



## Louisiana Sea Grant Legal Program

### *Louisiana Coastal Law Email Update Service* Issue #21, April 2006

#### **In The News**

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##### **Barrels of Toxic Waste Sink in National Wildlife Refuge**

More than 1,400 barrels of toxic liquids and gases are reported to be sinking into the coastal wetlands of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, located in Cameron Parish on the border of Texas and Louisiana, as a result of Hurricane Rita. The report finds that 115,000 to 350,000 gallons of everything from oil and bleach to propane are contained within the barrels. An additional number of barrels are not visible or remain undetected. Currently, there are not enough funds to clean up the Refuge.

The destruction has devastated the area's wildlife. Dead animals, alligators, and fish are scattered throughout the refuge. The main trail through the refuge has been closed, which has had a crippling effect on the ecotourism economy that brings in as much as \$1.5 million daily. Also, the toxic mix currently seeps through the soil into the groundwater, putting local residents at risk.

The report, written by Zach Nixon and Jacqueline Michel of Research Planning, Inc. based out of Columbia, South Carolina, offer three recommendations:

1. The development of a detailed plan for removal of the identified items of hazardous materials (HAZMAT);
2. Conduct surveys to identify buried debris items, specifically recommending the use of thermal surveys, as they appear to be the most promising and least expensive method; and
3. Continue monitoring the debris piles that remain after removal actions are finished.

**Source:** Environmental News Service, *Hurricane Damage: 1,400 Toxic Barrels in Sabine Wildlife Refuge* (Feb. 23, 2006), at <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2006/2006-02-23-01.asp> (on file with the LSGLP).

##### **Woodley Suggests Unlimited Wetlands Restoration Funding**

Army Corps of Engineers Assistant Secretary John Paul Woodley proposed to Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois) that Louisiana wetlands restoration be funded at any cost for as long as the project in question protects New Orleans from further storm damage. He suggests that the money come from fees collected by sport fishers and recreational boaters across the country under a trust fund established by the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act.

**Source:** Environment & Energy Daily PM, *Gulf Recovery: Corps Asks for Unlimited LA Wetland Restoration Funding* (Feb. 23, 2006) at [www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2006/02/23/archive/3/](http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/2006/02/23/archive/3/) (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Federal Budget Cuts Key Environmental and Energy Areas**

In the \$2.77 trillion budget for the 2007 Fiscal Year, President Bush places emphasis on homeland security and nuclear energy development but cuts programming for environmental protection, energy efficiency, low income energy assistance, sustainable energy development, and agriculture.

The President's budget requests \$184 million for EPA Homeland Security efforts, which is a \$55 million increase of the 2006 Fiscal Year budget. The budget also provides \$100 million for the EPA's priorities outlined in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stands to receive the highest budget request ever for civil works, looking at \$4.733 billion. Out of all construction projects considered to be national priorities, Louisiana (specifically the West Bank of New Orleans and vicinity), ranks only 9<sup>th</sup> and is considered to have already received all funding needed for completion. However, in a supplement to the FY2007 budget, the President requested an additional \$18 billion to go towards the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast.

To see more info on FY2007 budget requests for the EPA, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/budget/index.htm>.

To see the entire FY2007 budget, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007>

**Source:** Environmental News Service, *Bush 2007 Budget Underwrites Nuclear, Cuts Environmental Programs* (Feb. 06, 2006), at <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2006/2006-02-06-06.asp> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Study Shows Drilling Chemicals are Harmful to Fish**

A federally funded study asserts that exposure to chemicals used in deepwater oil and gas drilling dramatically slows the swimming abilities of fish, which impedes their growth and increases the likelihood they will be eaten by other species.

**Source:** The Times-Picayune, *Drilling Chemicals Harm Fish* (Feb. 3, 2006), available at <http://www.nola.com/search/index.ssf?/base/library-95/1138950303181440.xml?nola> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Lafayette Cajun Dome Hosts Coastal Planning Meeting**

A group of several hundred people, comprised of public officials and business and environmental leaders met at the Cajundome in Lafayette on February 13, 2006 to begin an effort to develop a plan to protect coastal Louisiana from the storm surge of a Category 5 hurricane, while also protecting the coast's fragile ecosystem.

The Army Corps of Engineers has already put together a quick sketch of proposed levee systems, estimated between \$32 - \$33 billion in costs. This sketch includes higher versions of the proposed Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico system, stretching from west of Houma to Golden Meadow; the Golden Meadow to Larose levee system; a levee system to run from Larose along Louisiana Highway 657 to Jean Lafitte in Jefferson Parish; and connections with a series of levees stretching down the east and west banks of the Mississippi along existing levee routes. Also, in the area immediately surrounding New Orleans, the Corps' sketch includes realignment around the western side of Lake Borgne, then along U.S. 90 and up the western side of the Pearl River into St. Tammany Parish. This also includes raising the height of the Lake Pontchartrain lakefront levee in Jefferson Parish. Al Naomi, a Corps planner who has been working on category 5 levee plans for several years, said the Corps' sketch is just a starting point for discussion.

**Source:** The Times-Picayune, *Public Weighs in on Plans for Category 5 Levees* (Feb. 14, 2006), available at <http://www.nola.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1139900811172530.xml?nola> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Wetlands Projects Find Approval and Funding**

Three coastal restoration projects totaling \$58 million in costs were approved on February 8, 2006. The projects include the strengthening of key stretches of the Lake Borgne shoreline against further erosion, building a series of wetland terraces to protect the Lake Boudreaux community and the Louisiana 57 hurricane evacuation route south of Houma, and rebuilding a barrier dune as part of a larger barrier island restoration project which eventually will stretch from Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass and will help protect western Plaquemines Parish from storm surge.

The Breaux Act Task Force also authorized \$4.6 million in design work on four new projects. These projects include the restoration of wetlands adjacent to Venice, using a pipeline system to carry river sediment into Lake Hermitage in Plaquemines Parish to create new marsh, reopening freshwater diversion structures at Bayou Lamoque to carry river water and sediment to the east side of the Mississippi in Plaquemines Parish to build new wetlands, and piping water from White Lake in Vermilion Parish beneath Louisiana 82 to freshen marshes along the Gulf of Mexico.

**Sources:** The Times-Picayune, *Wetlands Projects Get a Green Light* (Feb. 9, 2006), available at <http://www.nola.com/search/index.ssf?base/news-3/1139468695244560.xml?nola> (on file with the LSGLP).

Also see The Advocate (Baton Rouge), *Advisers List Coastal Projects* (Feb. 4, 2006), available at <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/suburban/2256367.html> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Hurricanes Take Their Toll on Reefs**

The only government-protected coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico, located about 100 miles off the Louisiana and Texas coasts took a beating this hurricane season with Rita's pounding waves and a hotter-than-usual Gulf. These reefs, up to 15,000 years old, provide habitat for loggerhead sea turtles and are where hammerhead sharks school. Brain and star coral were toppled and smashed, and the reef's sand flats were disturbed by Rita's waves. Besides the waves, a load of murky water from towns and industries washed offshore by hurricane deluge stressed the coral reefs.

Because of the excessive heat, the Gulf water caused "bleaching" for about two months. Bleaching is caused by the release of algae that live symbiotically within the cells of the reefs and can kill coral. At this point the reefs are in a position to either heal themselves or worsen, leading to the reefs' total destruction.

Last fall, surveys showed that an average of 42-46 percent of all coral was showing signs of bleaching. A follow-up survey in January showed 4-10 percent of the coral was showing signs of bleaching. While this survey shows that most corals are recovering from the bleaching, it also shows that some coral colonies are displaying symptoms consistent with a class of coral disease known generally as "white plague."

**Sources:** NOAA Fisheries Service: Fishnews, *Most Coral Reefs in Flower Garden Banks Recovering from Bleaching Event* (Feb. 21, 2006), available at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews/2006/02212006.htm> (on file with LSGLP).

Associated Press, *Gulf Coast Reefs Stressed by Rita, Warm Waters* (Jan. 27, 2006), available at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11057204/from/RSS/> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Vermillion Bay gets Second Oyster Reef Restoration Project**

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) announced Thursday, January 26, 2006, a \$250,000 oyster reef restoration project, the second this year for Vermillion Bay. Shell Oil Company gave \$100,000 for the CCA reef, and CCA will raise another \$150,000 for the project. The area is located about six miles from the public boat launch at Intracoastal City. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is providing scientific guidance on the project and will manage the reef after its construction.

**Source:** The Advocate (Baton Rouge), *Second Oyster Reef Project on tap for Vermilion Bay* (Jan. 27, 2006), available at <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/suburban/2240191.html> (on file with the LSGLP).

### **Senators Introduce Legislation about Drilling in the Eastern Gulf**

Senators introduced legislation aimed at opening a portion of the Gulf of Mexico's Lease Sale 181 area to oil and natural gas drilling. The bill, introduced by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-New Mexico), would require Department of the Interior to begin offering leases in the "bulge" portion of the Lease Sale 181 area off the Florida coast within one year. Excluded would be the portions of Lease Sale 181 within 100 miles of the Florida coastline. The bill is aimed at bringing a large amount of gas to the market quickly to make a difference in the current supply and price of gas.

In response to this bill, Senators Bill Nelson (D-Florida) and Mel Martinez (R-Florida) introduced a bill of their own (S 2239) that seeks to permanently ban drilling in the eastern Gulf, including the majority of the Lease Sale 181 area.

To view the Domenici Bill, go to: <http://energy.senate.gov/public/files/181Bill.pdf>

**Source:** Environment & Energy Publishing, *Domenici Bill Kicks Off Battle Over Lease Sale 181* (Feb. 8, 2006), available at <http://www.eenews.net> (on file with the LSGLP).

### **Bush Administration Receives Support from Lautenbacher**

The head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, retired Vice Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher, defended the Bush administration's progress on ocean issues at a briefing on the President's budget request for the agency, which would cut NOAA funding by 6 percent. Reforms recommended by the Joint Ocean Commission for FY2007 would cost \$1.3 billion, an amount out of reach in the currently proposed budget. Ocean environmentalists do not feel that Lautenbacher's words hold water, saying that he said last year not to judge the executive administration by the FY2006 budget because the real measure of the administration's commitment to ocean issues would be embodied in the FY2007 budget.

**Source:** Environment & Energy Publishing, *Agency Chief Defends Progress on Ocean Reform* (Feb. 10, 2006), available at <http://www.eenews.net> (on file with the LSGLP).

### **Army Corps Looks for More Funding in Levee Repairs**

Major General Don Riley of the Army Corps of Engineers reports that the Bush administration is currently working on a third emergency supplemental funding package for the Corps' work in New Orleans. The Corps seeks authorization and additional money in order to close canals, build pump stations between canals and Lake Pontchartrain, bolster levees, and flood and hurricane-proof pump stations. Maj. Gen. Riley did not say how much the Corps was seeking in a supplemental request.

In the short term, the Corps is working "to make the [levee] system more resilient" by armoring it with cement or another material, Riley said. Repaired levees may still be subject to overtopping during severe storms but they should not fail. By June 1, 2006, the start of hurricane season, most canals connected to Lake Pontchartrain should be closed and bolstered with temporary pumps. In the long term, there may be permanent canal closures.

**Source:** Environment & Energy Publishing, *Gulf Recovery: With Levee Repairs One-Third Finished, Corps Awaits Supplemental Funding* (Feb. 7, 2006), available at <http://www.eenews.net> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **Blanco Wants More Drilling Royalties**

Governor Kathleen Blanco has threatened to block all future oil and gas drilling leases off the Gulf of Mexico unless the federal government agrees to give Louisiana half of all the royalties it receives from those leases. The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service spokesman, Gary Strasburg, said that Blanco's challenge was not especially threatening. He said, "It's not an issue of whether or not the Governor approves of what we are doing, because if she voices an objection, we'll note that and continue with our negotiations one way or another."

**Source:** Greenwire, *Oil and Gas: As LA Opens Special Session, Gov. Blanco Promises to Play "Hardball" on Royalties* (Feb. 8, 2006), available at <http://eenews.net> (on file with the LSGLP).

## **First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature (2005)**

### **Act No. 8**

S.B. No. 71

Senator Dupre, Representative Alario

Amends and reenacts R.S. 49:213.1 through 213.8, 214.3(1), 214.11, 214.12(A)(1) and 214.13, and enacts R.S. 49:213.11 and 213.12, and repeals Act No. 300 of the 2005 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Authorizes development and implementation of a comprehensive coastal protection plan.

S.B. 71, 2005 Leg., 1st Spec. Sess., (La. 2005) (enacted) (on file with the LSGLP). See also: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>.

### **Act No. 17**

H.B. 8

Representatives Odinet, Beard, Daniel, Dartez, Frith, Geymann, St. Germain, and Wooton; Senator N. Gautreaux

Suspends Section 501(G)(3) of Chapter 5 of Part VII of Title 76 of the Louisiana Administrative Code. Provides an extended time period for renewal or extension of oyster leases expiring on January 1, 2006 until May 1, 2006, provides for the 2006 due date for annual oyster lease rent (March 31, 2006) and for 2006 dates for determination and advertisement of defaulted oyster leases.

H.B. 8, 2005 Leg., 1st Spec. Sess., (La. 2005) (enacted) (on file with the LSGLP). See also: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>.

## **First Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature (2006)**

### **S.B. No. 9**

Senators Boasso, Mount, Adley, Amedee, Bajoie, Barham, Broome, Cain, Chaisson, Cheek, Dardenne, Duplessis, Dupre, Ellington, Fontenot, B. Gautreaux, N. Gautreaux, Hines, Hollis, Jackson, Kostelka, Lentini, Malone, Marionneaux, McPherson, Michot, Murray, Nevers, Quinn, Romero, Schedler, Shepherd, Smith, Theunissen, and Ullo.

Representatives K. Carter, Dorsey, Salter, Jefferson, Alexander, Ansardi, Arnold, Badon, Baldone, Baudoin, Baylor, Beard, Bowler, Bruce, Bruneau, Burns, Burrell, Cazayoux, Crane, Cravins, Crowe, Curtis, Damico, Daniel, Doerge, Dove, Downs, Durand, Erdey, Fannin, Faucheux, Frith, Gallot, Glover, Gray, Greene, E. Guillory, M. Guillory, Hill, Honey, Jopkins, Jackson, Katz, Kennard, Kenney, LaFleur, Lambert, Lancaster, Martiny, McDonald, McVea, Montgomery, Morrell, Morrish, Pierre, Pitre, M. Powell, T. Powell, Quezaire, Richmond, Ritchie, Scalise, Schneider, Smiley, Gary Smith, Jack Smith, Jane Smith, John Smith, St. Germain, Strain, Thompson, Toomy, Trahan, Triche, Tucker, Waddell, Walsworth, White and Winston.

Amends Section 38(A)(1) and Section 39 and adds Section 38.1 of Article VI of the Constitution of Louisiana and to redesignate the title to Part III of said Article. Establishes regional flood protection authorities and its governing authority, powers, duties, and functions. The purpose of these authorities is to construct and maintain levees, levee drainage, flood protection and hurricane flood protection within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority. Provides for the governing authority of levee districts within the territorial jurisdiction of a regional flood protection authority. Provides for taxing authority and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

S.B. 9, 2006 Leg., 1st Spec. Sess., (La. 2006) (on file with the LSGLP). See also: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>.

## **Louisiana Register**

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JANUARY

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Agriculture and Forestry Office of the Commissioner**  
Chloramphenicol in Crabs and Crabmeat – Testing and Sale (LAC 7:XXXV.143 and 145).

Emergency rule adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry concerning the testing and sale of crab or crabmeat in Louisiana. No crab or crabmeat may be held, offered or exposed for sale, or sold in Louisiana if such crab or crabmeat contains chloramphenicol (an antibiotic). Any crab or crabmeat that comes from a geographic area declared by the commissioner to be a location where chloramphenicol is being used on, or is found in food producing animals or in products from such animals, must meet certain requirements for sampling, identification, sample preparation, testing and analysis before being held, offered or exposed for sale, or sold in Louisiana. Emergency rule sets out the method used for each of these requirements. Similar regulation adopted for chloramphenicol in shrimp and crawfish.

Chloramphenicol in Crabs and Crabmeat – Testing and Sale, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 20, 2006).  
See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
2006 Commercial King Mackerel Season

The commercial season for king mackerel in Louisiana state waters will open at 12:01 a.m. July 1, 2006 and remain open until the allotted portion of the commercial king mackerel quota for the western Gulf of Mexico has been harvested or projected to be harvested.

2006 Commercial King Mackerel Season, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 20, 2006).  
See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
2006 Recreational Red Snapper Season

The season for the recreational fishery for red snapper in Louisiana state waters will remain closed until 12:01 a.m. April 21, 2006 by reducing the bag limit to zero for that time period. The season will open at 12:01 a.m. April 21, 2006 and continue until midnight October 31, 2006.

2006 Recreational Red Snapper Season, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 20, 2006).  
See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.



**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
2006 Reef Fish (Including Red Snapper) Commercial Seasons and Trip Limits

Red snapper commercial seasons: The 2006 seasons for the commercial harvest of red snapper in Louisiana state waters are as follows: the first commercial fishing season for red snapper will open at 12 noon on February 1, 2006, and remain open until 12:00 noon on February 10. This pattern will continue each month until two-thirds of the 2005 commercial quota for red snapper is harvested. The second commercial red snapper season will open at 12 noon on October 1, 2006, and remain open until 12 noon on October 10 and will also continue in this format each month until the entire 2006 quota is harvested. The commercial trip and possession limit for deep-water and shallow-water grouper combined (black, misty, Warsaw, red, snowy, yellowedge, yellowfin, and yellowmouth groupers, red hind, rock hind, speckled hind, gag, and scamp) shall be 6,000 pounds per vessel.

2006 Reef Fish Commercial Seasons and Trip Limits, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 20, 2006).  
See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
2006 Shrimp Season – Closure State Outside Waters

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby orders a closure to shrimping in that portion of the state outside waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, as described in R.S. 56:495, from the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal at longitude 92° 18' 33" W to the eastern shore of the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island, as delineated by the Channel red buoy line. This closure was effective at 6 a.m. Monday, January 9, 2006.

2006 Shrimp Season – Closure State Outside Waters, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 20, 2006). See:  
<http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
Oyster Season Extension – East of Mississippi River and Re-Opening Sister Lake Seed Reservation

Oyster season in the following areas shall be extended until further notice: the public oyster seed grounds located east of the Mississippi River, the Lake Borgne Public Oyster Seed Grounds, and the Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservation. The oyster season in the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation shall reopen at one-half hour before sunrise on January 3, 2006 and close one-half hour after sunset January 12, 2006. Despite hurricane-related impacts to these public oyster areas and the harvest of significant numbers of marketable oysters, marketable quantities of oysters remain in these waters and have been noted during recent biological sampling.

Oyster Season Extension – East of Mississippi River and Re-Opening Sister Lake Seed Reservatoin, 32 La. Reg. 1 (Jan. 30, 2006). See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0601/contents.pdf>.

FEBRUARY

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
Oyster Season Extension in Sister Lake

Oyster season in the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation shall be extended until one-half hour after sunset on January 31, 2006, except for that portion of the Sister Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation.

Oyster Season Extension in Sister Lake, 32 La. Reg. 2 (Feb. 20, 2006). See:  
<http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0602/contents.pdf>.

**Declaration of Emergency – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
Shrimp Season Closure – Remainder of Zone 1 and Additional Outside Waters

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries declares that the fall inshore shrimp season in that portion of Shrimp Management Zone 1 extending north of the south shore of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, including Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Borgne will close at official sunset January 30, 2006, and that portion of state outside waters, south of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the Channel red buoy line to the U.S. Coast Guard navigational light off the northwest shore of Caillou Boca shall close to shrimping at official sunset January 30, 2006. Effective with these closures, all state inside waters are closed to shrimping except for the open waters of Breton and Chandeleur Sounds, as described by the double-rig line which shall remain open until 6 a.m. March 31, 2006. State outside waters south of the inside/outside shrimp line westward from the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal and eastward from the northwest shore of Caillou Boca shall remain open to shrimping until further notice.

Shrimp Season Closure – Remainder of Zone 1 and Additional Outside Waters, 32 La. Reg. 2 (Feb. 20, 2006). See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0602/contents.pdf>.

**Notice of Intent – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**  
Spotted Seatrout Management Measures

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission gives notice of its intent to amend a Rule, modifying the recreational daily take and possession limit in a defined area within Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. Interested parties may submit comments prior to April 6, 2006.

Spotted Seatrout Management Measures, 32 La. Reg. 2 (Feb. 20, 2006). See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0602/contents.pdf>.

**Office of the Governor, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office**  
Restoration Planning for the West Bay Champagne and Jefferson Parish Oil Spill

The impacts of the April 19, 2005 discharge of crude oil by ExxonMobil Pipeline Company has been determined and warrants conducting a natural resource damage assessment that will include restoration planning in order to develop restoration alternatives. These alternatives will restore, replace, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured and/or natural resource services lost as a result of this incident. Restoration actions that could be considered include, but are not limited to: replanting native wetland vegetation in appropriate areas, creation, enhancement or protection of marsh or other habitat with similar service flows, protection of endangered species, creation of oyster reef habitat, creation of submerged aquatic vegetation habitat, and creation of bird colony areas.

Restoration Planning for the West Bay Champagne and Jefferson Parish Oil Spill, 32 La. Reg. 2 (Feb. 20, 2006). See: <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/0602/contents.pdf>.

**Web Sites of Interest**

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**EDEN – Extension Disaster Education Network**  
<http://www.eden.lsu.edu>

The mission of EDEN is to share education resources in order to reduce the impact of natural and man-made disasters. This site provides user access to resources on disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It also features news and information on issues such as pandemic flu, hurricanes, mold, and children and disasters.



**Louisiana Recovery Authority**

<http://www.lra.louisiana.gov>

This is the website for the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA). The LRA was created in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to plan for the recovery and rebuilding of Louisiana. Users can find information on the different task forces and recovery teams, including housing, environmental, coastal protection committee, and long term community planning. Information can also be found on the long- and short-term plans of the LRA. The site also contains related news articles, upcoming events, as well as facts and figures detailing money expended, the number of citizens displaced and in shelters, and other hurricane related figures.

**NOAA Coastal Services Center**

<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/csp>

This is the website for NOAA's Coastal Storms Program. The program aims to help coastal communities lessen the impacts of coastal storms through developing products that will help these communities plan for, respond to and recover from coastal storms. The site includes tools that users can utilize to see how a storm could affect their own family, as well as other risk and vulnerability assessment tools and storm surge visualization tools.

**Haznet – The Site For Coastal Natural Hazards**

<http://www.haznet.org>

HazNet is the place to find out how Sea Grant programs nationwide are working together to better understand coastal natural hazards and develop ways to reduce their impacts on lives, property and coastal economies. The site contains links to information on man-made hazards, such as oil spills or natural and other man-made hazards; including tornadoes, wild fire, and hail. The site has a direct "Katrina/Rita Portal," which contains links to many sites in place to provide information on the aftermath and recovery from these 2005 hurricanes; prints materials on topics, such as home protection and hazard mitigation; and DVDs and videos on how to protect your home from high winds.

**FEMA – Flood Hazard Mapping**

<http://www.fema.gov/fhm/tsdindex.shtm>

This website features Flood Hazard Mapping. The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration's (FIMA) mapping division maintains and updates the National Flood Insurance Program maps. The site focuses on the specific user groups: (1) homeowners, (2) insurance professionals/lenders, (3) engineers/surveyors, and (4) floodplain managers and focuses on topics of interest specifically for these groups.

**Louisiana House**

[http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family\\_home/home/la\\_house](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/family_home/home/la_house)

Louisiana House is a research-based "Showcase of Solutions" and educational outreach program of the LSU AgCenter and many partners with a vision of homes with MORE comfort, quality, durability, value, convenience and better health while utilizing LESS energy, water, pollution, waste, and damage from natural disasters. The site features a map on the home page where users may access information on home gardening and landscaping and ways to make your home more energy efficient and comfortable and termite, wind, flood, mold, and decay resistant. Also featured are topics of interest that include: crops and livestock, money and business, community, food and health, environment and natural resources, as well as a link for kids, teens, and 4-H.

**Union of Concerned Scientists**

<http://www.ucsusa.org/gulf/>

This website features an interactive map that introduces the user to the Gulf Coast region and the impact of climate change on its natural and managed ecosystems. The site allows users to discover the solutions to slow the impact on our region as well as lets the user explore the impacts already made on the Gulf Coast region. Provides a special link for teachers designed to help educators transform for their students climate change from an abstract concept to a real phenomenon with tangible effects on peoples' lives.