Sample Interview Questions for Oral History Project

**\*This is [YOUR NAME], and I’m here today talking to [NAME] on [DATE]. These recordings will be made available online and in libraries to researchers and others as part of an oral history project sponsored by Louisiana Sea Grant. Do you consent to the use, reproduction, editing and/or broadcast by Louisiana Sea Grant of any and all recordings, photos, and videos of you on behalf of Louisiana Sea Grant without compensation? Do you consent to the storage and editing of all recordings, photos, and videos by the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History, Special Collections? … Alright, let’s get started!**

1. **What is your full name, date of birth, and where were you born?**
2. **Where do you live and how long have you lived there? Did you grow up where you were born?**
3. **Please describe what [INSERT PLACE NAME HERE] looked like when you were a child. Has the community changed since you were a kid (demographics, development, has anything disappeared)? Why or why not?**
4. What are some of your earliest childhood memories of [PLACE NAME]?
5. What was it like growing up in [PLACE NAME]?
6. What languages do you speak? Do you speak a different language in different settings, such as at home, school, or work? Are there any expressions, jokes, stories, celebrations where a certain language is always used? Can you give some examples?
7. What was your first job? How old were you when you got your first job? What was it? How much did you make?
8. What kind of work are you in today? What are your responsibilities at work?
9. What do you do when you are not working?
10. What did your parents do for a living?
11. Did your parents use the bayous, marshes, and swamps to put food on the table or to make a living? Explain. If so, did you help?
12. Describe what you did for fun when you were younger. What were your hobbies as a kid?
13. What do you know about the history or origin of your family name?
14. Do you know any stories about how your family first came to the United States? Where did they first settle? Why? How did they make a living? Did your family stay in one place or did they move around? How did they come to live in this area?
15. List the ways [INSERT PLACE NAME HERE] has changed since you were younger.
16. What are your earliest memories of the coast?
17. **Has the coast and/or environment changed since you were younger? If yes, How? Have you experienced these changes yourself? Please elaborate.**
18. What is your favorite memory of being a child?
19. List your favorite places to play when you were a kid. Why were they your favorites? Does that place still exist?
20. What is your favorite place to be now?
21. **Have you noticed any change in climate from when you were younger to now? Please explain.**
22. **Where is the coastline now compared to where it was maybe 40 or 50 years ago?**
23. **Have you noticed any difference in the wild plants or animals of [INSERT PLACE HERE] since you were a child? What have you noticed?**
24. What was your greatest ambition when you were my age?
25. What were the greatest problems you faced when you were my age?
26. What are the greatest problems you face now?
27. What is your greatest ambition now?
28. **What do you see in the future for your community?**
29. What do you want for the future of your community?
30. **What advice would you give me as a young resident growing up in [INSERT PLACE NAME HERE]?**
31. **Is there anything else you would like to talk about?**

**This seems like a good place to conclude the interview. On behalf of Sea Grant I’d like to thank you for your valuable time and for your contribution to this project.**

**\*Questions in bold are those that you are required to ask some version of in your interview. How you work them in or re-word them is up to you, but these topics MUST BE EXPLORED. The statements at the beginning and end of this document must also be said to start and end your audio recording.**