

After The Storm: Examining The Impacts Of Hurricane Katrina On Fishing Communities In The Gulf Of Mexico

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Today's Talk

- Fishing community research in the Gulf of Mexico
- Pre-Katrina research
- Post-Katrina research
- General overview of impacts on fishing communities
- Continuing research

Fishing Community Research

- MSA requires that we consider impacts of regulations on fishing communities
- List of potential “fishing communities” generated
- Since 2002, SERO conducting preliminary identification of fishing communities in all five states in the Gulf of Mexico with NS-8 funds
- Impact Assessment, Inc. contracted to do preliminary research in communities identified by NMFS as potential fishing communities under NS-8

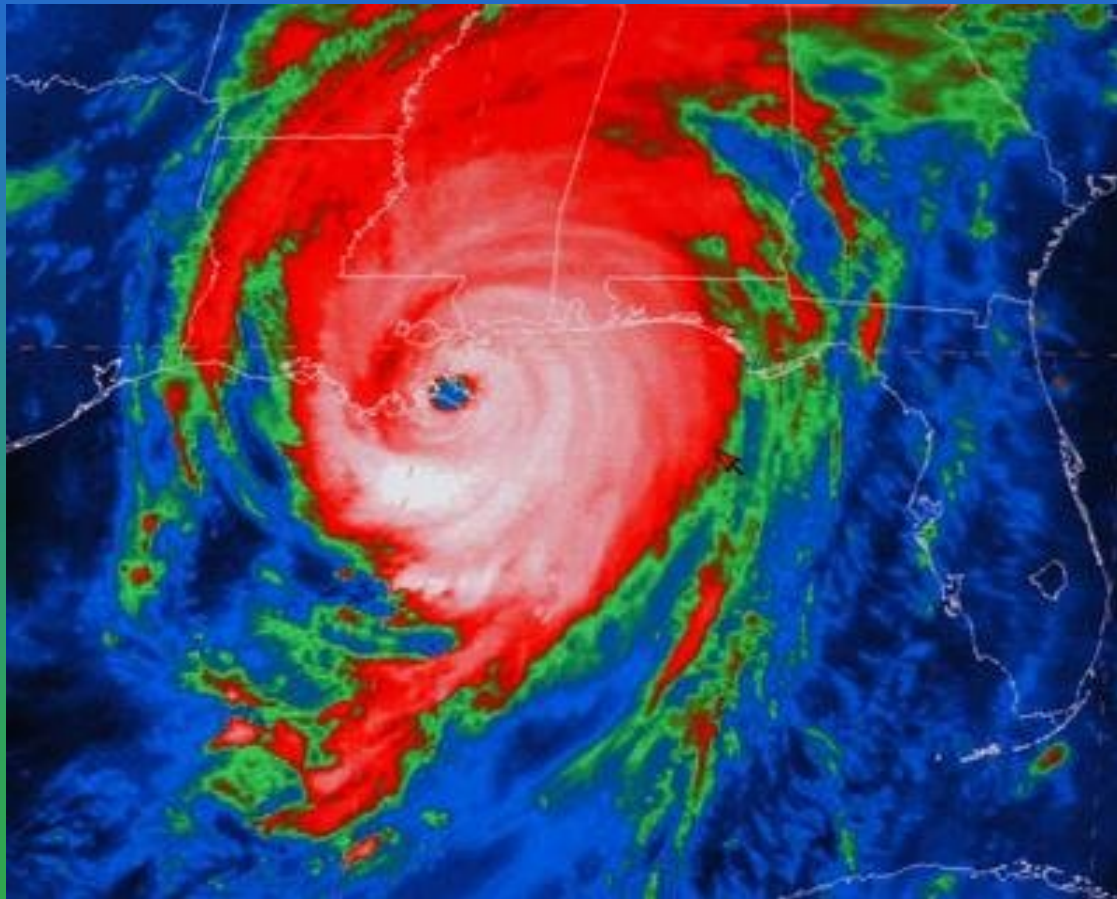
Fishing Community Research

- Analyses of secondary data: permits, licenses, landings, census data, etc.
- Rapid rural appraisal: driving to each community to look for fishing industry infrastructure, social icons, etc.
- Web and library research on each community
- Informal interviews with fishery participants
- GIS maps of each communities

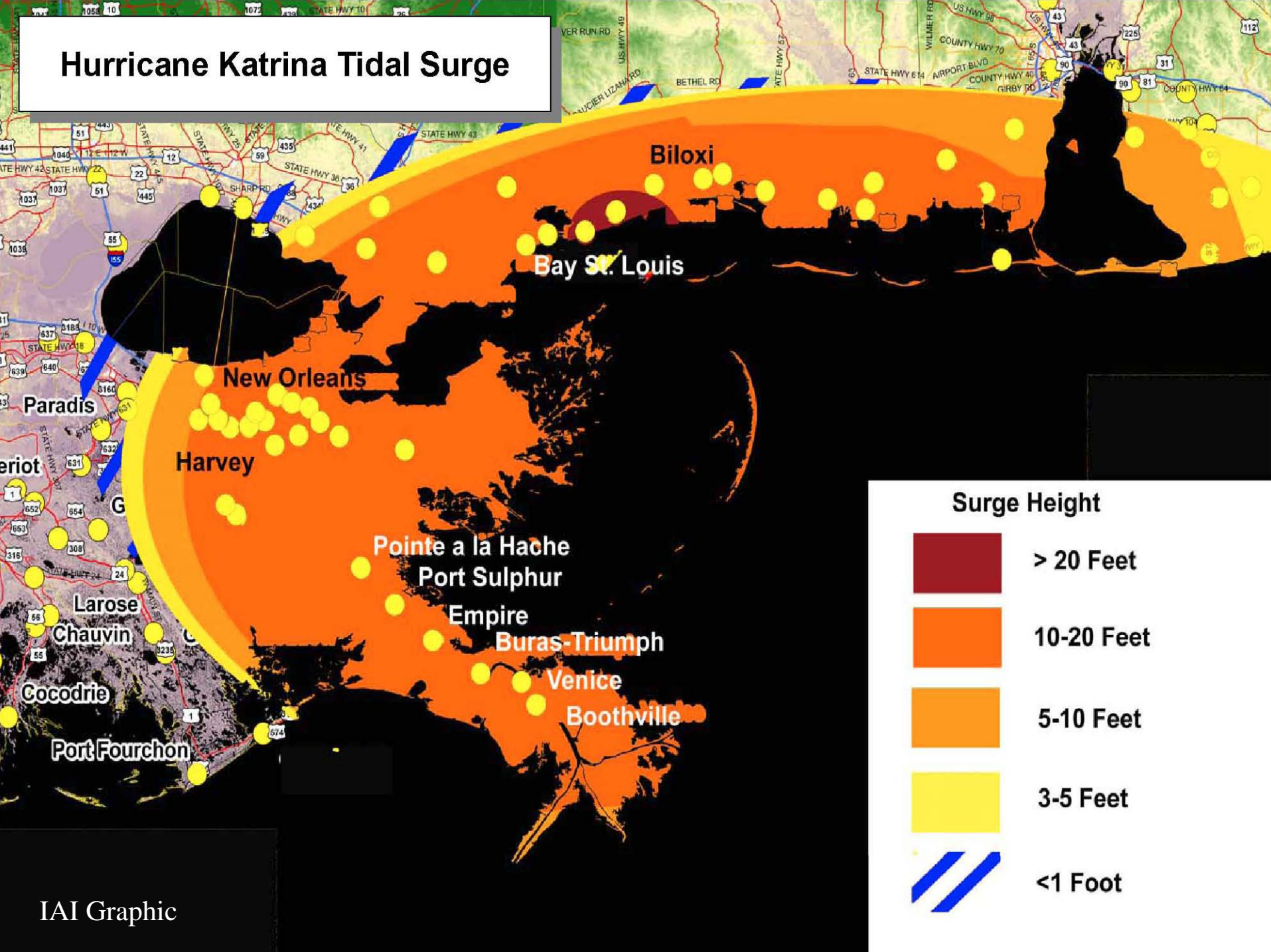
Other Pre-Katrina Research

- Research conducted in Grand Isle, and Venice/Buras/Empire, Louisiana in 2004 to develop in-depth community profiles
- Ethnographic interviews with fishermen, people in fishing dependent businesses and other community members

August 29, 2005: Hurricane Katrina Hits the Central Gulf Coast



Hurricane Katrina Tidal Surge



Post-Katrina Research

- NMFS initiated research to look at the various impacts from Hurricane Katrina: social, economic, environmental, marine health, infrastructure, etc.
- People in the field immediately following the hurricane

Post-Katrina Research

- Limited data on GOM fishing dependent communities before the hurricanes
- Need for more staff and money to conduct research in fishing dependent communities
- Agency became more aware of non-economics, social science research being conducted in the GOM

Post-Katrina Research

- IAI was finalizing reports on preliminary identification of fishing communities in all five GOM states
- These reports were the best, most up to date reports on coastal communities in the GOM
- Data used to show what was there before
- As part of post-Katrina research, NMFS contracted IAI to study impacts on fishing communities

Research Design Protocol

- NMFS' anthropologists toured area with IAI
- Designed the research protocol
- Set up a schedule



Research Design Protocol

- Visit each community listed in original report affected by Katrina
- Locate fishing-dependent businesses and note status: some damage, extreme damage, gone
- Work through social networks to contact and interview people from the fishing industry

Research Design Protocol

- Aerial surveys of some areas with documentation
- Interviews with community leaders, state agencies, GSMFC, Coast Guard, etc.
- Talk to fishermen in relocation communities
- Find out challenges for recovery, insurance, future plans, time frame for recovery
- Update GIS maps based on new information





Most fishing infrastructure destroyed east of red line



Challenges to Research

- Huge area to survey
- Total disruption of life for people in affected areas
- Total devastation in some areas



Challenges to Research

- People busy taking care of personal needs
- Logistics of travel for researchers
- Many roads still closed in October
- Hard to find people to interview
- People were very traumatized



Where To Start



Observations

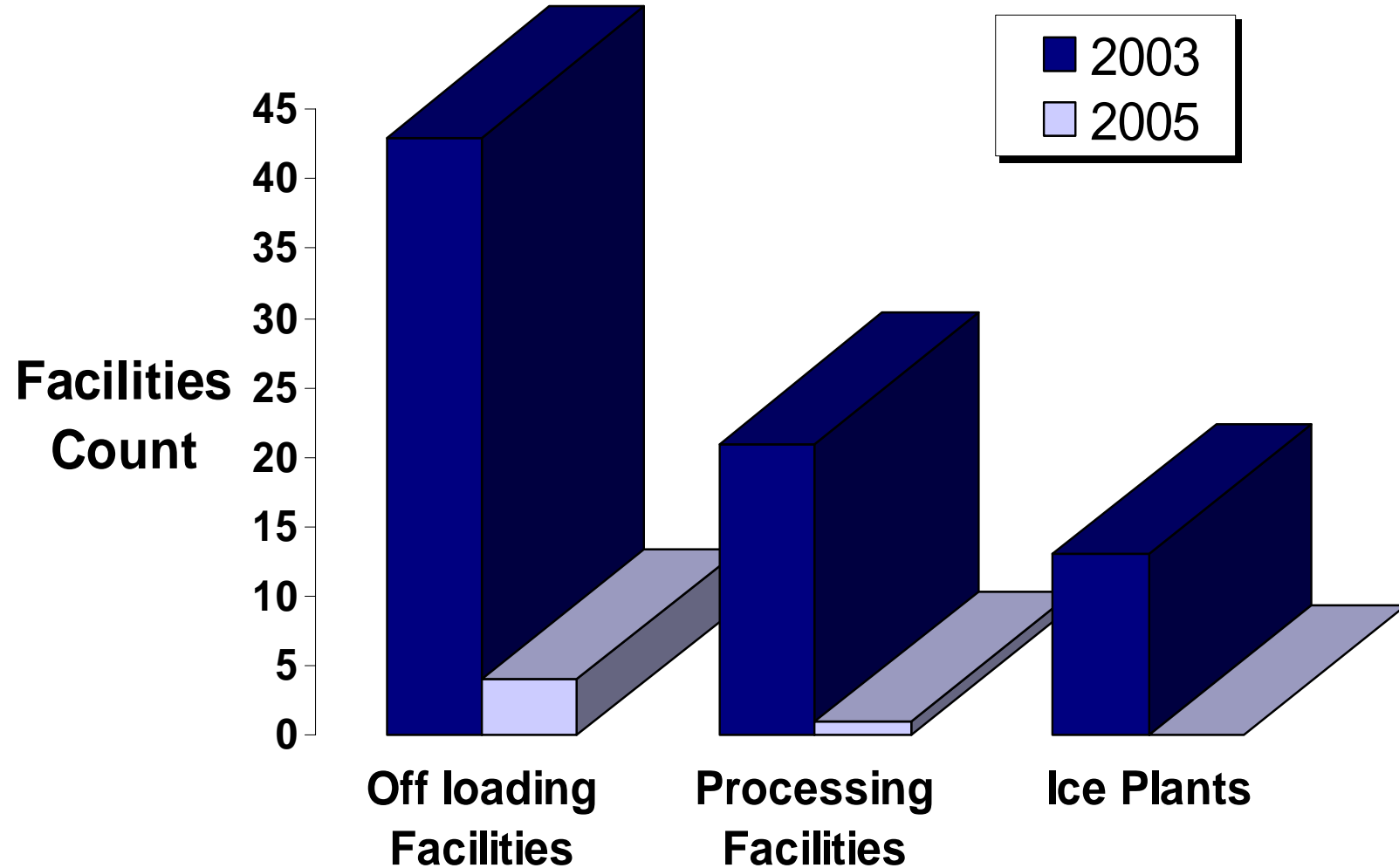








Louisiana 2003 vs October 2005





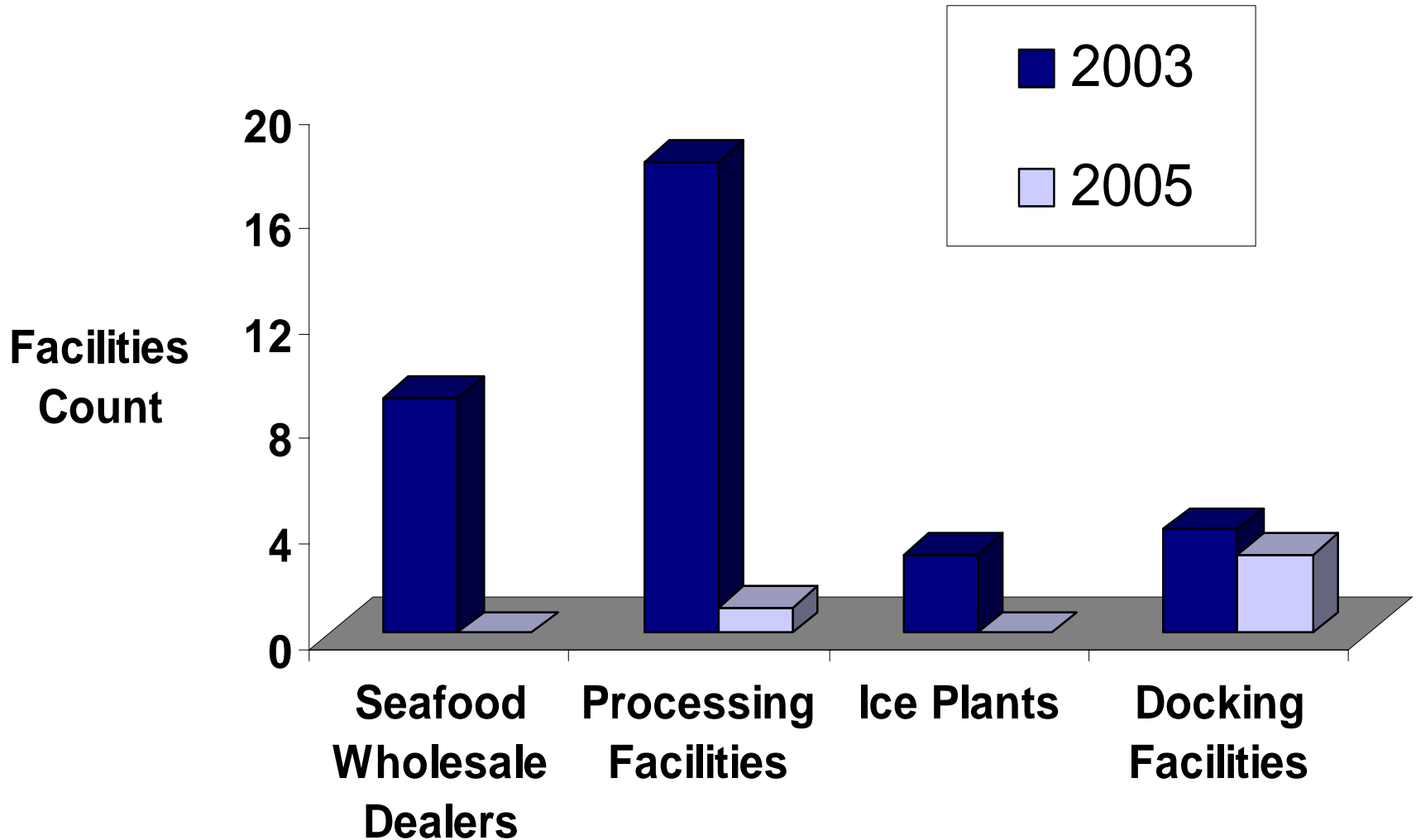






Biloxi, MS

2003 vs November 2005





Budget
Moving Up in Truck Rental



American Red Cross

GO-BUDGET

budget.com

Budget

FIRE LANE

PARKING



MISS KELLY

NO 25816
NO 25816
NO 25816

CAPTAIN RICHARD

MISS KELLY



WEEMS B

OD C

320





Bayou La Batre
2003



Bayou La Batre
Oct 2005





High water mark









Social Impacts

- Impacts to lives, money, future, recovery
- Many people did not have insurance, or not enough for boats, businesses, homes
- Sense of waiting for help from government
- Families relocated, in shelter, hotels, with family, etc.
- In the case of Plaquemines Parish waiting to “go back home”
- Still many boats and businesses to recover

Social Impacts

- For some, may be years, may be never, to be able to live in same place
- Some moved on to other places, other jobs
- Some won't be able to recover without outside help
- Acceleration of gentrification already fighting encroaching development

Trying to Recover

- Processors in Biloxi sharing two facilities
- Venice processor running off generator, trucking products across dock, bringing in water trucks
- Boats from Eastern Louisiana unloading in western Louisiana or Bayou La Batre
- Overall landings coming up

Continuing Research

- Research in Grand Isle, Louisiana summer 2006
- Ethnographic interviews
- Continued monitoring of communities
- Impacts will be studied for years to come



What is the Future for Areas Affected By Katrina?

What Will The Fisheries Look Like?



Will Fishermen Be Able to Return?



Final Reports

- Final reports due in May
- Public documents
- Data already being used for talks, presentations, hearings on the hill, basis of funding
- Visibility to non-economics, social science within the agency
- Best available data
- Years of research ahead