



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

SCOPING REPORT

Barrier Shoreline Restoration

Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana --Ecosystem Restoration Barrier Island Restoration, Marsh Creation, and River Diversion, Barataria Basin Feasibility Study

Public Scoping Meeting and Scoping Letters Comments and Concerns

INTRODUCTION

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 established a nationwide policy to include in every recommendation or report on proposals for major Federal actions significantly affecting the environment a detailed statement of the environmental impact of the proposed action. A Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the barrier shoreline restoration component of the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana – Ecosystem Restoration, Barrier Island Restoration, Marsh Creation, and River Diversion, Barataria Basin Feasibility Study was published in the *Federal Register* (Volume 65, No. 83) on Friday, April 28, 2000.

The NEPA also provides for an early and open public process for determining the scope of issues, resources, impacts, and alternatives to be addressed in the draft EIS. This process is referred to as the scoping process. A public scoping meeting was held on June 8, 2000 regarding the barrier shoreline restoration component of the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana – Ecosystem Restoration, Barrier Island Restoration, Marsh Creation, and River Diversion, Barataria Basin Feasibility Study. Public comments and concerns expressed during the scoping meeting, and letters received during the 30-day comment period immediately following are presented in this Scoping Report.

Public scoping comments and concerns are requested early in the EIS-preparation process to determine the scope of the draft EIS by identifying the significant issues, range of alternatives, and mitigation the public and other interested parties request to be addressed and emphasized in the EIS. This Scoping Report presents and summarizes the 128 comments and concerns expressed at the public scoping meeting, as well as the 3 scoping comment letters received and 2 verbal comments received.

Study Purpose

The New Orleans District (NOD) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposes to investigate the feasibility of restoring the barrier shoreline from the Caminada-Moreau Headland to Sandy Point, Louisiana (Figure 1). The study area is located in the Barataria Basin and includes portions of Lafourche, Jefferson, and Plaquemines parishes.

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority produced a document entitled “Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana” in December 1998. That document presented strategies jointly developed by Federal, state, and local interests to address Louisiana’s massive coastal land loss problem and provide for a sustainable coastal ecosystem by the year 2050. In March 1999, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) completed Phase 1 of a Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study that focused on barrier shoreline loss between the Atchafalaya and Mississippi rivers and developed several alternatives to address the problem. These two efforts culminated in a joint agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the LDNR to evaluate selected features of the Coast 2050 Plan in a Federal feasibility study. A Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed with the LDNR on February 18, 2000.

The purpose of the proposed action is as follows: (1) In general, the purpose of the Coast 2050 Plan is to sustain a coastal ecosystem that supports and protects the environment, economy, and culture of southern Louisiana, and that contributes greatly to the economy and well-being of the nation; (2) the purpose of the Coast 2050 strategies for the Barataria Basin is to restore and/or protect the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem in the Barataria Basin within the context of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including coastal Louisiana; and (3) the purpose of the Coast 2050 Plan’s barrier shoreline restoration strategy for the Barataria Basin (R2-22 strategy) is to provide and sustain the unique ecological integrity of barrier islands, headlands, and shoreline. Habitats of concern include shoreface, beach, dune, maritime forest, back-barrier marsh, bays, and passes.

Study Alternatives

The no-action alternative must be evaluated and retained throughout the study. Additionally, the Barataria basin portion of the recommended plan from the LDNR Barrier Shoreline Feasibility Study will be investigated. The recommendations from that study include rebuilding the dunes at the Caminada-Moreau headland and recreating a dune and marsh platform stabilized with a rock revetment along the gulf shoreline of the Plaquemines shoreline from Grand Terre to east of Sandy Point. . In addition, one or more other alternatives to be evaluated in detail are expected to be developed during the scoping process.

Scoping Meeting and Request for Public Comment

An announcement of a public scoping meeting to be held on June 8, 2000, at 7:00 PM, in the Century Room of the John L. Guidry Stadium, located on Audubon Drive of the Nicholls State University campus, Thibodaux, Louisiana, was distributed to interested parties in May 2000. In the announcement, two questions were provided as a means of focusing the public’s comments and concerns:

Question #1: What are the most important issues, resources, and impacts that we should consider in the EIS?

Question #2: Are there any other alternatives or modifications to existing alternatives that we should consider in the EIS?

Figure 1. Map of study area.



At the scoping meeting, the Corps presented a brief description of the scoping process, the Corps study process, and the Corps compliance procedures on how it will implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process, in particular, preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Scoping meeting participants were then divided into smaller groups in which two or more facilitators for each group recorded participants' comments and concerns. Forty individuals participated in the scoping meeting. The sign-in sheet is attached (Attachment 1).

Scoping meeting participants were separated into three different groups, comprised of 13 to 14 individuals each, to provide their comments. Individuals within each group presented their comments and concerns regarding the proposed study. Every individual comment and concern was recorded until no new comments or concerns were expressed.

A total of 128 comments and concerns were recorded from scoping meeting participants (see Table 1). Attachment 2 contains copies of the three scoping comment letters. Table 2 displays the categorization of the comments in these letters along with the verbal comments received during the comment period. All registered scoping meeting participants, as well as those providing comment letters and verbal comments, will be included on the Corps' mailing list of interested parties and will receive copies of this Scoping Report. This mailing list will also be used for informing interested parties of the availability of the draft EIS for their review and comment. In addition, the Scoping Report will be posted on the study web-site, <http://www.coast2050.gov>.

NOD'S REVIEW OF SCOPING COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

The scoping process enables the Corps to determine the public's major comments and concerns. This information will be considered both in the Corps study process and in preparation of the draft EIS. Table 1 displays where in the draft EIS individual scoping comments and concerns would likely be addressed. To create Table 1, each scoping comment was reviewed for content and categorized by EIS subject matter heading. Similarly, Table 2 displays where in the draft EIS comments and concerns expressed in scoping comment letters and verbal comments would likely be addressed. A scoping comment may be addressed in more than one section of the draft EIS if such consideration is required to appropriately consider the ramifications of the comment.

The 128 scoping meeting comments were categorized by EIS subject matter heading for the Barrier Shoreline Restoration component of the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana—Ecosystem Restoration, Barrier Island Restoration, and River Diversion, Barataria Basin Feasibility Study (Table 1). Letters and verbal comments were also categorized (Table 2). EIS subject matter headings include: Purpose and Need for Action (PN), Alternatives Including the Proposed Action (Alt), Affected Environment (AE), and Environmental Consequences (EC). Scoping comments also included specific concerns regarding Consultation and Coordination (CC) with the public and other agencies. Compliance with Regulations (Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations) is included in this category. Compliance with major environmental laws and regulations such as the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act will be addressed in specific sections of the draft EIS (especially in the Environmental Consequences section).

SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

The comments and concerns expressed at the public scoping meeting and in the scoping comment letters and verbal comments are summarized below. Scoping comments and concerns are grouped by EIS subject matter heading. The subject matter typically presented within each EIS subject matter heading is briefly described. Those comments and concerns most often expressed by several scoping meeting participants are identified. The most numerous comments and concerns were expressed regarding project alternatives, followed by environmental consequences, consultation and coordination, affected environment, and purpose and need for action.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ACTION. This section of the draft EIS identifies the proposed action, the need for the proposed action, the study authority, major public concerns, and planning objectives. Of the 128 total comments and concerns expressed at the scoping meeting, seven comments and concerns relate to the purpose and need for the proposed action. These comments were primarily concerns that the proposed action does not include other areas of coastal Louisiana in this study.

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE. This section of the draft EIS identifies and describes plans eliminated from further study, the no-action or without- project conditions, alternatives considered in detail, the preferred alternative, and the comparative impacts of alternatives. Consideration of the "No Action" alternative is required, and includes a description of the consequences of no action being taken. Of the 128 total comments and concerns expressed at the scoping meeting, 97 comments and concerns regarding project alternatives were expressed. One of the three comment letters expressed concerns related to project alternatives for the proposed action. Both verbal comments related to alternatives.

Table 1. Scoping Meeting Comments.

#	Category					Comment
	PN	Alt	AE	EC	CC	
Group I Comments						
1	X					Why aren't barrier islands outside of the Barataria Basin included in this study?
2		X				What are the limits to the alternatives and configurations that can be considered?
3		X		X		Will you consider the longevity of the structures or methods placed/employed?
4		X	X			Are there considerations given to restoring an annual flood cycle to replenish interior marshes?
5	X		X			How will the BI study impact existing and future restoration efforts in the interior basin?
6	X		X	X	X	PED should maximize quality of fish and wildlife habitat.
7		X	X	X		What are the limits to the search for suitable sand sources?
8		X				Study should investigate using existing abandoned oil/gas pipelines for transporting dredged sediments.
9		X				Consider Louisiana technology to restore, especially innovative technology as it becomes available.
10		X	X	X		Restore maritime forests as part of vegetative plan.
11	X	X	X			Alternative should include cost of raising levees to Naomi and Lafitte (as part of no-action alternative analysis).
12	X	X		X		Do the alternatives look at the existing or historic island configurations? Or retreat to an island configuration that would be more sustainable?
13		X	X	X		Should evaluate natural reefs vs. artificial non-indigenous structures (rock).
14		X	X	X		Will study attempt to quantify flood control benefits associated with alternatives?
15		X	X	X		Will study consider impact of removing sand from 5000-10000 ft offshore (-20 ft contour) from Sandy Point to Bayou Lafourche, removing about 20-30 billion cy of sand?
16	X	X	X	X		Restoration should maximize storm surge protection to the maximum extent possible.
17		X			X	Study should include O&M costs because of the financial burden to the state.
18		X				Construction should consider innovative technology such as a truck pipeline in the Miss. River to provide a better sand source.
19	X				X	Study should include an assessment of environmental justice issues.
20		X	X	X		Study should include a detailed analysis of pipelines and utilities to assess impacts to them.
21		X	X	X	X	Will study consider aesthetic value of restoration efforts, especially near Grand Isle, which attracts tourists?
22		X	X	X		Evaluate impacts to tidal prism and salinity levels inside the basin.
23		X	X	X	X	Look at cumulative effects.
24			X	X	X	Evaluate direct impacts to natural resources from construction in the immediate area.
25			X	X	X	Evaluate impacts of non-confined discharges related to dredging.
26		X	X	X	X	No-action alternative should consider that the internal basin is more susceptible to offshore oil spills.
27		X	X	X		Sand source analysis should weigh cost of material as well as the longevity of placed material.
28		X				Consider all construction methods available based on current capabilities.

Table 1 (cont.).

#	Category					Comment
	PN	Alt	AE	EC	CC	
29					X	Mitigation activities should be well defined.
30		X			X	Will we have to pay for material from Ship Shoal? Examine possibility of Federal fee waiver.
31		X	X			Are there data available (core samples) from 1000 ft in front to 1000 ft behind shoreline along the length of barrier shorelines (1/4-mile intervals) to 200 ft depths?
32		X	X	X	X	Evaluate benefits to infrastructure.
33		X	X	X	X	Upon completing work, control development and construction in restored areas.
34		X			X	Monitoring plan should be developed.
35			X	X	X	Consider restored land as state or Federal land.
36		X				One alternative should be to restore islands to 1929 configuration.
37		X				One alternative should consider the benefits of removing the Empire Jetties.
38		X				Consider submersible dredge for Ship Shoal.
39			X	X	X	Compare productivity of oysters from 1920s to present and examine reasons for decline.
40			X	X	X	Consider impacts to endangered species and essential fish habitat.
41		X			X	Include increased insurance costs from the no-action alternative in the economic analysis.
42		X	X	X	X	Benefit analysis should emphasize human usage vs. just \$/HU.
43					X	Justification should include the fact that the parishes and public strongly support restoration.
44		X	X	X		Use of ebb tidal delta sand should consider flows through passes.
45		X	X	X	X	Consider wholesale value of fisheries (oysters and shrimp) across the nation that will increase with increased productivity over 5-10 year increments.
46			X	X	X	Consider value of BI to neotropical migrants and to the east coast economy that relies on them.
47		X	X	X	X	Maintain existing estuaries and passes.
48			X	X	X	Consider impacts to ecotourism and recreational fisheries.
Group II Comments						
49			X	X		Conduct comprehensive survey/inventory of sediment resources.
50			X	X		Consider longshore transport.
51		X				Consider coastal structure considerations and fill considerations.
52			X	X	X	Consider economic impacts of projects and importance of coastal Louisiana (esp. oil & gas/fisheries) to country.
53		X	X	X	X	Design with nature and natural processes in mind.
54		X			X	Ensure that full range of Federal concerns are considered in analysis and alternatives.
55			X		X	Be sure to take into account the big picture and don't get hung up on small-scale issues and areas, resources, etc.
56			X			Loss of land and mechanics included in land loss.
57		X	X	X	X	Take into account activities such as dredging maintenance projects that are taking place now - beneficial use of dredged material.
58	X				X	Need to explain to general public & general public needs to be involved in process.
59	X	X	X	X	X	Consider fisheries impacts, costs & benefits to fisheries.
60		X			X	Consider Miss. River diversions & discussions of Miss. River relative to other processes of coastal restoration, including marshes.

Table 1 (cont.).

#	Category					Comment
	PN	Alt	AE	EC	CC	
61		X	X	X	X	Clear and realistic management alternatives.
62		X			X	Concerns over evaluation of alternatives, methods and techniques used.
63		X	X	X	X	Assign proper weight to OCS impact to offset increased costs associated with Ship Shoal sand.
64		X	X	X	X	Take into account compatibility and costs associated with sand source.
65	X	X			X	"Instead of cost-benefit analysis, it should be coast benefit analysis."
66		X			X	Evaluate full suite of alternatives presented in BSFS, not just recommended alternatives.
67		X			X	Inform public as to costs associated with barrier island restoration.
68		X	X	X	X	Return for taxpayer dollars.
69		X	X	X		Need to look at bathymetry and bathymetric consequences.
70	X				X	Concern over rest of coastal Louisiana.
71		X	X	X	X	Clear assessment of longevity and duration of project relative to barrier island restoration projects.
72			X	X	X	Temporal scale of cost/benefit analysis needs to be very explicit.
73		X	X	X		Construction of shore face to withstand storm effects.
74		X			X	Dollars put into maintenance (long-term) after project implementation.
75		X	X	X		Need extensive seismic/vibracore for potential sand sources.
76		X	X	X		Constriction of tidal passes and increase in tidal energy.
77		X			X	Examine and "learn" from existing barrier island projects in Louisiana and elsewhere.
78		X	X	X	X	Address fishing pressure in tidal passes; recreational and commercial-sanctuary areas may need to be developed.
79		X			X	Let natural migration of barrier islands occur.
80		X	X	X	X	Compromising of island by taking offshore sand away - impacts to borrow area.
81		X	X	X		Impacts relative to removal of Empire Jetties - look at as alternative or part of alternative.
82		X	X	X	X	Sequencing of projects and impacts on rest of area as projects are done.
83		X			X	Evaluate barrier island designs to determine the slope which is most cost effective to maintain in order to reduce longer term costs.
84		X	X	X	X	Concern that barrier islands will become a sanctuary.
85		X				Development of alternatives through an interactive process - develop alternatives based on prior alternatives.
86		X	X	X	X	Evaluation of removal of sand relative to "radiation" on marine organisms.
87	X	X			X	"Let it flood under controlled conditions" - close canals; let it flow back to bayous; get state to be more interactive in building in floodplain.
88	X	X	X	X	X	Address hurricane & flood conditions & protection.
89		X				Effect on all alternatives, including "no-action" on Barataria Basin on ecosystem restoration - hydrologic and land loss.
90		X	X	X		Lack of silt in river and increased pollutants and pathogens.
Group III Comments						
91		X	X	X		Assess impact of project on storm surges (reduce surges).
92	X				X	Do EIS on Ship Shoal.
93		X	X	X	X	Resolve land ownership issues on created land.
94					X	Keep land owners informed.
95					X	Have more public meetings as planning develops.
96		X	X	X	X	Quantify values of barrier shoreline beyond habitat values, especially as ecosystem structural component.
97	X	X			X	Assess cost of Ship Shoal material and other Federal areas.

Table 1 (cont.).

#	Category					Comment
	PN	Alt	AE	EC	CC	
98		X	X	X	X	Consider oyster lease impacts and compensation issues.
99			X	X	X	Would oyster leases revert to land owner?
100		X	X	X	X	Consider suitability analysis for all borrow areas.
101		X				Will shore face extend to -5.0 ft contour? How far will it extend?
102		X	X	X	X	Will channels be relocated/maintained?
103		X	X	X	X	Assess feasibility of closing passes.
104			X	X	X	Identify impacted land owners.
105		X	X	X		Develop sediment budget for system.
106		X	X	X		Assess effects of gulfward extension of shore face.
107		X			X	Tie project in with navigation dredging operations schedules.
108		X			X	Quantify, in dollars, benefits of project to facilitate evaluation of project.
109		X		X	X	Identify benefits analysis procedures and variables of interest.
110	X		X	X	X	Maximize wildlife/fisheries habitat and storm protection.
111		X			X	Consider maintenance cycle and assumptions - define project life.
112		X	X	X	X	Consider public access, pre- and post- project.
113		X				Utilize dredge material and bed load of Miss. River.
114		X				Analyze benefits of abandoning Birdsfoot Delta and other major 2050 Strategies.
115	X	X				Consider shoreline extension to S. W. Pass.
116			X	X	X	Consider impacts to pipeline operations.
117		X	X	X	X	Future pipelines should not cut across restored islands/shoreline.
118		X	X	X	X	Quantify benefits of barrier shoreline in prevention/mitigation of oil spills.
119		X	X	X	X	Quantify benefits to L.O.O.P. (protection of) and C.O.C.S. production activities.
120		X	X	X	X	Dollar estimate of infrastructure protection.
121			X	X	X	Assess feasibility of using land credits to provide incentive for oil companies to restore marsh/wildlife habitat.
122		X	X	X	X	Consider native or non-invasive vegetative plantings as project component.
123			X	X	X	Consider nutria control program.
124		X	X	X	X	Identify/assess suitability of sediments other than just sand, i.e. organic sediments.
125		X	X	X	X	Consider multiple resources and sediment types for different areas of barrier islands.
126		X	X	X	X	After project construction, habitat should be suitable for fisheries access, post-construction modifications if necessary.
127			X	X	X	Consider tradeoffs between land form integrity and species habitat value.
128		X			X	Minimize time to construction, keep public informed of schedule.

Table 2. Categorization of the 3 scoping comment letters and 2 verbal comments by EIS subject matter heading for the Barrier Shoreline Restoration component of the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana—Ecosystem Restoration, Barrier Island Restoration, and River Diversion, Barataria Basin Feasibility Study. EIS Subject Matter Headings are the same as in Table 1.

Category					Comment
PN	Alt	AE	EC	CC	
	X				Mr. Emilio Rene Mayoural suggests the use of concrete blocks as a series of breakwaters to protect the barrier islands, in particular Grand Isle. Concrete blocks would be approximately 8 by 20 feet with about a 2 foot gap between each concrete block and set approximately 1/4 to 1/2 mile on the Gulf side of the barrier islands.
				X	Tom Carey wrote "I am a camp owner at Sandy Point with 3 other friends! Please put us on your mailing list, so we can keep informed about this project! We are really excited about this project!"
				X	Harold A. LeBlanc wrote "I'm interested in restoring our state shoreline. Being an owner of a camp on the beach side of Hwy. 1 in Grand Isle I'm especially interested in your Grand Isle project. If possible I would appreciate any information you might have on this project."
	X	X	X	X	David Fruge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote "The NOI lists all significant fish and wildlife resources that should be addressed in the DEIS including seabirds, shorebirds, wading birds, threatened and endangered species, and important habitats such as beach, dune, maritime forest, back-barrier marsh, bays, and passes. The Service recommends that all alternatives being investigated include measures to reduce the impacts of dredged material disposal to existing back-barrier marsh and dune habitat, especially those areas supporting seabird and/or wading bird nesting colonies. The Service is currently under court order to designate critical habitat for the threatened piping plover which winters in coastal Louisiana. Habitats utilized by wintering piping plovers include beaches, mudflats, sandflats, algal flats, and washover passes. Piping plovers feed extensively on mudflats and beaches, and require sparsely vegetated areas for roosting. The purpose of designating critical habitat is to provide supplemental protection for habitat that is essential to the species' conservation and ensure that it is not adversely modified or destroyed by activities under Federal jurisdiction. We will keep your staff advised on the status of critical habitat designation for the piping plover. We will continue to work closely with your staff during our involvement in the feasibility study."
	X				Mr. Morgan Landry doesn't want to see more water routed down Bayou Lafourche.
	X				Mr. Morgan Landry suggests that on barrier islands, placement of sand, rock, or other measures should be used to protect marsh interior areas from wave action of the gulf.

Some of the major concerns related to alternatives were about sediment sources. These included conducting a thorough search for sediment borrow sources, utilizing material that is currently being dredged from navigation channels, suitability of the sediments for the various habitats to be created, the longevity of placed material, the costs and methods associated with obtaining the sediment, and the costs associated with maintenance. Frequently mentioned were concerns about maximizing the benefits to fish and wildlife, including neotropical migrant birds, endangered species, commercial and recreational fisheries, and oysters. Related to this were desires that maritime forests be restored across the study area and that native or non-invasive plants be utilized.

Another area of major concern was quantifying the structural benefits of barrier shoreline restoration, including protection of fisheries, protection of oil and gas infrastructure, storm surge and flood protection, prevention and mitigation of oil spills, and protection of the habitats in the interior of the basin. It was suggested that these items also be considered in evaluation of the "no-action" alternative. Often mentioned were concerns about access to and protection of the restored areas after construction, including sanctuary designation, ecotourism, restrictions on construction and other development, future

pipeline placement, oyster lease issues, and ownership of created lands. Construction methods and design issues were also frequently mentioned. Concerns were expressed about island configuration, how far out into the gulf restoration will extend, ideal slope design of the shore face for longevity, utilizing innovative technology, methods of transporting sediment, and consideration of hard construction materials (rock).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT. This section of the draft EIS identifies and describes the natural and human resources including physical, biological, social and economic, and cultural resources likely to be impacted in and surrounding the vicinity of the proposed action area and alternative areas. This section also includes a description of the locations, quantities, and qualities of significant resources including why they are significant.

Of the 128 total comments and concerns expressed at the scoping meeting, 81 comments and concerns related to the affected environment. One of the three comment letters expressed concern related to some aspect of the affected environment.

One of the major areas of concern related to the affected environment is the sediment source, including concerns about the location and type of material, current dredging operations, and suitability for the variety of habitats to be created. Concerns about pollutants, pathogens, and radioactive material in the sediments were also expressed. Frequently mentioned were concerns about human usage, including recreational and commercial fishing, oyster leases, ecotourism, impacted landowners, and access to islands and passes. Related to this were concerns about the infrastructure in the area, including oil and gas facilities and pipelines.

Another area of concern was the tidal prism and the relationship to the flow through existing passes. The role of barrier shorelines in storm surge control and flooding to the interior of the basin was also of concern. Another major concern was fish and wildlife habitat in the area, including neotropical migratory birds, oysters, fish access, endangered species habitat, and type of vegetation. Concerns were expressed about consideration of the “big picture” and such issues as longshore transport, land loss mechanics, sediment budget, restoration of a natural flood cycle, and designing with natural processes in mind. Related to this were concerns about sustainability and the structural importance of barrier shorelines to the basin.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES. In this section of the draft EIS, the environmental effects of each alternative on significant resources are described and compared among alternatives. For each alternative considered in detail, the direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts to each significant resource would be compared. Potential mitigation measures for adverse environmental impacts are also presented. For each alternative considered in detail, current and predicted future conditions would be used as the basis for determining mitigation (preferably in-kind and in-basin), insuring compliance with all rules, regulations, and guidelines.

Of the 128 total comments and concerns expressed at the scoping meeting, 88 comments and concerns related to the environmental consequences were presented. One of the three comment letters expressed concerns related to some aspect of environmental consequences of the proposed action.

Many of the comments on environmental consequences were related to the benefits that an intact barrier shoreline provides. Many of these comments suggested consideration of benefits from providing habitat for fisheries and wildlife; structural effects in protecting the interior of the basin from storm surges, flooding, and oil spills; protection of oil and gas infrastructure and pipelines; and for human usage for recreational and commercial fishing, oyster leases, ecotourism, and aesthetics. Concerns were expressed about quantifying the economic value of project benefits to help justify the costs of restoration and in seeking funding sources. In addition, concerns about the longevity and sustainability of the

various alternatives were also expressed.

Another major area of concern was the impact of construction to endangered species, essential fish habitat, fish access, and oysters, including the effects of non-confined dredged material placement. Concerns were expressed about the suitability of various types of sediment for the various habitats and the possible release of pollutants, radiation, and pathogens from these sediments. Additionally, there were some concerns about the effects of placement of material on the shoreface.

Another area of concern was restriction of access to restored areas by recreational and commercial fishermen; sanctuary designation; and restriction of construction, development, and pipelines from damaging the shoreline after restoration. Other landrights issues included the determination of ownership of restored lands, impacts to landowners, and oyster leases. Bathymetric concerns and consequences were also expressed, including the effects of closing or restricting passes on the tidal prism, salinity regime, and tidal energy.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION. This section of the draft EIS deals with consultation and coordination with the public and Federal, state, and local agencies, including compliance with various laws and regulations. References to compliance with specific regulations are presented in various sections and appendices throughout the draft EIS. A notice will be placed in the *Federal Register* that identifies the draft EIS, the agency, and the manner in which copies may be obtained. A date is given for the receipt of comments on the draft, usually 45 days after issuance of the draft EIS. The draft EIS will contain a table describing the status of compliance with applicable Federal, state, and other laws and regulations. Separate sections are presented in the draft EIS describing compliance with the Clean Air Act Applicability Determination, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Prime and Unique Farmlands, 1980 CEQ Memorandum, Section 404(b)(1) evaluation, and coordination the State Historic Preservation Officer. Other scoping comments and concerns, less easily categorized, will be appropriately described and addressed in the draft EIS.

Of the 128 total comments and concerns expressed at the scoping meeting, 84 comments and concerns related to coordination and consultation were presented. All three of the comment letters expressed concerns related to coordination and consultation. Four of the scoping meeting comments and two of the letters expressed that the general public and/or landowners should be kept informed about the project. One scoping participant expressed concern that the full range of Federal concerns would be considered in the analysis and alternatives. One letter expressed desire to coordinate at the Federal level with regard to endangered and threatened species, specifically the designation of critical habitat for the piping plover. Concerns about the impacts to fish and wildlife, presence of hazardous materials, and many of the concerns described in the previous sections are also related to consultation and coordination because of required compliance with various laws and regulations and required consultation and coordination with other agencies.

CONCLUSIONS

The scoping comments and concerns described herein identify the significant issues, range of alternatives, and mitigation the public and other interested parties request to be addressed in the Corps study process and in the draft EIS. Many of the scoping comments and concerns are presently being considered in the development of alternatives. Scoping comments would likely be addressed in the draft EIS as described above. A completion date for the draft EIS has not been determined yet. However, when completed, the draft EIS will be distributed for public comment and interagency review. The Corps' responses to public comments on the draft EIS will be included in the Final EIS, which will also be made available to the public for comment.

ATTACHMENT 1

**LIST OF REGISTERED
SCOPING MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

Sign-In Sheet

Barrier Island Restoration Scoping: June 8, 2000

Name	Representing	Address or E-mail Address	Do you want to receive a copy of the scoping report?	Do you want to receive a copy of the draft EIS?
Dianna Ludtke	NMFS	1100 N. ... SUNAGS@GOMR.COM	OK	OK
Sunag Alvin Jones	G.S.R.C.	7602 G.S.R. AVE. #2, UATOBEL 1501 Elmwood Park Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70123-2394	Yes	Yes
Amy Wold	The Couvise	Amy.wold@charmetoday.com	yes	yes
Kerry Stipe	BTNEP	Kerry-S@DEA.state.la.us	yes	yes
June Mire	Tetra Tech	tucker9@bellsouth.net	Yes	Yes.
Douise Reed	CRLL - UNO	dreed@uno.edu	Yes	Yes.
Chick Ambush	LDNR - CD	chick@dnr.state.la.us	Yes	Yes
Thomas Hunter	URS	Tom-Hunter@URS.com	YES	YES
Shen Penland	UNO	spenland@uno.edu	Yes	Yes
Ted Falgout	Port Fourchon	tedf@ Cajonet.com	Yes	Yes

Sign-In Sheet Barrier Island Restoration Scoping: June 8, 2000

Name	Representing	Address or E-mail	Do you want to receive a copy of the scoping report?	Do you want to receive a copy of the draft EIS?
Sheila C Smith	T. Perkins & Partners	P.O. Box 2266, Huntington, TN 38949	Yes	Yes
Jeff Harris	ADNR/CMD	P.O. Box 449/87, Baton Rouge	Yes	Yes
Anne Perry	SLEC	POB 2048-INSO Thibodaux 70310	Yes	Yes
Leo Harrison	Louisiana Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries	132 Westwood Rd, Gretna LA	Yes	Yes
Oweil Maloney	Jefferson Parish	615 7th Street Westing LA	Yes	Yes

Sign-In Sheet Barrier Island Restoration Scoping: June 8, 2000

Name	Representing	Address or E-mail Address	Do you want to receive a copy of the scoping report?	Do you want to receive a copy of the draft EIS?
Rick Hartman	Mt. Man. Fish. Soc.	c/o LSU	yes	yes
Sharon Newman	BSEC	Sharonn@gisrcorp.com	yes	yes
ICE MAYER	BC GENERS	BCGEN@VADNET.AT&T.NET	yes	yes
Romy Bush	MSU	RLG Rivinge ch	yes	yes
MIKE MAYEUX	Weeks Marine GOVERNORS	106 DEERHE BUNNY LAZARUS	yes	yes
CYNTHIA DUST	OFFICE OF COASTAL ACTIVITIES	CYNTHIA.DUST@DUNFESTAL.LAS	YES	YES
SCOTT HOPFED	URS	SCOTT-HOPFED@URS.COOP.CA 3500 N CAUSEWAY, STE 900	YES NO	YES NO
Tom Demes	URS / Parks & Marine	7101 WISCONSIN AVE #700 BETHESDA, MD 20895	YES	YES
Roy Francis	LAI coalition	PO Box 2048 -MSU Thibodaux	yes	yes
Leonard Clavin	CEI	618 A CANAL BLVD	yes	yes

Barrier Island Restoration Scoping: June 8, 2000.

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Representing	Address or E-mail Address	Do you want to receive a copy of the scoping report?	Do you want to receive a copy of the draft EIS?
Rod Emman	FEAA	Government Affairs 704R West DNR-Bea, BCLL 7030	Yes	Yes
Jana Havill	EPA	1445 Ross Dallas TX 75202	Yes	Yes
Kevin Roy	FWS	646 Cajundome Blvd. Lafayette, LA 70506	Yes	Yes
William Smith	AIIRD GROUP	70 Bee 3612 MORGAN CITY, LA 70300	Yes	Yes
Brian Kendrick	MPH, Inc.	283 Corporate Dr Houston LA 70361	Yes	Yes
MATTHEW B SENTER	TERREbonne MARSH CIZM	10356100 Old CAJON NEST	Yes	Yes
Rick Spudis	OPE	2981 NW 2nd Ave BOCA RATON FL 33486	Yes	Yes
Low Fawcett	SELF & LA.	P.O. Box 128 GIBSON, LA, 70352	Yes	Yes
Su. Hines	COE		Yes	Yes
Catherine Landry	LDNR/CRD		Yes	Yes
GREGORY J. DUNCAN	LDNR/CMD	gregdun@state.la.us	Yes	Yes

ATTACHMENT 2

SCOPING COMMENT LETTERS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

June 5, 2000



Colonel Thomas F. Julich
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Julich:

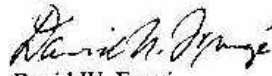
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the April 28, 2000, Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana, Ecosystem Restoration; Barrier Island Restoration Feasibility Study. The purpose of that study is to analyze the direct and indirect impacts of implementing barrier shoreline restoration in Lafourche, Jefferson, and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. The study area would encompass the barrier shoreline from the Caminada-Moreau Headland at the mouth of Bayou Lafourche to Sandy Point. The Service submits the following comments in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The NOI lists all significant fish and wildlife resources that should be addressed in the DEIS including seabirds, shorebirds, wading birds, threatened and endangered species, and important habitats such as beach, dune, maritime forest, back-barrier marsh, bays, and passes. The Service recommends that all alternatives being investigated include measures to reduce the impacts of dredged material disposal to existing back-barrier marsh and dune habitat, especially those areas supporting seabird and/or wading bird nesting colonies.

The Service is currently under court order to designate critical habitat for the threatened piping plover which winters in coastal Louisiana. Habitats utilized by wintering piping plovers include beaches, mudflats, sandflats, algal flats, and washover passes. Piping plovers feed extensively on mudflats and beaches, and require sparsely vegetated areas for roosting. The purpose of designating critical habitat is to provide supplemental protection for habitat that is essential to the species' conservation and ensure that it is not adversely modified or destroyed by activities under Federal jurisdiction. We will keep your staff advised on the status of critical habitat designation for the piping plover.

We will continue to work closely with your staff during our involvement in the feasibility study.
If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Kevin Roy at 337/291-3120.

Sincerely,



David W. Frugé
Field Supervisor

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Natural Resources (CRD), Baton Rouge, LA.

June 7th 2000

Dear Mr. Martinson:

I read the June 7th 2000 article in the Advocate about the barrier island protection plan

The article said the proposed project would rebuild the barrier shoreline from the Caminada Moreau Headland at the mouth of Bayou La Fourche to Sandy Point in Plaquemines Parish.

With the exception of Grand Isle, which is a separate Corps project

I'm interested in restoring our state shoreline.

Being an owner of a camp on the beach side of Hwy. 1 in Grand Isle

I'm especially interested in your Grand Isle project.

If possible I would appreciate any information you might have on this project.

Thank you.

Harold A. LeBlanc
P.O. Box 1338
Patterson, La. 70392

6-12-2000

DEAR MR MANTONSON,

I AM A CAMP OWNER

AT SANDY POINT WITH 3 OTHER

FRIENDS! PLEASE PUT US ON

YOUR MAILING LIST, SO WE CAN

KEEP INFORMED ABOUT THIS

PROJECT! WE ARE REALLY EXCITED

ABOUT THIS PROJECT!

Thank,
Tom Carey

3927 Toulouse ST.

Phone: 601-3399 New Orleans, LA 70119

Beeper: 667-0068

Russo, Edmond J MVN

From: Russo, Edmond J MVN

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2000 4:07 PM

To: Martinson, Robert J MVN; 'honorab@dnr.state.la.us'

Subject: Additional BI EIS Scoping Input

Bob/Honora,

A gentleman named Morgan Landry called today, interested in the scoping meeting of 8 JUN 00, and provided the following subject input:

- He does'nt want to see more water routed down Bayou Lafourche
- On barrier islands, place sand, rock, or other measures to protect marsh interior areas from wave action of the gulf.

Please add to your scoping report.

Thanx,

EJR

TEL (504) 862-1496

FAX (504) 862-2572