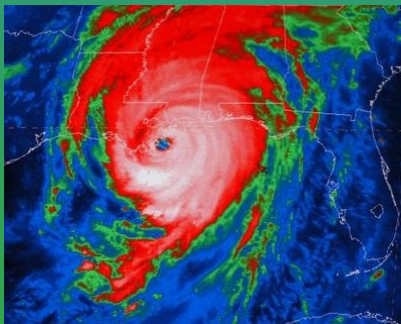


# After The Storm: Examining The Impacts Of Hurricane Katrina On Fishing Communities In The Gulf Of Mexico

Presented by **Palma Ingles, Ph.D.**

Southeast Regional Office

Socioeconomic Brown Bag Lunch Series, March 2006



# 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
- Conclusions

# Fishing Community Research

- NS-8 requires that we consider impacts of regulations on fishing communities
- Preliminary identification of fishing communities in all five states in the Gulf of Mexico
- 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 when possible

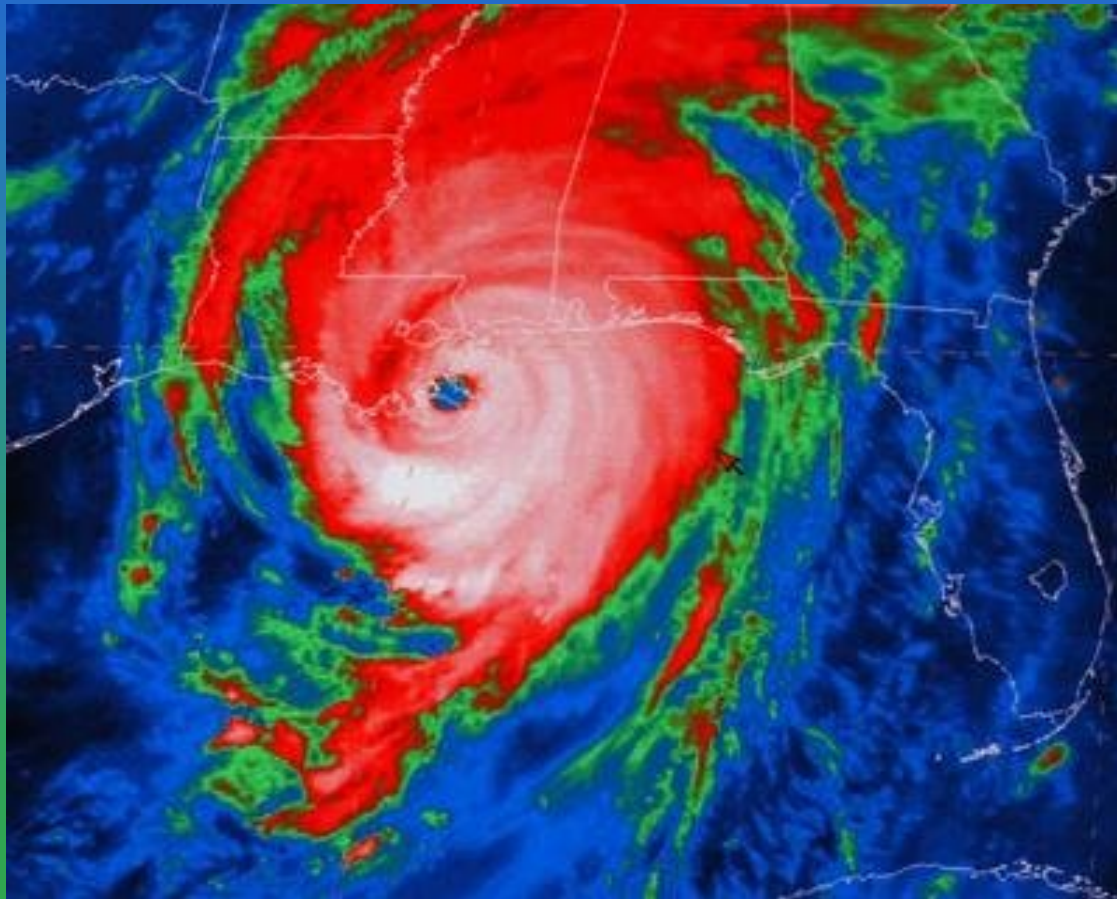
# Reports Generated

- Three contracts with Impact Assessment
- Research conducted over three years
- Tables of landings, census data, licenses, infrastructure, etc.
- Brief description of each community
- GIS maps of each communities

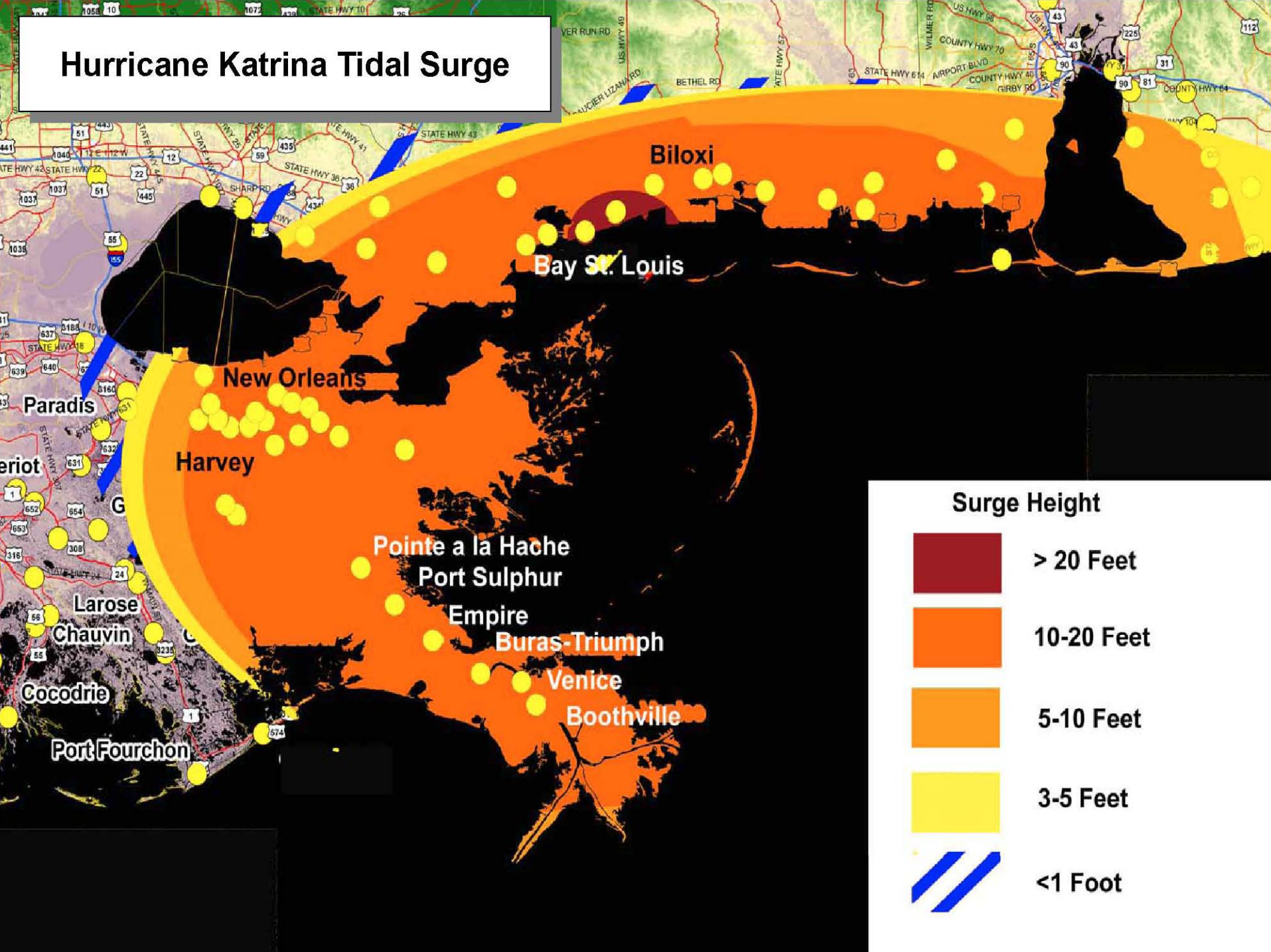
# Other Pre-Katrina Research

- I conducted research in Louisiana to develop in-depth community profiles in Grand Isle, and Venice/Buras/Empire, Louisiana in 2004
- 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.
- IAI was finalizing reports on preliminary identification of fishing communities in all five GOM states
- NMFS contracted IAI to study impacts on fishing communities

# Post-Katrina Research

- IAI assembled research team to study impacts in areas affected by hurricane Katrina
- NMFS' anthropologists toured Mississippi and Alabama with NMFS port agents and IAI personnel
- Design of research protocol

# Research Design Protocol

- Visit each community 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
- Find out challenges for recovery, insurance, future plans, time frame for recovery

# Research Design Protocol

- Tours of each area
- Aerial surveys of some areas with documentation
- Interviews with community leaders, state agencies, Gulf Commission, Coast Guard
- Talk to fishermen in relocation communities
- Update GIS maps based on new information

# Challenges to Research

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





# Challenges to Research

- Hard to find people to interview
- People were very traumatized
- People busy taking care of personal needs
- Logistics of travel for researchers
- Many roads still closed in October
- Some areas have large Vietnamese populations in fishing who may not speak English



# Observations



# Louisiana







Empire, Louisiana





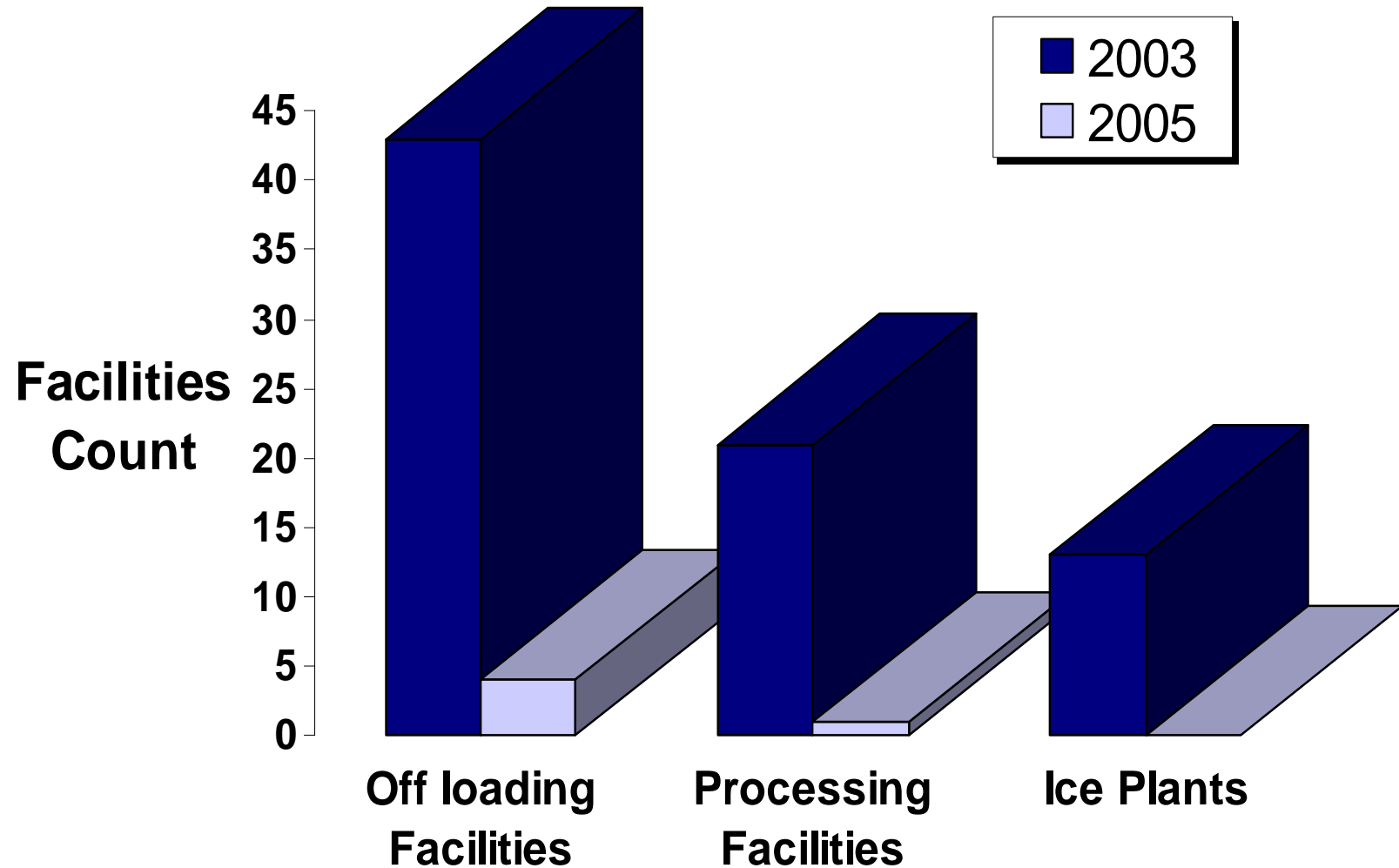
# Total Disruption of Life







# Louisiana 2003 vs October 2005







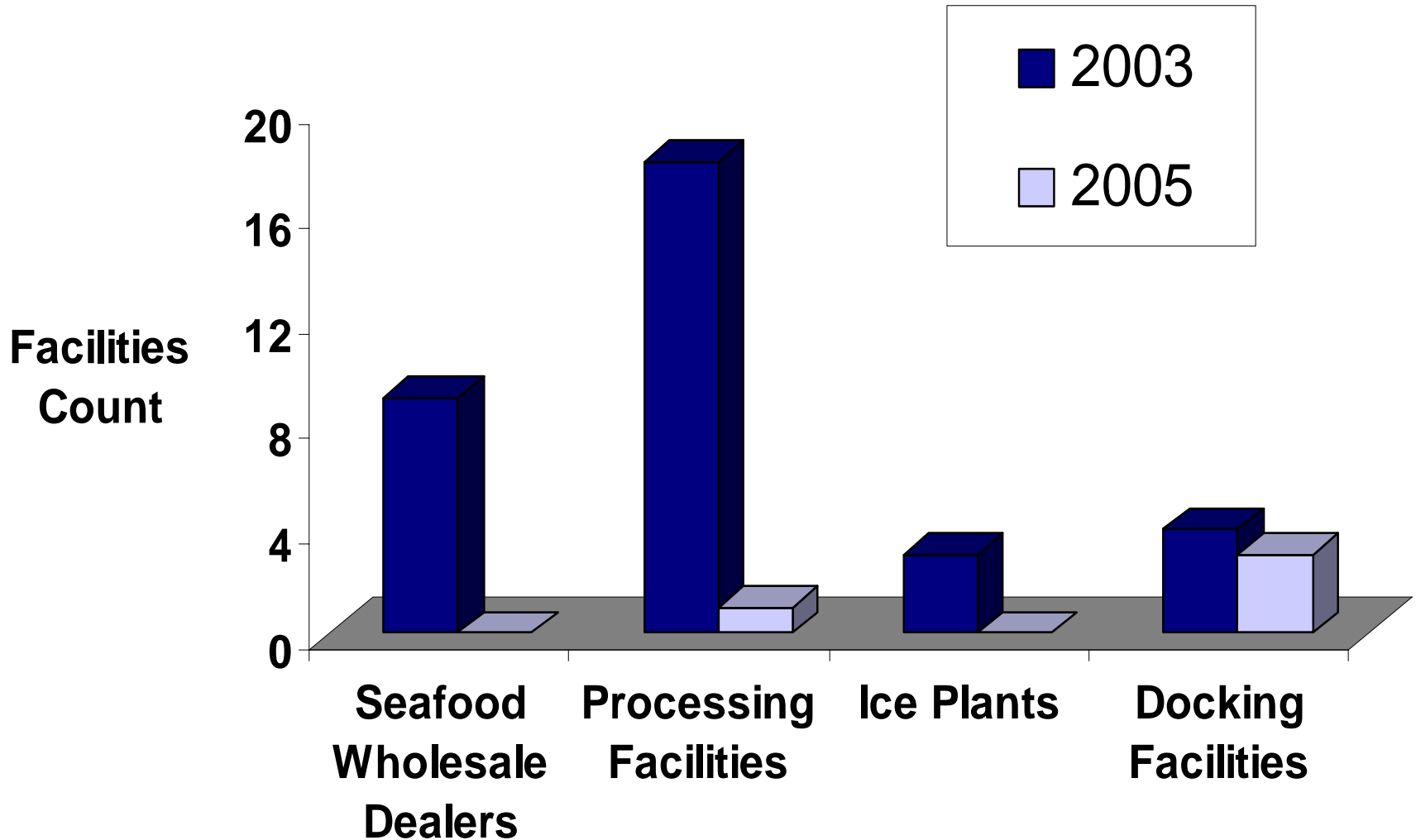




Condos

# 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

1986 IN 05-016 NO. 05-016

CAPTAIN RICHARD

MISS KELLY



**WEEMS B**

**OD C**

320









# Bayou la Batre







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 government help
- Families have moved
- 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

# Continuing Research

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



# What Will Gulf Communities Look Like??





# Will Fishermen Be Able to Return?



# What is the Future for Areas Affected By Katrina?









