

# Louisiana Local Coastal Programs' Outlook

December 2015  
Volume 6, Issue 1

**From the La. Department  
of Natural Resources (DNR)**



## **From Assistant Secretary Keith Lovell Office of Coastal Management**



*Local Coastal Management Program Managers, Parish Officials, Natural Resources Agency Personnel and Louisiana Coastal Stakeholders:*

*In this issue of the Louisiana Local Coastal Programs' Outlook we offer information on the Office of Coastal Management's, the Louisiana Coastal Parishes' and other agency partners' efforts to assist in Louisiana's coastal management, resiliency, restoration and protection efforts.*

*I am extremely pleased with the efforts of my State Office of Coastal Management (OCM) Staff and our Parish Local Coastal Management Program Partners, not only in their tremendous labors to prudently manage Louisiana's plentiful and unparalleled coastal resources but in the conscientious manner they are willing to assist our coastal protection and restoration partners and other local, state and federal natural resources agencies in helping to keep our Louisiana working coast more manageable, safe, unharmed and productive.*

*As always, please do not hesitate to contact the OCM staff with any questions, concerns or requests for assistance or for any future topics you would like to see covered in this your Louisiana coastal parish newsletter.*

*Sincerely,*

Keith Lovell, Assistant Secretary  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

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# Restoration Projects Recently Enhanced with OCM Mitigation and Beneficial Use Funding

*Submitted by Kelley Templet, Mitigation Section*

OCM has contributed \$1,372,374 dollars to the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Lake Hermitage Project which allowed for the creation of another 40 acres of brackish marsh habitat to increase the original project's anticipated objectives. OCM utilized monies from two funds, the Beneficial Use Dredged Material and Coastal Mitigation Account to create approximately 15 and 25 additional acres, respectively. OCM was notified in August that the OCM-funded portion of the Lake Hermitage project was complete. One cell that was completed earlier this year has already naturally re-vegetated. The OCM Mitigation Manager and field biologists, accompanied by Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office personnel, visited the Lake Hermitage site in May and September of 2015, and by that time the cell had already shown signs of thriving, emerging, successive re-vegetation. Now the project is doing exceptionally well and it is evident that the site has achieved a 90% vegetative cover, as evidenced by the photograph below.

Lake Hermitage Project: September 9, 2015



# Restoration Projects Recently Enhanced with OCM Mitigation and Beneficial Use Funding Continued

In September 2014, OCM also contributed \$1,300,000 in funding for the Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation project in Vermilion Parish. OCM funded construction of approximately 27.3 additional acres for this fresh marsh creation project. The project experienced a few minor delays, but construction is now complete. Initial reports and the photograph below indicate that vegetation is readily evident already; however, a follow-up site visit will be scheduled in the near future. Questions or assistance in mitigation matters can be submitted to:

Kelley Templet, Mitigation Manager  
Permits/Mitigation Division  
Phone: (225) 342-3124 or [kelley.templet@la.gov](mailto:kelley.templet@la.gov)

Freshwater Bayou: June 10, 2015



# Atchafalaya Basin Program Works to Restore and Protect Grand Lake

*Submitted by April Newman, Atchafalaya Basin Program*

Grand Lake in the Atchafalaya Basin is a popular destination for fishing and boating enthusiasts. According to some local accounts, the lake was once so large that an onlooker could not see from one side to the other, but now it has greatly diminished in size because of large sediment loads coming down the Atchafalaya River. Preserving the remaining deep water habitat in Grand Lake is essential to maintaining the health of the ecosystem, as well as the distinctive character of the area. The Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) is currently engaged in designing and implementing a project to protect and restore this popular lake.

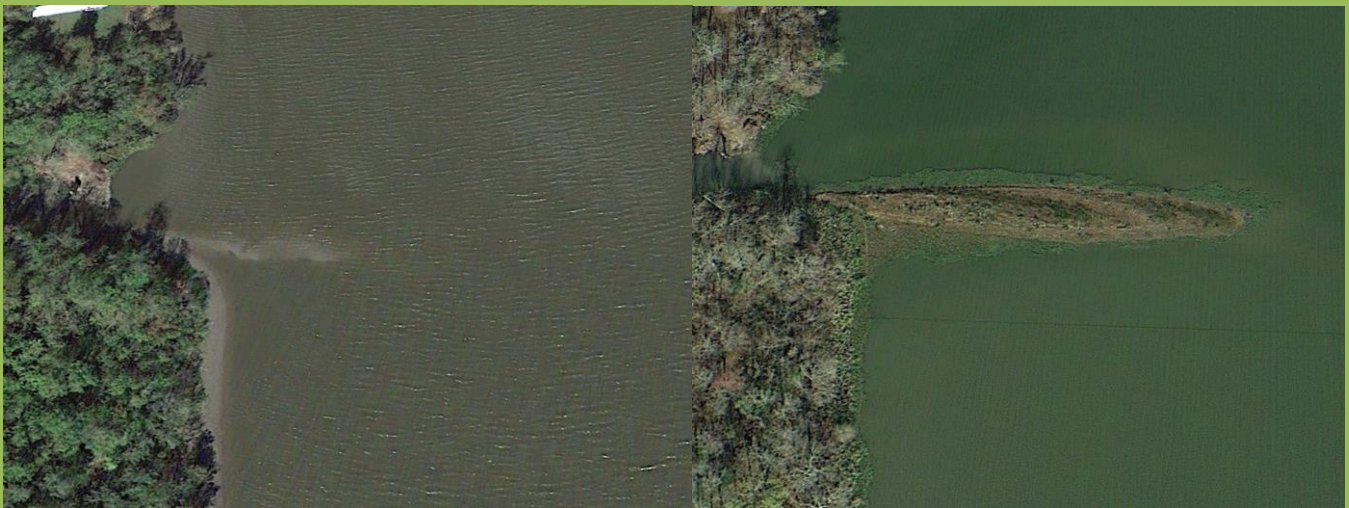
Last year, the ABP received a nomination through its annual plan process to remove newly formed land in Grand Lake. When a formerly blocked canal was breached in 2011, the direct reconnection that it created between the Atchafalaya River and Grand Lake allowed high sediment loads to enter Grand Lake and begin building land by sediment deposition at the canal's outflow. Land growth continued gradually for several years, but in 2015 it reached a critical point of potentially bisecting the lake, which was exacerbated in part by the period's prolonged high water levels.

This project has now been vetted through the ABP's Technical Advisory Group and Research and Promotion Board and was approved by the Louisiana Legislature in the 2015 session. Funding was secured by re-allocating funds from obsolete projects that had proved inflexible to implementation obstacles. Pending the reinstatement of the canal blockage, which will be completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, work to remove the deposited sediment is expected to commence by late 2016. Additionally, this project will restore the functional depth of Little Bayou Pigeon, a natural bayou adjacent to the lake, which has filled with sediment and is now impassable during most water stages.

The problem of excessive sedimentation is pervasive throughout the Atchafalaya Basin. Although land loss is a major concern in most of coastal Louisiana, in the Atchafalaya Basin, the opposite can be true. Increased sedimentation can fill waterways, lakes, and swamps, and threatens to convert this nation's largest forested wetland into an ecologically less valuable higher ground habitat. In places where the river flows directly into shallow open water, land-building can be quite rapid. Such is the case in Grand Lake, and thanks to this approved project nomination through its annual plan process, the APB is now working to restore and protect the iconic lake.

Then 2012

Now 2015



A breached canal that directly connects the Atchafalaya River to Grand Lake has caused land growth that threatens to bisect the iconic lake.

# Atchafalaya Basin Program Works to Restore and Protect Grand Lake Continued

The ABP's Annual Plan Process depends on nominations from the public to direct water management projects such as this one, and the nomination period for next year's plan is now open! All project nominations must be within the Atchafalaya Floodway levees south of Hwy 190 and either on public land or have acquired landowner permission. If you are not sure if your project idea qualifies or if you need assistance submitting your nomination, contact us at [atchafalaya@dnr.gov](mailto:atchafalaya@dnr.gov) or by calling (225) 342-6437. Nominations must be submitted by official form, which is available at [BASIN.LA.GOV](http://BASIN.LA.GOV).

Information on the Department of Natural Resources' Atchafalaya Basin Program can be obtained by contacting:

April Newman, Coastal Resources Scientist/Hydrologist  
Atchafalaya Basin Program  
225.342.6437 or [april.newman@la.gov](mailto:april.newman@la.gov)



DNR staff visited the newly formed sandbar in August 2015 to document land growth at the outfall of the breached canal. Removal of the sandbar is scheduled to occur in late 2016.

# Laurie Cormier: Calcasieu Parish Coastal Management Program Administrator, an In-Depth Look at a Multi-Tasking Coastal Leader

*Submitted by Jon Truxillo, Local Coastal Programs Section*

Many of Louisiana's Parish Local Coastal Program Administrators and Managers wear numerous Parish Department hats and perform a wide variety of official duties both within their Parish Government structure and sometimes in other capacities that reach far beyond just their parish's boundaries; perhaps none more so than Calcasieu Parish Coastal Management Program Administrator, Laurie Cormier.

In addition to Laurie's numerous and invaluable parish duties in the Planning and Development Department, such as assistant planner and mitigation specialist, she has been instrumental in the foundation of The Louisiana Southwest Informational Floodplain Team (SWIFT). SWIFT is one of the newest Louisiana Community Rating System (CRS) Users Groups. SWIFT is composed of representatives from communities from Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia and Vermilion parishes. The National Flood Insurance Program administers the CRS and scores towns on their effectiveness in dealing with the mitigation of flood hazard events. Earning CRS points lowers flood insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses located in hazard areas. Through CRS and CRS User Groups like SWIFT, communities participate in a variety of floodplain management actions that qualify their residents to receive discounts on flood insurance premiums and achieve a safer more flood resistant community.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Board, which serves to develop comprehensive master planning regarding coastal protection, is made up of 20 members including State Departments and Offices Secretaries and Directors, as well as, seven gubernatorial appointments selected from nominations submitted by levee districts located in the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In March of 2013, Governor Bobby Jindal appointed Laurie Cormier as one of the at least two board representatives required from the portion of the state west of the Atchafalaya River.



Laurie Cormier, Calcasieu Parish: Planner, Mitigation Specialist, Coastal Program Administrator and Western Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board Member

Mike Dever, Chairman of the Chenier Plain Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority representing Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes (one of Louisiana's newest Levee Boards)



# OCM Consistency Section Works to Protect Offshore Sand Resources

*Submitted by James Bondy, Consistency Section*

There are highly valuable sand resources lying at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico that are available for use in coastal restoration projects. These sand resources are dredged from the sea floor and either pumped by pipeline or transported by dredge to coastal restoration areas. These resources are utilized to rebuild coastal beaches, barrier islands, and also to restore coastal wetlands. Four recent projects along the Louisiana coast used approximately 11 million cubic yards of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand, and planned projects will transport and place approximately 30 million additional cubic yards of OCS sand to areas along the coast in the near future.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is the federal agency tasked with managing the extraction of offshore resources from the OCS. This includes oil and gas wells, as well as sand and gravel. BOEM's sister agency, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), is responsible for licensing and permitting offshore pipelines.

OCS projects such as sand resource management, oil and gas exploration and production, and undersea pipeline location and construction are reviewed for Consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) also compiles an extensive database of sand resource areas located in the OCS and in Louisiana State waters. OCM Consistency analysts utilize these data sources to identify possible conflicts between oil and gas interests and the OCS valuable sand resources. For example, if a pipeline right of way plan should conflict with a designated sand resource area, the Consistency staff will work with BOEM, BSEE, CPRA and the pipeline company to redesign routes more compatible with the sand resource area. Through this OCS Consistency review process, offshore sand resources can be protected for future use in coastal restoration projects. Contact James Bondy at 225.342.3870 or [James.Bondy@la.gov](mailto:James.Bondy@la.gov) to learn more.

This Weeks Marine photo shows a barge load of sand being hauled from the Ship Shoal sand resource area to the Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project.



# Gulf of Mexico Land Cover Change Chronicled in NOAA Report

*Submitted by Nate Herold, NOAA Office for Coastal Management*

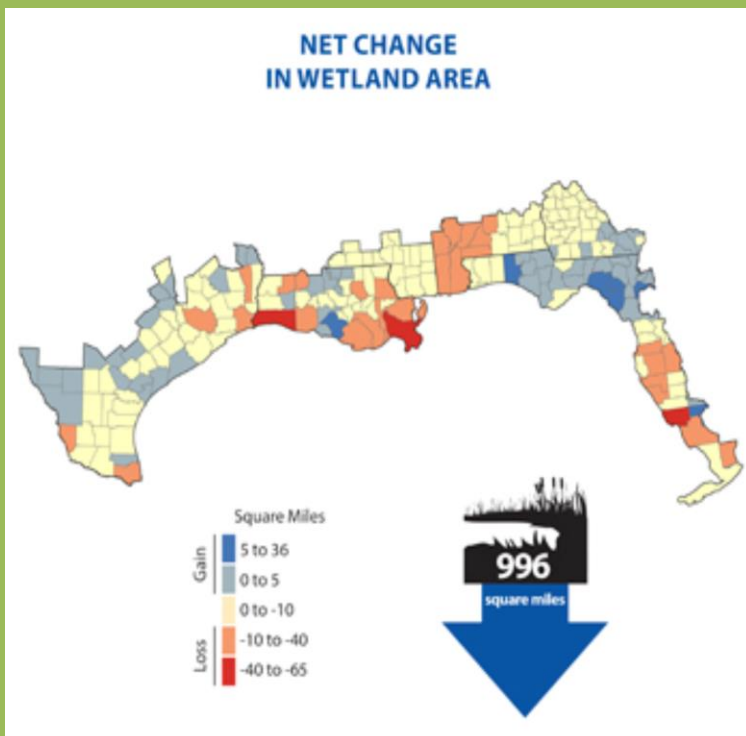
A recently released National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report indicates that 13% of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico region saw changes to its land cover (paved surfaces, trees, forests, grasses, and wetlands) from 1996 to 2010. That figure represents 26,516 square miles, almost the equivalent of half the state of Louisiana.

The Gulf of Mexico Regional Land Cover Change Report provides information about the data sets that cover all the coastal portions of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, the Gulf shore of Florida, as well as, the portion of southwestern Georgia that drain away from the Atlantic Coast. The report is based on land cover change data from the NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) <https://coast.noaa.gov/dataregistry/search/collection/info/ccapregional>

The Gulf regional study is part of a new group of NOAA nationwide reports showing that between 1996 and 2010, 64,967 square miles in coastal regions -- an area the size of Florida -- experienced changes in land cover, including a decline in wetlands and forest cover, with development a major contributing factor. An increase in impervious surface areas can exacerbate point and nonpoint source pollution runoff, flooding, and decrease ground water and aquifer recharge. Over the past five years, NOAA scientists analyzed land cover data, which records the physical land type, rather than how land is used.

The land cover report and data can be found at <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/publications/regional-land-cover-change> and [Data Registry | Digital Coast](#). These and other helpful data sets and tools can be found on [NOAA's Digital Coast](#).

Please contact Nate Herold, NOAA Physical Scientist at NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, at [Nate.Herold@noaa.gov](mailto:Nate.Herold@noaa.gov), or (843) 740-1183 if you would like more information.



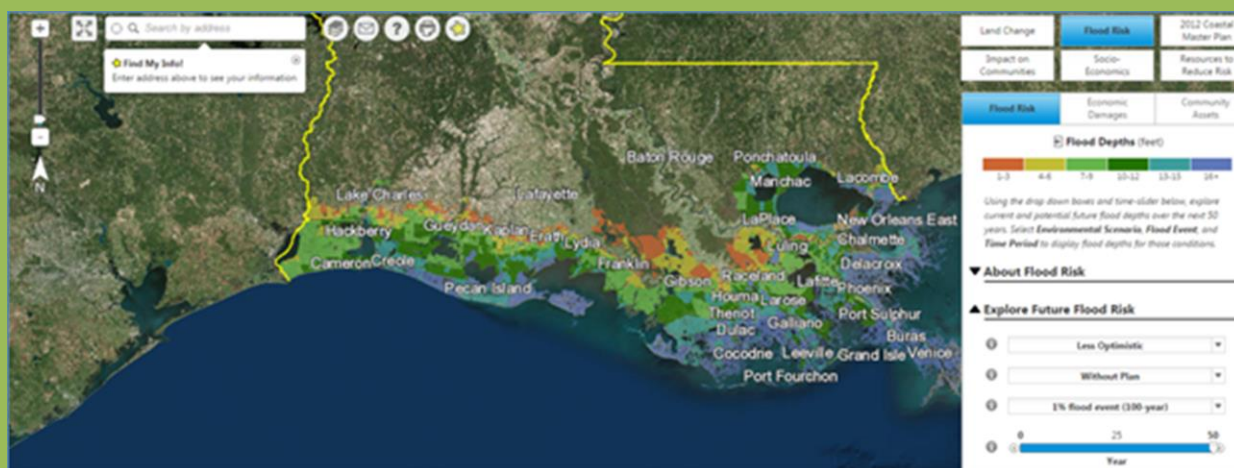
# 2017 Coastal Master Plan and Flood Risk & Resilience Data Viewer

*Submitted by Melanie Saucier, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority*

Over the past year, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has engaged in numerous outreach activities with a variety of stakeholders for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan's Flood Risk and Resilience Program. In addition to meeting with the Louisiana Community Focus Group, the Focus Group expands ongoing communications with Louisiana's coastal citizens and informs them of CPRA's work, CPRA convened parish floodplain managers and grant managers from sixteen Louisiana coastal parishes at Parish Floodplain Manager Meetings to discuss the program and obtain feedback on the program's draft framework, nonstructural project areas, and lessons learned from past recovery grant experiences.

As part of the Flood Risk and Resilience Program, CPRA developed a Flood Risk and Resilience Data Viewer with the assistance of input from a workgroup made up of statewide and regional partners and made possible by a grant from Shell. The Data Viewer is an online tool that displays data that was produced for the 2012 Coastal Master Plan and includes information on coastal land change, flood risk, and impacts to communities. The Data Viewer will continue to be updated as information for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan becomes available.

To inform the public about the viewer, CPRA and its community partners hosted five Community Conversation meetings across our coast. These meetings provided an opportunity for residents and business owners to learn about flood risk in their community, as well as the resources available to protect their property and build a more resilient community. To explore the Data Viewer, please go to [cims.coastal.la.gov/floodrisk/](https://cims.coastal.la.gov/floodrisk/). In addition, a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document and [How-To Video](#) can be found by clicking the Help button at the top of the Data Viewer. The Data Viewer may not perform as well in Internet Explorer as in Google Chrome.



Throughout each stage of the master plan's development, CPRA is continuously engaging with stakeholders and technical experts to gather feedback and insights. To learn more about these groups and their expertise, please see the [Working Together](#) page on CPRA's website.

Additional Master Plan details can be found on the CPRA website, [coastal.la.gov/](https://coastal.la.gov/), with information on the technical analysis and the teams that are working on the 2017 Coastal Master Plan development. This includes a 2017 Coastal Master Plan [brochure](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and [videos page](#) to provide additional information to the public. The website and videos page will continue to be updated as new details and information become available for the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.

As part of our continuing outreach effort, please join us on December 10th for CPRA's Technical Update series where the Planning Tool will be explained in greater detail; for information on how to register for the webinar, please click here <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8447882458061988354>. Also, please email us at [masterplan@la.gov](mailto:masterplan@la.gov) if you would like a presentation given or have any questions.

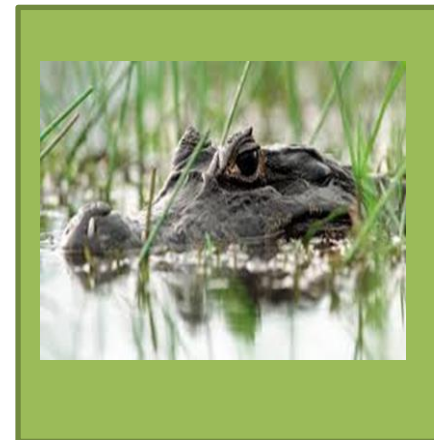
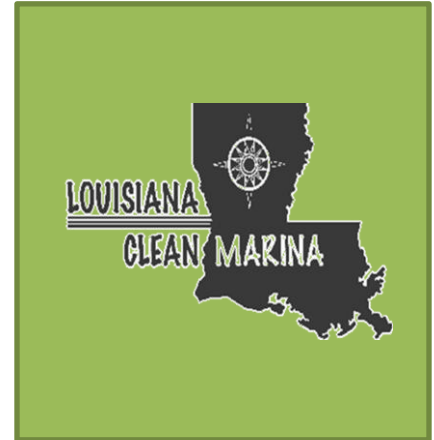
# SeaBrook Marine - Louisiana's First, Louisiana Clean and GOMA Clean and Resilient, Marina

*Submitted by Jon Truxillo, Local Coastal Programs Section*

The Louisiana Clean Marina Program promotes and celebrates adoption of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to assist marinas and recreational boaters in protecting Louisiana's waters. The Gulf of Mexico's five states Alliance consists of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Clean and Resilient Marina Program complements the five States' Clean Marina Program practices already in place and provides additional recommendations to strengthen the local marinas' ability to withstand natural and man-made disasters.

SeaBrook Harbor and Marine of New Orleans has been named Louisiana's first dual Louisiana Clean Marina and GOMA Clean and Resilient Marina, a distinction that puts them in a class all their own in our entire state. Certified as a Louisiana Clean Marina by the DNR Office of Coastal Management in May of this year, SeaBrook's owner Jeff Montz aggressively pursued additional best management practices and procedures that ensure his marina's ability to endure and quickly reopen after a severe storm and therefore qualified for the GOMA's Clean and Resilient Marina honor.

For marinas on the Gulf of Mexico that are exposed to gulf storms, being more resilient means being able to prevent loss of life and personal injury, reduce property damage, and resume normal business activities as soon as possible following a hazardous storm. In September, the partnership of states known as the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, OCM, and Louisiana Sea Grant joined together to present SeaBrook with this latest achievement. Congratulations to the SeaBrook Marine and the Montz family. Contact Jon Truxillo, Coastal Scientist for information on both Marina Programs.



Melissa Trosclair (LSU Sea Grant), Jon Truxillo (OCM), Jeff Montz (SeaBrook Owner/Operator), Sara Krupa (OCM), and Frank Cole (OCM)



## Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

For additional information about this newsletter's content or for future content submission, please contact, Jon Truxillo, Coastal Resources Scientist at 225.342.3394, [jon.truxillo@la.gov](mailto:jon.truxillo@la.gov)

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<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/>