

Louisiana Coastal Facts

Louisiana

¹ Length of Coastline 397 miles	² Tidal Shoreline 7,721 miles	³ Coastal Zone Population >2,000,000 (47% of the States Population)
⁴ Coastal Area 14,587 square miles	⁵ Coastal Land Area 5,663 square miles	⁶ Length of oil and gas pipelines 125,000 miles



Coastal Protection and
Restoration Authority of Louisiana

Coastal Land Loss

- Coastal Louisiana has experienced a net decrease of 1,883 square miles of land between 1932 and 2010 (Couvillion et al. 2011).
- Currently, Louisiana has 37% of the estuarine herbaceous marshes in the conterminous United States and accounts for 90% of coastal wet-land loss in the lower 48 states (Couvillion et al. 2011).
- Over a four year period between 2004-2008, hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike transformed approximately 328 square miles of marsh to open water—an amount that exceeded total land loss for the approximate 25 year period between 1978—2004 (Barras et al. 2008, Barras et al. 2009).
- The land loss rates on the Louisiana coast have slowed from an average of more than 30 square miles per year between 1956 and 1978, to an estimated 16.75 square miles per year from 1985 to 2010. If this recent loss were to occur at a constant rate, it would equate to losing an area the size of a football field per hour (Couvillion et al. 2011).

Energy

- According to 2010 energy estimates of Louisiana's Primary Energy Production: including Outer Continental Shelf production, Louisiana ranks 1st in crude oil production and 2nd in natural gas production; excluding Outer Continental Shelf production, Louisiana ranks 4th in natural gas and 5th in crude oil production among the 50 states (LDNR 2011).

Waterborne Commerce

- Louisiana's coastal wetlands provide storm protection for ports that, according to 2009 data, carried 449 million tons of waterborne commerce, accounting for 20% of all waterborne commerce in the United States (USACE 2010).
- Five of the top fifteen largest ports in the United States are located in Louisiana (USACE 2010).

Fisheries

- *Commercial Fishing* – According to 2008 data, Louisiana commercial landings exceeded 916 million pounds with a dockside value of \$272.9 million (NOAA 2009), accounting for approximately 26% of the total catch by weight in the lower 48 States (NOAA 2010).
- *Recreational Fishing* – According to 2009 data, non-commercial fishing in Louisiana employs almost 20,000 people and related annual expenditures amount to over \$1.7 billion (NOAA 2011).

Wildlife

- *Hunting* – According to 2006 data, annual hunting-related expenditures in Louisiana amounted to \$975 million. (LDWF 2008).
- *Wildlife-watching* – According to 2006 data, expenditures related to wildlife-watching in Louisiana amounted to \$517 million (LDWF 2008).
- *Fur Harvest* – According to 2007-2008 data, fur harvest in Louisiana's coastal wetlands generated approximately \$1.75 million (LDWF 2008).
- *Alligator Harvest* – According to 2006 data, Louisiana's alligator harvest was valued at approximately \$109.2 million (LDWF 2008).
- *Waterfowl* – Louisiana's coastal wetlands annually provide habitat for over 5 million migratory waterfowl (LDWF 2011).

Tourism

- Tourism provides \$9.3 billion in revenue. (LDCRT 2010/11).

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- ³U.S. Census Bureau. 2011. Census 2010. <http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>. Includes watersheds that NOAA indicates have either 1) at least 15 percent of their land area within a coastal watershed, or 2) a portion of or an entire county accounts for at least 15 percent of a U.S. Geological Survey coastal cataloging unit.
- For further information on Coastal Protection and Restoration Projects in Louisiana, please visit the CPRA home page www.coastal.la.gov, CRMS home page www.lacoast.gov/crms2/Home.aspx, CWPPRA home page www.lacoast.gov, the Coast 2050 home page www.coast2050.gov, the LCA home page www.lca.gov, or the following government agencies:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
(504) 865-1121
www.cecer.army.mil

U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(337) 291-3100
www.fws.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
(225) 389-0508
www.nmfs.gov

U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
(337) 266-8556
www.nwrc.usgs.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
(318) 437-7756
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce
Region 6
(225) 389-0735
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State of Louisiana
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