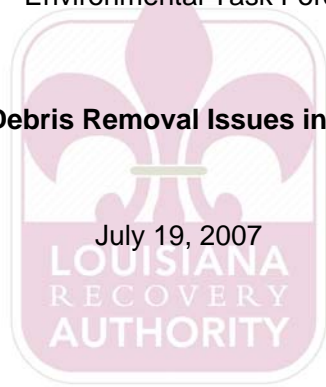




Louisiana Recovery Authority
Environmental Task Force

Marine Debris Removal Issues in Louisiana



July 19, 2007

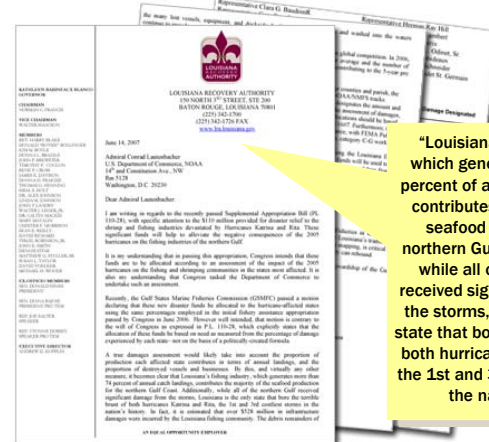
Presented by staff from the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA)

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Fisheries Letter to NOAA

LRA Board Member Rene Cross wrote to NOAA requesting that fisheries funding be allocated with respect to a state's damage.



"Louisiana's fishing industry, which generates more than 74 percent of annual catch landings, contributes the majority of the seafood production for the northern Gulf Coast. Additionally, while all of the northern Gulf received significant damage from the storms, Louisiana is the only state that bore the terrible brunt of both hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the 1st and 3rd costliest storms in the nation's history."

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Issue:

Significant Amounts of Storm Related Debris from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita continues to exist in the State's Waterways

The force of the Hurricanes moved known debris locations in the state requiring a complete review of the State's waterways

LOUISIANA
WATERWAYS
AUTHORITY



All sectors of the State's marine economy are still effected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita





Land based debris can easily be seen on the shores, marshlands, and waterways. Some of it hazardous, debris was moved in some cases miles by the force of Katrina and Rita's winds and storm surge



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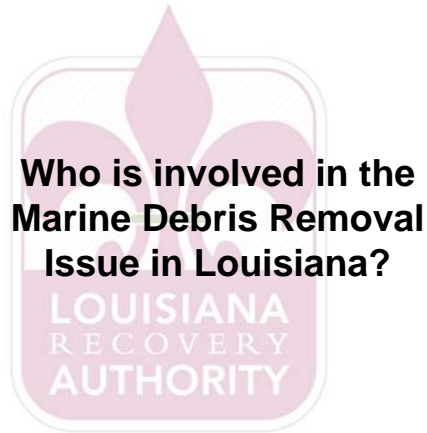
More debris is not seen however and poses immediate risks to recreational and commercial users whether on a bayou, lakes, or in the coastal zone



In Mississippi work is under mission assignment with full coverage of all waterways, lakes, rivers and open water out 4 miles



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Who is involved in the Marine Debris Removal Issue in Louisiana?

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Entities with a role in Marine Debris

Federal and State agencies each have roles in identifying and removing Marine Debris caused by Hurricane's Katrina and Rita

FEDERAL

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
National Ocean & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
United States Coast Guard (USCG)

STATE

Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service – (LSU)
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR)
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
Louisiana Division of Administration – State Land Office (FPC)
Louisiana Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism (CRT)
Louisiana's Public Port Facilities

Parish governments, emergency responders, and local agencies in the coastal zone

Marine based businesses, the commercial, charter and recreational fishing industry each have first hand day to day knowledge of known debris sites and the public safety hazards to the general public and economic losses suffered from the Storms.

Lead by public groups such as the Lake Catherine Civic Association these groups are playing a critical role in identifying "unknown" hazards caused by Hurricane's Katrina and Rita by submitting GPS coordinates and documenting economic losses to the State

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What is needed to remove Marine Debris in Louisiana?

Confirmed storm related debris sites with specific coordinate points

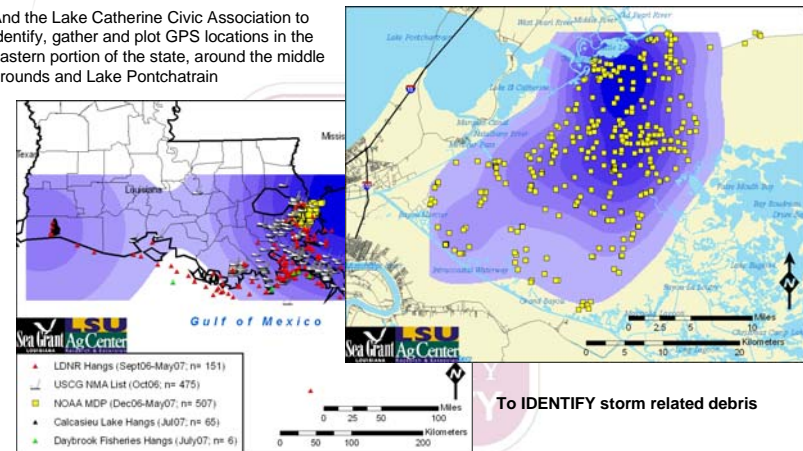
Verifiable Economic Losses from the storms

Threats to Public Safety and Navigation



The LSU Sea Grant Program is working with Federal and State Agencies

And the Lake Catherine Civic Association to identify, gather and plot GPS locations in the eastern portion of the state, around the middle grounds and Lake Pontchartrain

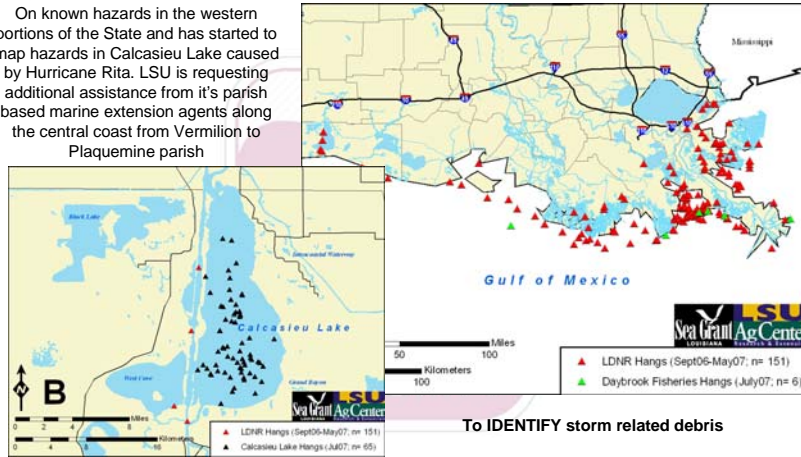


To IDENTIFY storm related debris



The LSU Sea Grant Program is working with Federal & State Agencies

On known hazards in the western portions of the State and has started to map hazards in Calcasieu Lake caused by Hurricane Rita. LSU is requesting additional assistance from it's parish based marine extension agents along the central coast from Vermilion to Plaquemine parish



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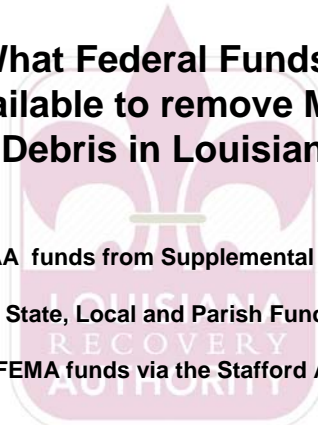


What Federal Funds are available to remove Marine Debris in Louisiana?

NOAA funds from Supplemental I and II

State, Local and Parish Funds

FEMA funds via the Stafford Act



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Fall 2006, 1st EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION



Louisiana receives \$52.9m of \$128m appropriation, 41% of Northern Gulf allocation

THESE LIMITED FUNDS ARE FOR:

- \$22,900,000 Reseeding, Rehabilitating and Restoring Oyster Reefs
- \$25,016,667 Rehabilitating Oyster Bed and Shrimp Grounds
- \$ 5,000,000 Cooperative Research to Monitor Recovery of Gulf Fisheries



Spring 2007, 2nd Iraq Emergency Supplemental



Current Non FEMA - Federal Funding Sources for Marine Debris Supplemental II - \$24m

"the conferees provide: \$24m for the Office of Coast Survey and the Office of Response and Restoration to conduct scanning and mapping as well as TO PROVIDE DEBRIS REMOVAL in Louisiana's traditional fishing grounds:"

President Bush has a bold vision to clean up our oceans and coastlines," Gutierrez said. "Whether for fishing, tourism, recreation or trade, oceans are a treasured part of America's life and economy. With these additional resources and the new Ocean Research Priorities Plan, NOAA will be able to expand its research and implement plans to better protect our oceans, fish and ecosystems... [this] initiative is a testament of the President's strong commitment to continue to work with our partners to meet the challenges that face our nation's precious natural resources."



Mississippi Marine Debris Program



FEMA and the State have begun talks on developing a solution..



Louisiana's program should use the Mississippi Model

Marine debris [in MS is] being removed by the U.S. Coast Guard under a mission assignment from FEMA. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and other agencies are working closely with the Coast Guard to accomplish the removal task.

Of the \$230 million allocated for Mississippi's marine debris removal, \$222 million is part of an intra-agency agreement that began October 1, 2006

"Refrigerators, rail cars-even explosives-have been plucked from the Mississippi Sound and adjacent waterways in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as a \$230-million marine debris removal effort cleans both the coastal waters and inland waterways of the Mississippi Coast. ."

"As on land, aquatic debris carries many signatures of tragedy, but it is yielding steadily to hopes for the future"

Monitored by FEMA, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard, the marine debris removal extends into clogged river systems. Wreckage not only impedes navigation but could form breeding grounds for mosquitoes and snakes. The campaign as a whole is motivated by health, safety and navigation issues. Cleanup of the waterways "affects the entire economy of the Mississippi shoreline," said Coast Guard Warrant Officer Richard Sharpless, who helps oversee the cleanup.

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FEMA Stafford Act Funds

What do we need in Louisiana to get the marine removal job done right?

FEMA to grant Louisiana a 100% Mission Assignment for removal of all debris in the public waterways, bayous, lakes, rivers and shores of the State

Confirmation from FEMA that costs borne by local, parish and state Governments for marine debris removal is reimbursed

Confirmation from FEMA that LDWF funds earmarked for Debris removal switch to FEMA funds so that LDWF can use these funds for habitat restoration and surveying the entire State

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