LSU AgCenter Research & Extension

Sea Grant Louisiana

Louisiana Wetland News

Spring 2004

Linking Recreation to Restoration:
The Case of Elmer's Island

Historically, no region has embodied Louisiana's reputation as a haven for outdoorsmen better than the state's vast coastal wetlands. Today, however, this area is associated with a new identity - as the most rapidly deteriorating estuarine system in North America. More than $500 million has been spent to date on efforts designed to stem the loss of Louisiana's coastal lands. Yet, this amount is less than one tenth of the funding now being sought via new initiatives based on the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Comprehensive Coastwide Restoration Study.

As such massive restoration efforts unfold, there is increasing evidence of a disconnect in management of wetland restoration and wetland recreation. In short, there is a growing need to reconcile coastal Louisiana's new moniker as "America's Wetland" with its original identify as the "Sportsman's Paradise." This issue has taken center stage in recent months with numerous bills related to recreational access being introduced in the Louisiana Legislature. While these bills relate primarily to recreational navigation, the issue of terrestrial access to coastal Louisiana is also of vital concern. A recent study completed by the LSU Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy (CNREP) provides insight on this issue.

Access Denied

Louisiana is endowed with an abundance of natural fisheries, especially in the coastal zone. Yet a majority of the state's coastal land (78%) is privately owned, and most of this property consists of coastal marsh. Road accessible beaches comprise less than 1% of the entire Louisiana coastline.

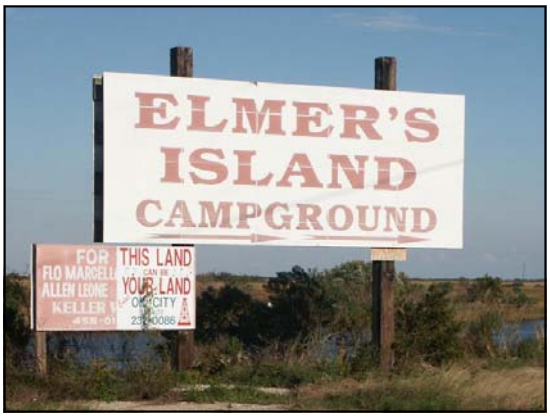
The commercial campground known as "Elmer's Island" contains one of only three undeveloped, road-accessible Louisiana beaches located directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Commonly referred to as an "Island," Elmer's is actually a 1,354 acre barrier shoreline located 50 miles due south of New Orleans directly across Caminada Pass from Grand Isle.

Elmer's Island has been a popular destination for generations of Louisiana citizens and out-of-state tourists who, for a nominal fee, had access to the location for fishing, bird watching, camping, and beachcombing. The area also provides wetland habitat for numerous bird species and other forms of coastal marine life.

In 2001 the proprietor, Jay Elmer, passed away and the property was closed to the public and advertised for sale. Numerous appeals for state acquisition of the property soon emerged in response to widespread concern that public access might be denied under new private management.

Survey Gauges Demand

A survey was conducted by CNREP in the summer of 2003 to gauge public preference for state purchase and management of Elmer's Island and to measure general aspects of natural resource based recreation in coastal Louisiana. Most responses (92%) were obtained using an Internet questionnaire available online from May 15, 2003, to July 31, 2003. To compare data collected from the Internet survey, an in-person "intercept" survey was conducted at two proxy locations, Grand Isle State Park and Holly Beach.



Appeals for state acquisition of the coastal property known as "Elmer's Island" reflect widespread concern over the loss of recreational access to Louisiana's coastal resources.

A total of 2,693 respondents provided information on economic expenditures, destination preferences, and preferences for specific environmental site amenities. Spatial distribution of respondents followed similar patterns in both surveys and was consistent with the location of Louisiana's major population centers.

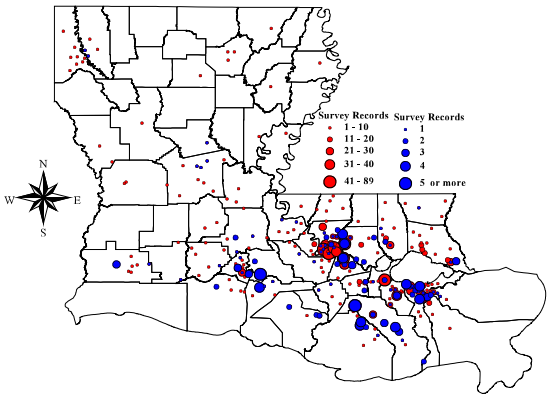
Negotiations Stall Despite Demand

Preliminary assessment of survey data indicates that the typical respondent was a middle-aged male fishermen with an annual income of $30,00 to $60,000 (Table 1A - page 3). On an average coastal visit, three individuals per vehicle spend $149 each in trip-related expenditures over a 19 hour period.

"In both the Internet and intercept surveys, 96% of respondents favored state purchase of Elmer's Island."

When asked specifically about Elmer's Island, 95% of respondents indicated that they had heard of the location, 84% said they had visited, and most (87%) said that they visited for the primary purpose of fishing. In both the Internet and intercept surveys, 96% of respondents favored state purchase of Elmer's Island. Internet respondents preferred a semi-primitive to sparse management regime, while most intercept respondents favored the amenities of a moderate to full service state-park (Table 1B).

Despite widespread public support for state acquisition of Elmer's Island, negotiations between the State and the Elmer's family have stalled because of disputes over property value. While the appraisal of land value was not an original objective of the CNREP study, results do provide insight useful for reconciling conflicting estimates of land value while illustrating the importance of recreational access in Louisiana's fight against coastal land loss.



2,693 residents participated in the Elmer's Island Coastal Preference from May 15-July 31, 2003. Respondent location by zip code: Internet= red; Intercept =blue

Comps in the Neighborhood?

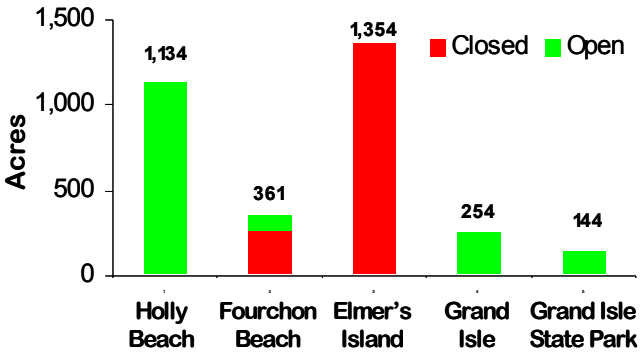
Three basic forms of property appraisal are available for negotiating an offering price for Elmer's Island. First, a replacement-cost approach could be used in which coastal restoration spending serves as a value proxy for Elmer's Island. However, estimates from this method, $14,000 to $58,000, are far greater than prices demanded in the open market (Table 1C). Use of the replacement cost method in real estate is typically limited to improvements such as buildings and roads - although Louisiana's coastal zone differs from most regions in that complete loss of land is a distinct possibility.

An second method estimates the business value of Elmer's Island based on its 30 year history as a commercial campground. Estimates under this approach produced from data obtained in the CNREP study range from $1,500 to $2,400 per acre, based on an assumed visitation of 40,000 annually. This level of patronage is not unrealistic considering the much smaller campground on nearby Grand Isle receives more than 100,000 visitors annually.

"By itself, Elmer's Island accounts for 42% of the undeveloped, road-accessible, Gulf-side recreation area in Louisiana."

In 2003, State officials made a preliminary offer of $1 million ($750/acre) using the comparable sales method of land appraisal. That offer and a subsequent offer of $2.2 million were declined because they were well below the $6 million asking price. In explaining these offers, state negotiators cited a statute that will not allow them to pay more than fair-market value for land. The problem is that comparable sales are only a suitable metric of value for those properties in which multiple analogs exist. Few if any coastal properties truly compare to Elmer's Island, which has a long history of recreational access, and by itself accounts for 42% of the undeveloped, road-accessible, Gulf-side recreation area in Louisiana.

Undeveloped, road-accessible recreation areas on the Gulf of Mexico in coastal Louisiana



The Closure of Elmer's Island and the loss of adjacent beach access at nearby Port Fourchon has reduced the road-accessible, Gulf-side recreation area in Louisiana by more than 50% .

Table 1: Preliminary Results of the Elmer's Island Coastal Preference Survey

	Total Weighted N=2,696	Internet Survey n=2,493	Intercept Survey n=203
A. Demographics and Recreation			
Gender (% male)	86	90	32
Age (average yrs)	43	43	40
Income (% less than less $60K/yr)	47	46	62
Coastal trips (number per yr)	13.36	13.65	8.18
Average trip length (hrs)	18.91	18.82	20.08
Travel companions (persons per vehicle)	2.99	2.87	4.15
Average expenditures ($ per person per trip)	149	147	179
Primary coastal recreation pursuits (%):			
Fishing	87	90	58
Bird watching	3	3	0
Camping	4	3	10
Swimming/Beachcombing	3	3	12
Other	3	2	5
B. Preferences for Elmer's Island			
Familiar with Elmer's Island (%)	95	97	74
Visited Elmer's Island (%)	84	86	53
Prior aware of potential state purchase (%)	74	75	63
Supportive of state purchase (%)	**96**	**96**	**96**
Would visit Elmer's Island if state-owned (%)	98	98	95
Estimate of future visits (#/yr)	5.27	5.3	4.95
Expected entrance fee:			
Daytime ($ per person)	4.90	4.91	4.79
Overnight ($ per person)	10.38	10.26	11.87
Preferences for management/development (%):			
Primitive - *Unpaved access road only*	15	15	4
Semiprimitive - *Unpaved road, restrooms, sewage disposal*	30	30	15
Sparse - *Paved road, restrooms, & sewage disposal*	26	26	13
Moderate - *"Sparse" + welcome center & camper hookups*	16	16	31
Full Park - *"Moderate Park" + rental cabins and dormitories*	12	12	37
Commercial - *It should be sold for private development*	1	1	1
C. Estimates of Economic Value and Impact			
Fair Market Appraisals ($/acre):			
Replacement costs value	14,000 - 58,000		
Income capitalized value	1,600 - 2,400		
Comparable sales value	50 - 750		
Contingent, Nonmarket Values ($/respondent):			
Option value - *So that I can visit in the future*	38.87		
Bequest value- *So that future generation can visit*	41.97		
Existence value – *To know it's there, whether I visit or not*	29.00		
Total	109.84		
Tourism Impact Associated with Elmer's Island ($/yr)	7.3 – 11 million		
Tourism Impact Specific to Elmer's Island ($/yr)	1.5 – 3 million		

Fair Market Failure

The problem with traditional appraisal techniques is that "market value" is ultimately a concept designed for the transfer of assets between private entities. Additional factors must be considered when evaluating property for public purchase. Public benefits are not limited by property boundaries, instead they consist intangible goods that extend to economies and ecosystems at local, state, and regional levels. The economic impacts of coastal tourism are one example of such benefits, and tourism impacts associated with Elmer's Island are estimated at a minimum of $1.5 to $3 million annually.

Contingent values (CV) or "non-use values" are another example of public benefits. To illustrate CV associated with Elmer's Island, participants were asked to estimate the maximum one-time amount they would be willing to pay to ensure future access to Elmer's Island for the following reasons: 1) Option Value - *so that I can visit in the future*; 2) Bequest Value - *so that my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can visit*; and 3) Existence Value - *just to know it's there and will be maintained for the public, whether I visit or not*. On average, contingent value estimates were $39, $42, and $29 for option, bequest, and existence values, respectively. The sum of these values is $109.84 per person, or $296,238 for all survey respondents.

Though controversy exists over the validity and application of CV estimates, numerous examples are available in which this method has been used as a decision-making tool in restoration and preservation initiatives. Indeed, non-market environmental values provide the justification for many of the expensive restoration projects called for under the LCA plan. One example project includes the proposed $41 million in spending for restoring the Chenier Unit shoreline adjacent to Elmer's Island.

Proposed spending on similar habitat reflects stark differences in Louisiana's valuation of property for coastal restoration versus coastal recreation.

Recreation for Restoration?

The current failure to negotiate state acquisition of the highly popular Elmer's Island property is indicative an larger disconnect between Louisiana's primary resource management agencies. Although separate management of coastal restoration and coastal recreation may have its advantages, it also results in many inconsistencies, most obviously in the area of resource valuation. In short, the $6 million asking price for Elmer's Island would be a bargain if it were labeled a restoration project, but for recreational purposes this amount is somehow considered to be exorbitant. While such juxtaposition may be unfair, it illustrates a need to better integrate socioeconomic rationale into restoration planning, and the need to consider economic impact and nonmarket values during public land negotiations.

"The $6 million asking price for Elmer's Island would be a bargain if it were labeled a restoration project"

Louisiana's 300,000 licensed saltwater fishermen will not easily dismiss large discrepancies between restoration and recreation spending. But if properly engaged, anglers could help in building the political will needed for a greatly expanded restoration initiative. Increased provision of recreational access will be a key factor in this engagement, and the case of Elmer's Island could prove to be pivotal.

Additional insight on the issue of recreational access in coastal Louisiana can be obtained by reading more than 80 pages of public comments documented in the Elmer's Island Coastal Preference Survey Preliminary Report. The report is available online at: www.agecon.lsu.edu/CNREP/ElmersIsland.pdf For additional information about Elmer's island, go to: http://www.elmersisland.org.

Source: Caffey, R.H. Paudel, K., and L. Hall (2003) Elmer's Island Coastal Preference Survey: A Preliminary Report, Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy, Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, LSU AgCenter, 105 pp. www.agecon.lsu.edu/CNREP/ElmersIsland.pdf

"It's a shame that in a state with so much coastal environment, a person has a hard time finding a place to enjoy it. We spend untold millions restoring coastal land that we can't access."
Survey Respondent No. 944

Concern Over Public Acquisition of Private Land is not new

The acquisition of private lands for the provision of public goods is a subject that invariably results in heated debate over property rights, takings, and in worse-case scenarios, expropriation. Such debates are common where governments seek to expand transportation infrastructures; however, these disputes also extend to preservation and restoration initiatives predicated on public recreation and environmental benefits.

For example, the failed Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999, which would have returned billions to Louisiana in federal royalties from offshore drilling, died in the U.S. Senate largely because of opposition from land rights groups who viewed the legislation as a financing vehicle for the public acquisition of private coastal lands.

Even in cases where there is a willing seller, additional concerns often emerge over matters of precedence. Clearly, public coffers would be quickly drained if governments purchased every tract of property deemed worthy of preservation. This concern was recently voiced in an editorial that focused on the prospective state purchase of Elmer's Island:

> *"...even if we assume widespread public support for the idea of the state spending millions of dollars to prevent land from being developed, we think there should be a concrete set of criteria to gauge when such an approach might be warranted. Otherwise, Elmer's Island could become an expensive precedent for every nostalgic group longing that this or that piece of land not be turned into commercial property."*
>
> Daily Comet, Lafourche Parish, December 5, 2003

While points such as these are certainly valid, it should be noted that such criteria do exist. Resource management agencies in Louisiana have specific guidelines for the acquisition of lands for the establishment of state parks, commemorative areas, preservation areas, management areas, and wildlife refuges. Such criteria are clearly stated in the Louisiana State Parks Master Plan of 1997-2012 and the Strategic Plan of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries of 2001.

Guided decision-making, however, is not a new concept in the realm of recreational land acquisition. Since the world's first national park, Yellowstone, was established in 1872, numerous criteria have been developed and refined for guiding the acquisition of private lands for preservation and public recreation.

One list of criteria complied by Herbert Evison in 1930 provides a concrete basis for the selection of state land areas for recreational use. Though nearly 75 years old, the criteria provided by Evison remain relevant to this day.

1. Where a site offers unusual or unique features, which are not duplicated or perhaps even approached elsewhere in the State, the strongest possible reason exists for including it in any proposed system, even in the face of serious obstacles.

2. Its scenic quality, by comparison with that of other areas considered for inclusion in the system, as well as with those within easy reach in neighboring States either included or likely to be included in their systems.

3. The extent of desirable lands possible of acquisition and the probable adequacy of such lands to furnish the quantity and kind of recreation which the area would be designed to supply.

4. The actual or potential variety and quantity of active recreation procurable in it, outside of those portions where certain values indicate the wisdom of relatively complete preservation.

5. Its probable ability to yield all or a large part of its cost of operation through legitimately imposed and reasonable fees for special services, or certain forms—limited as to duration and extent—of exclusive occupancy.

6. Its location with respect to population which might be expected to use it and to competition of other areas offering similar facilities.

7. The significance of its historical, archeological, and scientific values, and their relation to other areas within the State which possess similar or related values.

Source: Evison, Herbert, editor, A State Park Anthology, Washington, D. C., National Conference on State Parks, 1930.

CNREP Conference to Focus on Socioeconomic Issues of Coastal Resources

Economists, sociologists, policymakers, and resource managers in federal, state and local government are invited to Baton Rouge on May 27th and 28th for a national conference on the social and economic factors affecting coastal restoration and management.

Conference organizers say the topic – *The Challenges of Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems* – is particularly important in Louisiana, where an estimated 1,900 square miles of coastal marsh have been lost in the past century. They explain that although many people understand the science and physical losses associated with coastal erosion, few understand how people and communities both contribute to, and are affected by coastal erosion.

The conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges of social and economic research in coastal systems, with particular emphasis on economic valuation and its use in developing coastal zone management policy.

Organizers have planned a balanced mix of technical and non-technical presentations. The program will feature research and policy professionals from many parts of the United States, including Maryland, Massachusetts, Georgia, Florida and other states as well as Louisiana.

Session topics include market and non-market valuation of coastal resources, environmental benefit-cost analyses, economic linkage/impact assessment, input-output modeling and comparative assessments of resource management and restoration policy.

Registration for the conference is $125 per person. Payment can be made by check or cash only.

Online registration is available through May 25th at: http://www.agecon.lsu.edu/cnrep

Overnight accommodations can be reserved at: http://www.cookconferencecenter.org/

In addition to CNREP, a unit of the LSU AgCenter's Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, sponsors include the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program; the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act; The Farm Foundation; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's SERA-IEG 30 committee.

The agenda for the upcoming CNREP Conference is as follows:

Thursday, May 27, 2004

7:30-9:00am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
	Morning Plenary Session
9:00-9:45am	***Welcome*** **William B. Richardson** **Chancellor, LSU AgCenter**
	Introductory Remarks **Robert E. Stewart, Jr.** **Director, National Wetlands Research Center** **United States Geological Service**
	Walter Armbruster **President, Farm Foundation**
	Introduction to CNREP Rex H. Caffey Associate Professor and Director Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy, LSU AgCenter
9:45-10:30am	***Socioeconomics in the Chesapeake Bay Program*** **Douglas Lipton** **Associate Professor, University of Maryland** **Coordinator, Maryland Sea Grant Program**
10:30-11:00am	***Socioeconomics in the Florida Everglades Restoration Program*** **Joan Lawrence** **Senior Everglades Policy Advisor** **United States Department of Interior**
11:00-11:30am	***Socioeconomics Challenges in the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Program*** **Jason Shackelford** Office of Coastal Restoration and Management Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
11:30-12:00pm	***Monitoring the Human Dimensions Aspects of Coastal Restoration*** **David K. Loomis** **Associate Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst**
12:00-1:30pm	***Lunch*** ***Luncheon Speaker -- 12:30pm*** **Mark Davis** **Executive Director** **Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana**
1:30-2:00pm	***Incorporating Human Needs Into Coastal Planning*** **Thomas O'Connor, Gary Matlock, Anthony Pait, David Whitall** **National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA** **Elizabeth Mills** **Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA**
2:00-2:30pm	***Economics in Ecosystem Restoration: Questions and Challenges*** **Susan Durden** **USACE Institute for Water Resources**
2:30-3:00pm	***Justifying the LCA Program: A Comprehensive Cost Benefit Analysis of the Investment Returns of the LCA*** **Jonathan Hird** **Weston Solutions Inc.** **Eldon C. Blancher** **TAI Scientists**
3:00-3:30pm	Break
3:30-4:00pm	***Assessing the Implementation of Local-Level Marine Resources Management Projects in the Northwest Straits of Washington State*** **Jenny Hernandez** **Knauss Fellow, National Sea Grant College Program**
4:00-4:30pm	***Analyzing Coastal Hazards from a National Perspective: A Summary of the Heinz Center Study*** **Warren Kriesel** **Associate Professor, University of Georgia**
4:30-5:30pm	***Poster Viewing -- Lod Cook***
6:00-9:00pm	***Social/Dinner at The Stockade*** **(transportation provided beginning at 5:30pm from Lod Cook Conference Hotel)**

Thursday, May 27, 2004
Afternoon Concurrent Session B -- SERA-IEG 30

1:30-1:45pm — *Welcome*
David Boethel
Vice-Chancellor, LSU AgCenter
Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station

Paul Coreil
Vice-Chancellor, LSU AgCenter
Director, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

1:45-2:15pm — *Eco-Tourism as a Means of Conserving Wetlands*
Carlisle Pemberton and Kathleen Mader-Charles
Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension
University of the West Indies

2:15-2:45pm — *Count Data Analysis of Visiting a Recreational Site: The Case of Elmer's Island*
Krishna Paudel, Rex H. Caffey, Nirmala Devkota
Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
LSU AgCenter

2:45-3:15pm — *The Influence of Public vs Private Based Payment Vehicles in Willingness to Pay Responses*
Carmen J. Lyttle-N'Guessan, Michael Thomas
Florida A&M University

3:15-3:30pm — Break

3:30-4:00pm — *Comparing WTP and Market Values in the Disaggregation of a Recreational Joint Good*
Michael Thomas
Florida A&M University
Nick Stratis
Florida State University

4:00-4:30pm — *Coastal Area Visit Preference of Louisiana Residents: Nonmarket Valuation Approaches*
Krishna Paudel, Rex H. Caffey, Larry Hall
Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
LSU AgCenter

4:30-5:00pm — *Demand for Public Goods: Reflections from Real Estate Markets*
Gandhi Raj Bhattarai, Diane Hite
Auburn University
David Brasington
Louisiana State University

5:00-5:30pm — *Poster Viewing -- Lod Cook*

6:00-9:00pm — *Social/Dinner at The Stockade*
(transportation provided beginning at 5:30pm from Lod Cook Conference Hotel)

Friday, May 28, 2004

8:00-8:30am — Registration

Concurrent Session A

8:30-9:00am — *Measuring the Economic Impacts of Freshwater Diversion on Recreational Fishing Activity in Coastal Louisiana*
Thomas Denes, Jason Weiss
URS Corporation
Rick Bush, Troy Constance
USACE
Phil Hopkins
Global Insight
John Bergstrom, Jeff Dorfman
University of Georgia
John B. Loomis
Colorado State University
Jeanne Hurlbert
Louisiana State University

9:00-9:30am — *Using Oral History in Environmental Conflict Resolution: Finding Common Ground – Lessons from the Atchafalaya*
Maura Wood and Richard Condrey
Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences
Louisiana State University

9:30-10:00am — *An Economic Analysis of Nutria Population Control*
Walter R. Keithly, Jr.
Coastal Fisheries Institute and Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Louisiana State University

10:00-10:30am — Break

10:30-11:00am — *Potential Economic, Agricultural and Fisheries Impacts from Policies for Reducing Gulf Hypoxia*
John Westra
Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
LSU AgCenter
Robert C. Johansson
Resource Economist
Economic Research Service - USDA
Suzie Greenhalgh
Senior Economist
World Resources Institute

11:00-11:30pm — *Financing Beach Maintenance from a Community Economics Perspective*
Warren Kriesel and Andrew Keeler
University of Georgia

11:30-12:00pm — *Benefit Cost Analysis of the DeLong Mountain Terminal Project: A Critique and Independent Assessment*
John Talberth and Nejem Raheem
Ecology and Law Institute, New Mexico

12:00-1:30pm — *Lunch*

1:30-2:00pm — *Linking Performance Measures to the Development of Habitat Use*
Steve Traxler
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Leigh Skaggs
USACE
Patti Sime
South Florida Water Management District

2:00-2:30pm — *Valuing Coastal Wetlands Using a Hedonic Property Price Approach*
Okmyung Bin
East Carolina Univers*ity*
Stephen Polasky
University of Minnesota

2:30-3:00pm — *The Economic Impact of Wetland Loss on Shrimp Harvesting in Louisiana*
Hamady Diop, Walter R. Keithly, Jr., and Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr.
Coastal Fisheries Institute and Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Louisiana State University

Friday, May 28, 2004

8:00-8:30am — Registration

Concurrent Session B -- SERA-IEG 30

8:30-9:00am — *Improving Willingness to Pay Estimates for Quality Improvement Through Joint Estimation with Quality Perceptions*
John Whitehead
Department of Economics and Finance
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

9:00-9:30am — *Not Adopting Best Management Practices? Implication for Environmental Quality in Louisiana*
Seon-Ae Kim, Krishna Paudel, Jeffrey Gillespie
Center for Natural Resources Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

9:30-10:00am

Evaluating a New Performance Bonding Decision Protocol for Regulating the Release of Potentially Invasive Exotics: The Case of the Black Carp in Mississippi
Michael Thomas
Florida A&M University
Terry Hanson
Mississippi State University

10:00-10:30am — Break

10:30-11:00am

Socioeconomic Influences on Land Use Distribution: Implications for Long-Term Environmental Monitoring
Gandhi Bhattarai and Upton Hatch
Auburn University

11:00-12:00pm

Should The Land Remain In Land Grant Universities? An Analysis of the Issues
Webb M. Smathers, Jr.
Professor of Applied Economics and Statistics
Clemson University
Diane G. Smathers
Associate Vice Provost
Clemson University

12:00-1:30pm — *Lunch --SERA-IEG 30 Business Meeting*

POSTERS

(Available for viewing throughout the conference)

How Energy Analysis Contributes To Valuation Of Ecosystem Services Along With Economic Assessment: A Case Study Of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Using Natural Wetlands, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana
Jae-Young Ko, G. Paul Kemp, and John W. Day
Coastal Ecology Institute
School of the Coast and Environment, LSU

An Empirical Analysis Of Louisiana Anglers' Motivations For Fishing
Yeong Nain Chi and Jack Coburn Isaacs
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Socioeconomic Research and Development Section

Economic And Environmental Implications Of Potential Policies To Address Agricultural Wetlands Loss
John Westra, Rex H. Caffey and Jay Huner
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Relationship Between Early Life Stages of Louisiana White Shrimp and Subsequent Landings
Hamady Diop, Walter R. Keithly, Jr.,
Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr. and Richard F. Shaw
Coastal Fisheries Institute
School of the Coast and Environment, LSU

Data Consolidation and Its Potential Effect on Effort Estimates in the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery
Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr., Walter R. Keithly, Jr.,
Hamady Diop and James Nance
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

The Impact of Imports, Particularly Farm-Raised Product, on the Southeast U.S. Shrimp Processing Sector
Walter R. Keithly, Jr., Hamady Diop
and Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr.
Coastal Fisheries Institute
School of the Coast and Environment, LSU

The Role of Lease Auctions in Determining the Value of Harvest Rights in the Louisiana Oyster Fishery
Jason Shackelford, Walter R. Keithly, Jr.
and Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr.
Coastal Restoration Division
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

An Economic Analysis of Nutria Population Control
Walter R. Keithly, Jr.
Coastal Fisheries Institute
School of the Coast and Environment, LSU

The Valve Dilemma: Restoring Estuarine Habitat in Coastal Louisiana
Mark Schexnayder and Rex H. Caffey
Louisiana State University AgCenter
Louisiana Sea Grant College Program

Linking the Demand for Recreational Fishing to Coastal Wetland Restoration: The Case of Elmer's Island
Rex H. Caffey, Krishna Paudel and Larry Hall
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Linkages Between Coastal Wetlands and Economic Activity: An Overview of Value Estimates and Their Interpretation
Richard F. Kazmierczak, Jr. and Steven A. Henning
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

The Cost Structure of Oyster Harvesting From Private Leases in Louisiana: A Preliminary Analysis
Richard F. Kazmierczak, Walter R. Keithly, Jr.,
Jason Shackelford and Harmon Brown
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Structural Changes in Louisiana's Commercial Shrimping Industry: 1989-2003
Herb Holloway
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Socioeconomic Research and Development Section

Legal and Economic Issues Surrounding Oyster leases and Coastal Restoration in Louisiana
Jim Wilkins and Walter R. Keithly
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Louisiana Sea Grant Legal Program, LSU

Landowner Recreational Entrepreneurial Cooperatives: An Economic Analysis
James Henderson, Michael Dunn and John Westra
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

BMP Adoption in Sugarcane -- Measuring Progress
Steven Henning and Ying Zhong
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Louisiana Homeowner's Attitudes and Perceptions Regarding the Formosan Subterranean Termite
Michael Dunn, Doleswar Bhandari, Krishna Paudel,
Richard Vlosky and Kurt Guidry
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Property Rights and Policy Issues in Groundwater Allocation
J. Burke, M. Dunn and K. Paudel
Center for Natural Resource Economics & Policy
Department of Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness
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Public Value Orientations and Perceived Risks Toward Quality in Illinois
Craig A. Miller
School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University

Effects of Hypoxia on Louisiana Commercial Fishing Patterns: Three Case Studies
Jorge Icabalceta, Michael Harden and Terry Romaire
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Socioeconomic Research and Development Section

Anticipating the Human Impacts of Coastal Restoration Projects
Shirley Laska and Bob Gramling
University of New Orleans and University of Louisiana Lafayette

NOAA Develops Manuals for Coastal Restoration Projects

Earlier this year, NOAA announced the availability of *Science-Based Restoration Monitoring of Coastal Habitats: Volume One, A Framework for Monitoring Plans under the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000*. The manual provides technical assistance, outlines necessary steps, and provides useful tools for the development and implementation of sound scientific monitoring of coastal restoration efforts. In addition, this two-volume manual offers a means to determine if the restoration is on track, to gauge how well a restoration site is functioning, and to coordinate projects and efforts for consistent and successful restoration. It also helps users evaluate the ecological health of specific coastal habitats before and after a project is completed.

The development of this manual is in response to the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 (ERA), Title I of the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000. The act was created to promote the restoration of habitats along the coast of the United States (including the U.S. territories and the Great Lakes). NOAA was charged with developing a guidance manual for monitoring plans created under the act. While developed to support restoration work associated with the ERA, this manual has value and applicability to restoration projects and monitoring efforts under a wide variety of programs and funding sources.

Volume One leads readers through the process of developing a monitoring plan, describing the steps involved and the elements that should be included in any monitoring plan. Additionally, this volume assists readers in the identification of critical structural and functional characteristics to be monitored for a given project and potential metrics associated with those characteristics.

Volume One is currently available in pdf form on the following web page: http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ecosystems/estuaries/restoration_monitoring.html

Volume Two, to be available during 2004, contains tools to assist restoration practictioners in the development of a coastal restoration monitoring plan. These include:
1) coastal habitats: ecology, restoration, and monitoring;
2) guidance on selection of reference sites & conditions;
3) index of restoration monitoring programs in the U.S.;
4) review of acts relevant to restoration monitoring;
5) lists of costs involved in restoration monitoring; and
6) a review of socioeconomic factors associated with restoration monitoring.

For additional information contact Terry McTigue at Terry.Mctigue@NOAA.GOV.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 20	**The Basics of the Basin Research Symposium** Lindy Boggs International Conference Center, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA http://conferences.uno.edu/index2.htm
May 21	**Breaux Act Dedication Ceremony** 11:00 am, Fort Jackson, Buras, LA Susan Bergeron at 337-2668626 or sbergeron@usgs.gov
July 14	**CWPPRA Technical Committee Meeting** 9:30 am, Baton Rouge, Julie LeBlanc at (504) 862-1597 or Julie.Z.LeBlanc@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Louisiana Wetland News Online

The LWN website provides an archive of the history of Louisiana's wetland and coastal resource policy during the past decade. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to obtain this newsletter through an e-mail subscription. By subscribing, you allow us to better track our readership and provide you with valuable updates between each issue.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please send an e-mail addressed to **rcaffey@agctr.lsu.edu** In the message body simply type your full name and the words, “Subscribe LWN”.

Thank you,

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