



## Coast-it Notes May 18, 2011

**Greetings from Department of Natural Resources Assistant Secretary Lou Buatt.**

*Coast-it Notes* is a publication of the Office of Coastal Management to inform permit applicants, the public and others of events and items that may impact them or their interaction with our office. This e-document is intended to improve customer service and awareness of OCM works and functions and includes announcements from all OCM divisions as issues arise. If you wish to be removed from this list or have been forwarded this email and wish to be added to the list, please contact Christine Charrier at [christine.charrier@la.gov](mailto:christine.charrier@la.gov).

### **Permit/Mitigation Section Updates**

The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) continues to review its procedures to improve transparency, efficiency and service to the public. Based upon comments and suggestions requested in a previous Coastit Note regarding proposed improvements to our public notice and distribution procedures, OCM will implement technological improvements including: 1) distribution of our coastal use permit public notices and project plats to interested parties via email and 2) posting public notices on the OCM web page. We will continue to offer hard copy mail outs only to those who request continuation of that service. In addition, public notices of all apparently complete applications for Coastal Use Permits will continue to be published in the Official Journals of the State and/or Parish as appropriate. Notices to adjacent land owners will continue to be mailed in accordance with our partnership with the Corps of Engineers regulatory branch.

The web address to view the OCM public notices and plats is <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=591>. This has already been implemented, so please check it out.

Those who wish to receive email distribution of the coastal use permit public notices and project plats should send an email to [OCMINFO@la.gov](mailto:OCMINFO@la.gov) and include the following information: your name, organization, phone number, and the email address where you would like our office to send the notices.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina Staten at 225-342-7942 or Sara Krupa at 225-342-8917.

### **Ascension Becomes 20th Coastal Parish**

As a result of a resolution passed without objection at the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority meeting held in Baton Rouge Tuesday, May 17th, Ascension Parish joined the Coastal

Zone of Louisiana. The resolution accepted a report prepared by the Office of Coastal Management for the CPRA at the request of the Louisiana Legislature in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60 passed in 2009, requesting that a study be conducted to evaluate the adequacy of Louisiana's current coastal zone inland boundary after more than thirty years of coastal management. Titled "Defining Louisiana's Coastal Zone: A Science-based Evaluation of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Inland Boundary," the report analyzed the adequacy of the boundary based on science and factoring in socioeconomic considerations. One outcome of the study was that a portion of Ascension Parish was found to have a high affinity for coastal processes and was recommended to be added to the coastal zone. The Louisiana Legislature having considered this potential outcome, passed Act 956 in 2010 which provided for the immediate addition of that part of Ascension Parish to the coastal zone which might be recommended by the report upon its approval by the CPRA.

There will be no immediate changes, however, in the permitting structure of the parish. The area added includes a relatively small percentage of low lying and wetland area that is currently primarily undeveloped. This area will become subject to the coastal use permitting process once full implementation of the addition becomes effective, probably around January 1, 2012. Between now and that time the Office of Coastal Management and Ascension Parish will be coordinating with each other, the Corps of Engineers, and other state and federal agencies to create a seamless transition to inclusion into the coastal zone regulatory process. Because the area of Ascension Parish to be added to the coastal zone will soon be eligible for permit processing under the Corps' "Programmatic General Permit" the permitting process in the affected area may become simpler and faster when the addition is fully implemented. Additionally, the parish may elect to establish a "Local Coastal Program" in which case many smaller projects of only local concern would be handled solely by the parish rather than the state or Corps.

To view the entire report, including maps and related documents, please visit the Coastal Zone Boundary Page on the Office of Coastal Management Website at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=88>. For additional information regarding this issue, OCM contacts Terry Howey or Ed Britton may be contacted.

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## Anna Dearmon

Office of Secretary Scott A. Angelle  
LA Department of Natural Resources  
225.223.3835 | [anna.dearmon@la.gov](mailto:anna.dearmon@la.gov)

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