



LOUISIANA COASTAL FACTS



Historical Land Loss in Coastal Louisiana - Louisiana has lost 1,900 square miles of land since the 1930's (Barras et al. 1994, Barras et al. 2003, Dunbar et al. 1992). Currently, Louisiana has 30% of the total coastal marsh and accounts for 90% of the coastal marsh loss in the lower 48 states (Dahl 2000, Field et al. 1991, USGS 2003).

Current Rate of Coastal Land Loss - Between 1990 and 2000, wetland loss was approximately 24 square miles per year – that is the equivalent of approximately one football field lost every 38 minutes. The projected loss over the next 50 years, with current restoration efforts taken into account, is estimated to be approximately 500 square miles (Barras et al. 2003). According to land loss estimates, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita transformed 217 square miles of marsh to open water in coastal Louisiana (USGS 2006).

Population Living in the Coastal Parishes - In 2006, over 2 million residents – more than 47% of the state's population according to U.S. Census estimates – lived in Louisiana's coastal parishes (U.S. Census Bureau 2007). The coastal zone covers approximately 14,913 square miles, of which 6,737 square miles is water and 8,176 square miles is land (LOSCO 2005).

Louisiana Energy Facts - Among the 50 states, the following are some statistics for Louisiana's Primary Energy Production for 2006: including Outer Continental Shelf production, Louisiana ranks 1st in crude oil and 2nd in natural gas production; excluding Outer Continental Shelf production, Louisiana ranks 4th in crude oil and 5th in natural gas production (LDNR 2007).

Waterborne Commerce - In 2005, Louisiana's coastal wetlands provided storm protection for ports that carried 457 million tons of waterborne commerce; accounting for 18% of all waterborne commerce in the United States. Five of the top fifteen largest ports in the United States are located in Louisiana (USACE 2007).

Commercial Fishing - In 2006, Louisiana commercial landings exceeded 844 million pounds with a dockside value of \$202 million; accounting for approximately 21% of the total catch by weight in the lower 48 States (USDOD 2007).

Recreational Fishing - Annual expenditures related to non-commercial fishing in Louisiana can amount to between \$895 million (LDWF 2005) and \$1.2 billion (Gentner et al. 2001).

Hunting - In 2003, hunting-related expenditures in Louisiana amounted to \$599 million (LDWF 2005).

Wildlife-watching - In 2003, expenditures related to wildlife-watching in Louisiana amounted to \$175 million (LDWF 2005).

Fur Harvest - The 2005-2006 fur harvest in Louisiana's coastal wetlands generated approximately \$1.17 million (LDWF 2006).

Alligator Harvest - In 2003, the Louisiana alligator harvest was valued at approximately \$38 million (LDWF 2005).

Waterfowl - Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide habitat for approximately 1.8 million migratory waterfowl (LDWF 2008).

Coastal Restoration Projects (1986-2007; Lindquist and Martin 2007) - 626 projects have been constructed

State-funded projects - 46 projects constructed

Breaux Act projects - 81 projects constructed

Parish Coastal Wetlands Restoration Program (Christmas Tree Program) - 45 projects constructed

Other federally assisted projects - 39 projects constructed

Vegetation Planting Program - 415 projects

Other Coastal Restoration Efforts

Breaux Act Projects - 63 additional projects have been approved and are currently in the design phase.

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) - Congress authorized the CIAP as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

This program authorizes funds to be distributed to OCS oil and gas producing states to mitigate the impacts of production activities on coastal habitats, natural resources, and infrastructure. Louisiana is projected to receive up to \$510 million in CIAP funds over 4 years, beginning in 2007.

State Surplus - During 2007, the Louisiana State Legislature passed House Bill 765, which proposed to dedicate \$200 million in budget surplus monies from fiscal year 2005-06 to coastal restoration and protection.

Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study (LCA) - The goal of the LCA Study is to gain a federal and state commitment to a large-scale ecosystem restoration program in coastal Louisiana (www.lca.gov).

America's Wetland Campaign - The campaign was established in 2002 to increase national and world awareness of issues associated with Louisiana's coastal wetland loss (www.americaswetland.com).

Note: Although this document is updated regularly, please contact the LDNR for the most current statistics. Last updated 2/6/08.

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- For further information on the Breaux Act or Restoration Projects in Louisiana, contact the Breaux Act home page (www.lacoast.gov), the OCRM home page (<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/crm/>), the Coast 2050 home page (www.coast2050.gov), the LCA home page (www.lca.gov), or the following government agencies.
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| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Planning Division
(504) 865-1121
www.cecer.army.mil | U.S. Department of Interior, Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
(337) 266-8556
www.nwrc.gov | Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division
(225) 342-7308 or 1-888-459-6107
dnr.louisiana.gov/crm/ |
| U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
(337) 291-3100
www.fws.gov | U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
(318) 437-7690
www.nrcs.usda.gov | State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
(225) 342-3968
www.goca.state.la.us |
| U.S. Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
(225) 389-0508
www.nmfs.gov | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
(225) 389-0735
www.epa.gov | |