adequate funding in order for them to be able to beneficially use more of the material dredged from federally maintained channels.

Navigation Maintenance Dredging of the Calcasieu Ship Channel

The Calcasieu Ship Channel, which runs from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Lake Charles, is another navigation channel maintained by the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers. The reach between the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf is dredged in two segments, in alternate years.

In September 2011, the Corps submitted their consistency determination for the FY 2012 dredging cycle. Approximately 4 million cubic yards of shoal material is to be removed by hydraulic cutter-head dredge. The traditional practice is to place this material in upland confined disposal sites, though when supplemental money has been available, the Corps has done some significant marsh creation projects. A major positive development was the recent approval by Corps Headquarters of a new Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The plan greatly expands the opportunities for the Corps to use dredged material beneficially in the future, so long as Congress provides the necessary funding. In this dredging cycle, however, a significant budget shortfall made the Corps uncertain if they could even afford to repair and refurbish the containment dikes on the upland disposal sites, much less do beneficial use.

The FY 2012 consistency determination proposed by the NOD allowed the dredging slurry to overflow the dikes and run into Calcasieu Lake. LDWF and Cameron Parish objected to the potential adverse effects to oyster seed grounds and fishery resources in that area, and to the lack of beneficial use of the dredged material. Federal and local commenting agencies also filed letters objecting to the project on similar grounds.

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After reviewing the consistency determination, and based on comments received by Cameron Parish and LDWF, it was determined that the proposed disposal plan would be inconsistent with the LCRP. Because of the importance of the Ship Channel to the economic well being of the state, there was no consideration for preventing the maintenance of the channel. Instead, OCM issued a conditional consistency approval for the activity: the dredging could go forward, but the dredge slurry was not to be permitted to overflow into Calcasieu Lake. Though the chance for wetland restoration is lost once more, valuable natural resources and economic viability are preserved.

In the meantime, while the dredging project was under review the Corps also proposed to designate a 1,345 acre site in Calcasieu Lake for future unconfined disposal. Again, LDWF objected on grounds of adverse impacts to the oyster seed grounds. Further, the recently-approved DMMP provides ample disposal capacity for the next 25 years, including significant beneficial use opportunities. A new disposal site (which had not qualified to be included in the DMMP) was not necessary. Federal commenting agencies also cited the DMMP as preferable to open water disposal and the potential oyster and fisheries resources impacts. As a result of these considerations, OCM informed the Corps that the proposed designation was inconsistent with the LCRP. Please contact Jeff Harris at 225-342-7949 to learn more.

David Fruge Assumes Duties as OCM's Executive Management Officer

Dave rejoined LDNR, serving as Resources Scientist and Project Specialist for the Atchafalaya Basin Program in April 2011. In December, he assumed the duties of Executive Management Officer in the LDNR-OCM's Executive Section. In his new position, Dave will still have involvement in DNR's Atchafalaya Basin Program as well as increased involvement in OCM's other program areas: Permitting and Mitigation; Interagency Affairs and Field Services.

Dave is a native of Crowley, Louisiana, and received a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana-Lafayette) in 1969, and a Master of Science degree in biology from Northeast Louisiana University (now the University of Louisiana-Monroe) in 1971. He then joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) where he worked for over 32 years until his retirement from that agency in August 2003. During his career with the USFWS, Dave supervised the Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office from October 1982 through August 2003, and represented the U.S. Department of the Interior on the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force (CWPPRA Task Force) from 1995 to August 2003. He received the Meritorious Service Award from the Secretary of the Interior in 2002.

Dave also has extensive experience on coastal issues at the state level. He previously served with the LA Department of Natural Resources' Office of Coastal Restoration and Management, first as Administrator of the Coastal Management Division (September 2003-August 2005), and then as Deputy Assistant Secretary (August 2005-July 2008). He briefly served as interim Director of the Atchafalaya Basin Program while he was Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Dave also worked with the LA Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR), now the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, from July 2008 to April 2011. He served as Chief of Planning and Project Management and (following OCPR's reorganization in late 2009) Senior Project Specialist in that organization's Executive Office. Please join us in welcoming Dave in his expanding administrative role here at OCM.



Beneficial Use of Dredged Material in the Louisiana Coastal Zone by the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers *by Jeff Harris*

The disposition of New Orleans District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (NOD) to make beneficial use of dredged material in the Louisiana coastal zone remains fundamentally unyielding. As a general rule, the Corps will only do beneficial use when that disposal operation falls within the “federal standard” (defined as the least-cost option which meets the requirements of the Ocean Dumping Act and the Water Resources Development Act) and when the beneficial use will not interfere with the task of keeping the navigation channel open. There has, however, been slight movement on the NOD’s position to make accommodation toward beneficial use of dredged material when to do so would not encumber substantial increased costs or effort on their part and will not violate the above listed navigation mission constraints

The NOD routinely does beneficial use when dredging the Baptist Collette Bayou (also called Main Pass) in the East Mississippi River Bird’s Foot Delta, in the Atchafalaya River Delta and Bay Channel, Barataria Pass and the mouth of Bayou Lafourche/Belle Pass. Minor amounts of beneficial use are also done in the Mississippi River Southwest Pass; however, the majority of sediment dredged from the Mississippi River is dumped offshore or at the head of Pass-a-Loutre, in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries’ Pass-a-Loutre Wildlife Refuge. This latter material often has to be re-dredged in order to provide additional disposal capacity in the already severely sediment congested channel. When this occurs the material is used beneficially as it is the least cost re-disposal option.

In the past year, a new Dredged Material Management Plan was put in place for the Calcasieu Ship Channel which substantially increases the federal standard, because the nearby non-beneficial disposal options have been nearly exhausted. OCM is hopeful that the NOD will request the adequate funds from congress to ensure that the DMMP for Calcasieu River is fully implemented. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act program continues to consider projects in partnership with the Corps’ navigation dredging activities, including a permanent pipeline on the Calcasieu Ship Channel to reduce the costs of moving material onto the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge for beneficial use.

Discussions are underway with Sempra LNG to construct a second permanent pipeline on the Calcasieu Ship channel, north of Hackberry, for beneficial use by the Corps and by Sempra. In 2010 Louisiana partnered with the Corps to build wetlands on private property west of the Sempra facility near Black Lake, as well as to the south on the Sabine NWR. Such cooperative ventures are possible when the state or another outside entity can fund the costs which exceed the federal standard.



Plaquemines Parish Coastal Restoration Hopes to Save Imperiled Island Rookery by *P.J. Hahn and Jon Truxillo*

Plaquemines Parish Coastal Restoration and Management Administrator, P. J. Hahn returned to Cat Island almost nine months after the B.P. oil spill. He was sadly taken aback by how much damage was done to the island from the catastrophic spill. Most of the mangroves had died and with them the expansive root system that had held this one time, very productive rookery together. The Island now crumbles into the Gulf's waters. P.J. estimates that he probably has less than a year to save the island and so has begun the permitting process to quickly restore this vital bird habitat. Plaquemines has \$60K from the Parish Council to begin the permitting of the rebuilding of Cat Island. There isn't much time left - once it's gone, it's gone forever. He's shooting for a very aggressive schedule to rebuild this island by spring of 2012. For P.J., failure is not an option! "Tens of thousands of birds nested on this island before the spill. This year I'd be surprised if I were to find a couple of hundred nesting birds", says P.J.



Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) by Donald Haydel

The Atchafalaya Basin Program presented the Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Basin Plan at the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. After review and consideration, CPRA approved the revised plan as consistent with Louisiana's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. After receiving approval from the Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board, the Plan will be presented to the legislature in its 2012 Regular Session.

The Atchafalaya Basin Program was primarily focused on the recreational component of the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan from its inception through 2005, when the focus transitioned to water resource management and enhanced access. Act 606 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature created the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund (ABCF). This Legislation establishes an annual plan process, requires an increased focus on water management and access and establishes a Technical Advisory Group that must approve all Water Management projects prior to their inclusion in an annual basin plan. In addition, Act 541 of the 2009 Regular Legislative Session called for a constitutional amendment, which was approved by the citizens of Louisiana in November 2010, which will provide a future dedicated source of funding when certain criteria regarding State severance taxes have been met. However, those criteria have not been met at this time and thus the program continues to rely on funding through the Capital Outlay process for project implementation. One project approved in the FY2010 Annual Basin Plan is the Natural Resource Inventory & Assessment System. This product provides resource managers and stakeholders with information regarding the Basin and its resources. The ABNRIAS contains an enormous amount of information and will continue to be enhanced by our contractors in the upcoming year. Below is the link to the ABNRIAS: <http://abp.cr.usgs.gov/Home.aspx>

A number of other ABP projects are expected to be completed in the upcoming year including the Dog Leg Canal sediment trap maintenance project, Big Alabama Boat Launch improvements, Catahoula Pavilion, Lake End Park Cabins, Cajun Coast Welcome Center and Veterans Park improvements. Progress continues to be made toward implementation of the Cocodrie Swamp, Location Canal North of Bayou Sorrel and Bayou Fourche water management projects. Additionally, plans are moving forward for the Bayou Sorrel, Butte LaRose and Bayou Amy boat launches as well as primitive campgrounds. The Basin Program continues to work with its stakeholders, the Technical Advisory Group and the Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board to implement its Master Plan and thereby improve conditions in the Basin and provide our citizens and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the Atchafalaya Experience.

For additional information please contact:

Don Haydel, Coastal Resources Scientist Manager, 225-342-8953, donald.haydel@la.gov

To learn more visit our web site: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=494&pnid=0&nid=273>



Louisiana Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program *by Charles Reulet*

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Office of Coastal Management (OCM), Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) received final approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in September of 2011. In FY 2007, the federal program shifted to a competitive funding process and required states to develop state plans based on the 2003 Final CELCP Guidelines. The state was able to produce a draft state plan in early 2008 in order to continue submitting projects to NOAA for the competitive funding cycle. It took some time to address comments from stakeholders, state partners, and federal partners, but in 2011 NOAA congratulated OCM "on the development of a comprehensive CELCP plan" and noted that the "priorities identified under the plan will help to protect Louisiana's valuable coastal resources for future generations." The Louisiana DNR, OCM updated their CELCP webpage with the approved plan as well as the approval letter from NOAA and will continue to look for ways to improve the current plan in the future.

CELCP provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on such lands, from willing sellers. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity. More information is located on the web at: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=103>

OCM encourages local governments to contact us and work with OCM to develop projects that will score well on the CELCP project evaluation factors. The project proposal evaluation factors are: purpose/merit, ecological, conservation, and threats. For more information on how to propose a project please contact Charles Reulet at 225-342-0861.

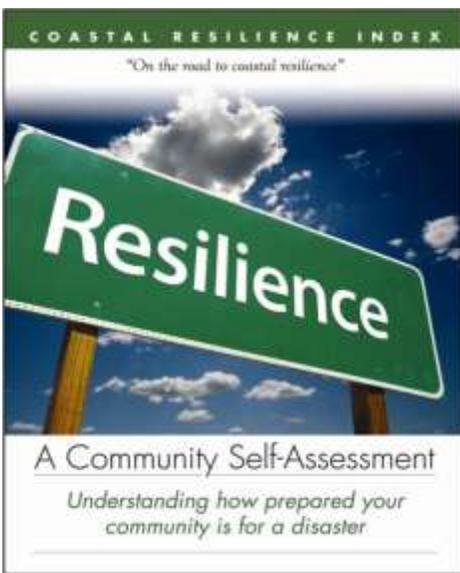


OCM Facilitates Coastal Community Resiliency Index Sessions



LCP staff working in cooperation with Louisiana Sea Grant Law and Policy Program, LSU Cooperative Extension Service, Alabama/Mississippi Sea Grant and other Gulf of Mexico Alliance members continues to facilitate the Coastal Community Resiliency Index in towns and parishes throughout coastal Louisiana; strengths and weaknesses regarding hurricane recovery are assessed and parish government and emergency operation's personnel are provided with the results and offered suggestions on improving community resiliency. The Coastal Resiliency 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 resiliency to coastal hazards. To date, Resiliency Index Sessions have been facilitated in Calcasieu, Cameron, Lafourche, Orleans, St. Tammany and Terrebonne communities. Additional sessions will be conducted very soon in: Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. James Parishes. For additional information please contact Jon Truxillo at OCM at 225-342-3394 or Melissa Trosclair Daigle at SGLPP at 225-578-9968. They will be happy to facilitate a Community Resiliency Index Session in your community.

http://www.seagrants.noaa.gov/focus/documents/HRCC/resiliency_index_7-15-08.pdf



For additional information about this newsletter or for content submission please contact: Jon A. Truxillo, Coastal Resources Scientist, 225.342.3394, jon.truxillo@la.gov

With Special Appreciation to P.J. Hahn, Director of Coastal Restoration and Management, Plaquemines Parish for providing many of the coastal photographs in this issue.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

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