

APPENDIX A: The Survey Instrument

**Estimating the Recreational Demand for Elmer's Island:
A Louisiana Coastal Travel Preference Survey**
(may be completed at <http://www.elmersisland.org>)

May 15, 2003

Dear Respondent,

Until its closure more than a year ago, the 1700-acre coastal property known as "Elmer's Island" had for decades served as a popular fishing and camping destination for Louisiana citizens and out-of-state tourists. Elmer's Island contains one of only three coastal beaches in Louisiana that are accessible by road. Closure of this privately owned property has negatively impacted many people who, for a nominal fee, had enjoyed access to the location for purposes of fishing, bird watching, camping, and beachcombing. A legislative resolution has been filed requesting that the state of Louisiana purchase Elmer's Island, yet significant questions remain if the property is to be acquired for public use.

Your participation in this survey will provide valuable information for decision-makers engaged in this issue, while helping us to better understand the general economic and environmental preferences for recreation activities and recreation areas in coastal Louisiana. We assure you that participation in this survey is completely confidential. If you have any questions or comments about this study, we would be happy to respond to you; please contact us at kpaudel@agctr.lsu.edu (225-578-7363).

Thank you for your time and consideration. It's only with the generous help of people like you that our research can be successful.

Sincerely,

Krishna Paudel & Rex H. Caffey

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*This survey contains three sections with 10-12 questions each

SECTION 1: GENERAL RECREATIONAL PEFERENCES

To begin, we'll need to get some basic information on your general recreational preferences and the expenditures you incur when visiting the Louisiana coast for natural resource recreation.

1. What is your most preferable activity for natural resource enjoyment in coastal Louisiana? Please choose one activity by placing a cross in the box.

- Offshore Fishing
- Surf/Marsh Fishing
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Swimming/Beachcombing
- Others (Please Specify) _____

2. How often did you travel to coastal Louisiana for the following activities in 2002?

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of visits</u>
Offshore Fishing	_____
Surf/Marsh Fishing	_____
Bird Watching	_____
Camping	_____
Swimming/Beachcombing	_____
Other activity specified above	_____

3. Please provide us with your two most favorite coastal activities and then the names of your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice locations for the preferred activity.

Remember to cross the box of your 1st and 2nd most preferred activities.

1st preferred activity (Choose one)

- Offshore fishing
- Surf/Marsh fishing
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Swimming/Beachcombing
- Other

2nd preferred activity (Choose one)

- Offshore fishing
- Surf/Marsh fishing
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Swimming/Beachcombing
- Other

Location of activity (specify location)

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

Location of activity (specify location)

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

3rd Choice _____

4. On an average visit to your 1st choice site above, which of the following statements would best describe your trip?

- Primary - The goal is to only visit this site
- Joint - I am going to other places in addition to this site
- Incidental - Visiting this site is not the main purpose of my trip

5. Is your typical trip a day trip? *A day trip is when you return home on the same day you left.*

- No Yes

6. What is the number of hours that an average visit lasts to your most preferred site for the activities below? *Remembering your 1st and 2nd most preferred activities from question #3, enter in the number of hours.*

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Avg. # hours on-site for this activity</u>
1st preferred activity	_____
2nd preferred activity	_____

7. How many people usually travel with you when you visit your most preferred site for the activities below? *Remembering your 1st and 2nd most preferred activities from question #3, enter in the number of companions*

Activity	Avg. # of travel companions
1st preferred activity	_____
2nd preferred activity	_____

8. What are the costs that you usually incur when you visit coastal Louisiana for your preferred activities? *Remembering your 1st and 2nd most preferred activities from question #3.*

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>1st preferred activity</u> Best Estimate: (\$/person/trip)	<u>2nd preferred activity</u> Best Estimate: (\$/person/trip)
Lodging	_____	_____
Fuel	_____	_____
Food and Beverages	_____	_____
Equipment	_____	_____
Supply	_____	_____
Parking, Launching, Landing Fees	_____	_____
Other (specify)	_____	_____

9. Do the environmental qualities of a site play any role when you plan to visit that site?

- Yes No

10. How important are the considerations listed below when you visit a site?

Remembering your 1st and 2nd most preferred activities from question #3

Considerations	<u>1st preferred activity</u>	<u>2nd preferred activity</u>
	Choose Rank	Choose Rank
Catch per trip	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Ease of access to site	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Low human congestion	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Lack of Pollution/Good Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Abundant wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Camper hook-ups	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Interpretive Signage and/or naturalist on hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Lack of development	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Active enforcement of rules and regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all
Nearby/On-site food and lodging	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Important <input type="checkbox"/> Important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important <input type="checkbox"/> Of little importance <input type="checkbox"/> Not important at all

SECTION 2: ELMER'S ISLAND

This section covers specific information regarding your familiarity with Elmer's Island and your interest in various management scenarios.

11. Prior to this survey, had you ever heard of Elmer's Island?

- Yes No

12. Have you ever visited Elmer's Island?

- Yes No

If you answered Yes above, then how many times have you been to Elmer's Island in your lifetime?
Choose one:

- 1 2-5 6-9 10-14 15-20 20-24 25 or more

13. If you have visited Elmer's Island in the past, what was the primary and secondary purpose of your trip, and how much of your time did you spend involved in that activity?

Primary Activity (Check one)	Percent of time spent _____ %	Secondary Activity (Check one)	Percent of time spent _____ %
<input type="checkbox"/> Offshore fishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Offshore fishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf/Marsh fishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Surf/Marsh fishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching		<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching	
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping		<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Beachcombing		<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Beachcombing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

14. Prior to this survey, were you aware that state government was considering the purchase of Elmer's Island?

- Yes No

15. Do you believe that Elmer's Island should be purchased by private interests or public interests?

- Private Public (State)

16. Would you visit Elmer's Island if it were purchased by the state?

- Yes No, if No, go to Question 22

17. If Elmer's Island were purchased by the state, how many times annually would you visit?

- Mark one: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more

18. What would be your primary and secondary purpose for visiting Elmer's Island in the future if it were available to the public?

Primary Activity (Check one)	Percent of time spent _____ %	Secondary Activity (Check one)	Percent of time spent _____ %
<input type="checkbox"/> Offshore fishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Offshore fishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surf/Marsh fishing		<input type="checkbox"/> Surf/Marsh fishing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching		<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching	
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping		<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Beachcombing		<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/Beachcombing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

19. What is your best estimate of the travel time (one-way) from your current residence to Elmer's Island? *Some examples of travel times to Elmer's Island: From Lake Charles - 4 hours; Lafayette - 3 hours; Baton Rouge - 3 hours; New Orleans - 2.5 hours, Thibodaux - 1.5 hours.*

Number of hours of travel time _____ (please specify)

20. What amount of preservation or development would you like to see if Elmer's Island were purchased by the state and made available to the public? *Select your 1st and 2nd choice.*

First choice: Choose one

- Primitive-unpaved access road only
- Semi-primitive-unpaved access road and restroom/sewage disposal
- Sparse-paved road and parking area with restroom/sewage disposal
- Moderate-paved roads/parking, restroom/sewage, welcome center, camper hookups
- Full-paved roads and parking, restroom/sewage, welcome center, camper hookups, rental cabins, dormitory(s)
- Commercial - I believe that it should be sold for private development

Second choice: Choose one

- Primitive-unpaved access road only
- Semi-primitive-unpaved access road and restroom/sewage disposal
- Sparse-paved road and parking area with restroom/sewage disposal
- Moderate-paved roads/parking, restroom/sewage, welcome center, camper hookups
- Full-paved roads and parking, restroom/sewage, welcome center, camper hookups, rental cabins, dormitory(s)
- Commercial - I believe that it should be sold for private development

21. Given the preferences you chose for your "First Choice" above, what amount would you expect to pay (per person gate fee) for a visit to Elmer's Island? What is the maximum amount you would be willing to pay?

Day-time visit (\$/person/day)	Expected Amount: (0-\$10) _____	Maximum Amount (\$): _____
Overnight Camping (\$/person/day)	Expected Amount: (0-\$14) _____	Maximum Amount (\$): _____

22. If Elmer's Island is purchased by someone other than a public agency, you may not be able to visit. Given your specific financial situation, what would be the maximum one-time amount that you would be willing to pay to ensure access to Elmer's Island for the following reasons?

Reason	Maximum amount of One-time payment (\$)
So that I can visit in the future.	_____
So that my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren can visit.	_____
Just to know that it's there and will be maintained for the public whether I visit or not.	_____

23. Imagine a scenario where Elmer's Island is a public property and open to the public. Does that change your choice for the 1st and 2nd most preferred site for natural resource enjoyment in coastal Louisiana?

Yes No

If you answered Yes above, then please provide us with the names of your new 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice locations for your most favorite coastal activities.

1 st preferred activity		2 nd preferred activity	
<i>Location of activity (specify location)</i>		<i>Location of activity (specify location)</i>	
1 st Choice	_____	1 st Choice	_____
2 nd Choice	_____	2 nd Choice	_____
3 rd Choice	_____	3 rd Choice	_____

SECTION 3: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Finally, we need to collect some general information about you so that we can better understand how various demographic characteristics affect survey responses.

24. What is your gender?

Male Female

25. What is your marital status?

Never Married Married Divorced

26. What is your employment status?

Full-time Part-time Retired

27. Do you have flexible hours at your job? Are you able to "set your own hours?"

Yes No Somewhat

28. How many hours do you work in your job per week?

_____ Hours per week

34. Which of the following categories best describes your annual income?

- Below \$20,000 \$20,000-59,999 \$60,000-99,999
 \$100,000-149,000 Above \$150,000

34. Do you own any of the following items?

- Boat Fishing gear Camping gear Binoculars/photography gear
 I do not own any of these items.

34. Which of the following best describes the vehicle you use most when visiting a coastal recreational site?

- Car Truck (small) Truck (full size) Van (mini) Van (full size)
 Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) Other

32. What is your age? _____

33. Please provide your home zip code _____

34. Please enter any additional comments in the space provided below:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like to be notified when the results are available, please send an e-mail message to kpaudel@agcenter.lsu.edu. In the message body, simply write "send results."

This survey is a research project of the Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy (CNREP), Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Louisiana State University. Funding for this project is provided by the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program.

