



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 one football field lost every 38 minutes. The loss over the next 50 years with current restoration efforts is expected to be 500 square miles (Barras et al. 2003).

Population Living in the Coastal Parishes - In 1998, over 2 million residents, 46% of the state's population according to U.S. Census estimates, lived in the Louisiana coastal zone (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1998).

Louisiana Energy Facts - Among the 50 states, the following are some statistics for Louisiana's Primary Energy Production for 2001(LDNR, 2002):

	Crude Oil	Natural Gas
Including Outer Continental Shelf Production	Ranks 1 st	Ranks 2 nd
Excluding Outer Continental Shelf Production	Ranks 4 th	Ranks 3 rd

Waterborne Commerce - Louisiana coastal wetlands provide storm protection for ports that carry nearly 500 million tons of waterborne commerce annually. That accounts for 21% of all waterborne commerce in the United States each year. Five of the top fifteen largest ports in the United States are located in Louisiana (USACE, 2001).

Commercial Fishing - In 2001 Louisiana commercial landings exceeded 1 billion pounds with a dockside value of \$343 million, that accounts for approximately 27% of the total catch by weight in the lower 48 States (USDOC 2001).

Recreational Fishing - The annual economic effect of recreational marine fishing is approximately \$944 million (Southwick 1997).

Fur Harvest - Trapping in Louisiana coastal wetlands generates approximately \$1 million annually (LDWF 2002).

Alligator Harvest - The Louisiana alligator harvest is valued at approximately \$25 million annually (LDWF 2002).

Waterfowl - Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide habitat for over 5 million migratory waterfowl (LDWF 2000).

Eco-tourism - Wetland related activities such as hiking, bird watching, photography, and camping contribute \$220 million annually to the Louisiana economy (Coreil 1994).

Coastal Restoration Projects (1990-2002) - 403 projects have been constructed (Belhadjali et al., 2002)

State-funded projects - 50 projects constructed

Breaux Act projects - 64 projects constructed

Parish Coastal Wetlands Restoration Program (Christmas Tree Program) - 94 projects constructed

Other federally assisted projects - 22 projects constructed

Vegetation Planting Program - 173 project sites

Other Coastal Restoration Efforts

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

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.

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 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for the most current statistics. Last updated 8/25/03.

References

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For further information on the Breaux Act or Restoration Projects in Louisiana, contact the Breaux Act home page (<http://www.lacoast.gov>), the OCRM home page (<http://www.savelawetlands.org>), the Coast 2050 home page (<http://www.coast2050.gov>), or the following government agencies.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Planning Division
(504) 865-1121
(<http://www.cecer.army.mil>)

U.S. Department of Interior, Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
(337) 266-8556
(<http://www.nwrc.gov>)

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division
(225) 342-7308 or 1-888-459-6107
(<http://www.saveLAwetlands.org>)

U.S. Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
(337) 291-3100
(<http://www.fws.gov>)

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
(318) 437-7690
(<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>)

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
(225) 342-3968
(<http://www.goca.state.la.us>)

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
(225) 389-0508
(<http://www.nmfs.gov>)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
(225) 389-0735
(<http://www.epa.gov>)