



**Community Workshop Whole Group Brainstorming Session
Thibodaux, Louisiana – February 21, 2006
Hosted by: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Hosted at: Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve Wetlands
Acadian Cultural Center**

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE GULF OF MEXICO?

- Management Conference – BTNEP
- LACoast.gov – cwppra
- National biological information infrastructure – central sw gulf coast information node *clearinghouse
- Gulf Restoration network – healthygulf.org
- www.nbii.gov
- LSUAgcenter.com
- LAseagrant.org
- LA Wetland Education Coalition
- LA Sea Grant – sub page – LA Fisheries (seagrantfish.lsu.edu)
- Breaux Act Newsflash
- www.btnep.org
- USGS National Wetlands Research Center
- American Wetland Campaign
- Saveourlake.org
- State Field Offices – DNR, DEQ, etc.
- NRCS, Plant Material Center
- Usda.nrcs.gov
- Restore or Retreat
- CRCL.org
- Center for Bioenvironmental Research – Specializes in Toxins (many things river-related) cbr@tulane
- LUMCON
- Nicholls State Univ.
- LSU – School of Coast and Env't.
- UNO
- ULL
- SE – Forestry Issues
- Tulane Univ.

- Audubon Inst
- NPS
- Nature Conservancy
- Natural Heritage Program
- MMS
- Coast Guard
- National Estuary Programs – Member Groups
- McNeese State Univ

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

- Coastal Land Loss (suite of habitats – barrier island, marsh, forests, etc)
- High salinities
- Loss of sediment
- Lack of access for recreation
- Toxicity – endocrine disruption
- Water quality – including nutrient loading, hypoxic zone
- BMPS as it relates to turbidity
- Unrestrained urbanization – growth
- Environmental literacy
- Invasive species
- Oil spill and hazardous material releases
- Pathogens
- Hurricane protection
- Lack of communication between industry, agencies, and NGOs
- Enforcement
- Lack of political will
- Funding
- Lack of prioritization
- Lack of implementation
- Lack of coordination of restoration activities and beyond...
- Marine biotoxins and hazardous algal blooms
- Agricultural run-off
- Over fishing and sustainable fisheries
- Flood control
- Accelerated sea level rise
- Consistency – follow through on projects
- Identifying stakeholders
- Fisheries conflicts with restoration
- Threatened Cultural heritage
- Debris and abandoned pipeline
- Land rights issues – projects on properties
- By catch - fisheries
- LNG facilities posed for Gulf – liquid natural gas
- Smart growth/ land use planning

- Engage stakeholders early in process
- Consolidating plans – different scales among programs
- Freshwater flows into Gulf
- Sediment management
- Multiple use management – particularly w/ offshore mineral leases and sand
- Non-point source pollution
- OCS royalty sharing (REOCS)
- Scientific information translated in language public/ stakeholders can understand
- Subsidence – wetlands
- Ecosystem-scale management of fisheries
- Conflict resolution in many areas
- Transparency – programs/ projects – how they are selected and funded
- Active delivery of public education materials to citizens – getting the info out there
 - Educators
 - Librarians
 - Others who pass on this information – explain why it is important to pass along
- Limited budgets for printing materials (for public)
- Improving national recognition of Gulf
- Limited opportunities for public volunteerism
- Weak enforcement – environmental goals
- Changing elevation – needs maintenance over time
- Limited availability of restoration plants
- Saltwater intrusion
- Groundwater and surface water issues
- Slow response of agencies
- Political and legal processes impede progress
- Budget cuts have reduced staff
- Importance in little battles (small scale projects) that address the larger issue (that take time)
- Lack of time to implement/ act
- Abandoned vessels
- MRGO – what to do with it
 - Navigational and dredging issues across the board
- Hydrologic changes
- Threats to Drinking water (due to salt water intrusion) and industrial water
- Invasive species
- Lack of eminent domain
- Marine debris
- Hurricane debris that still needs picked up
- Globalization – respect to fisheries (global competition) – losing tradition in industry
- Increased fuel costs

- Dead Zone in Gulf and in Lake Pontchartrain