

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORTFIELDS INITIATIVE



WHAT IS PORTFIELDS?

The Portfields Initiative is a NOAA and EPA co-led effort to increase collaboration among government agencies and ports to redevelop port communities, with emphasis on the development of environmentally sound port facilities. Through Portfields, local, state and federal partners and port representatives share information about: novel approaches to traditional port issues; relevant state and federal programs; and resources and funding available for port revitalization.

Already, the Portfields model has been successfully implemented in the three port communities of Bellingham, WA, New Bedford, MA, and Tampa, FL. Examples of Portfields activities across these ports include innovative approaches to brownfields cleanup, navigational dredging, stormwater management coupled with habitat restoration, and permit streamlining.

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORTFIELDS INITIATIVE: PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE

The Southern Louisiana Regional Portfields Initiative held its inaugural meeting in New Orleans on May 23 and 24, 2006. The seventy-five attendees represented eleven federal agencies, six state agencies, five local organizations and six Southern Louisiana ports, including South Louisiana, New Orleans, Greater Baton Rouge, St. Bernard, Port Fourchon and Jefferson Parish.



Over the course of the meeting:

- Louisiana ports provided attendees with background information on their facilities and identified needs ranging from stormwater management and infrastructure improvements to habitat restoration and increased energy efficiency;
- Portfields Pilot ports shared their accomplishments and experiences with the Portfields model; and
- All involved parties committed to follow up on action items, serve as a contact for their agency, and provide assistance wherever resources are available.

Currently, priority projects are being developed and implemented, demonstrating that, through the Portfields model, innovative solutions to traditional port challenges can overcome even the most complex regulatory and development hurdles.



ADVANCING SPECIFIC PROJECTS

The Portfields model offers the opportunity to advance projects that incorporate economic development, environmental protection, and community revitalization. Equally, the Portfields model supports projects that require a number of federal and state agencies to participate, and projects that can be applied regionally. The scope of Portfields projects can include:

- Brownfields
- Port/Homeland Security
- Dredging
- Habitat Restoration
- Energy
- Port Infrastructure
- Clean Marinas
- Stormwater Management
- Job Creation/Training
- Navigation

LOCAL PARTNERS

- Regional Planning Commission (RPC)
- City of New Orleans
- South Central Planning and Development Commission (SCPDC)
- City of Baton Rouge Planning Department
- Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs
- Bayou Land Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)

STATE PARTNERS

- Ports Association of Louisiana (PAL)
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD)
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources/Coastal Zone Management (LDNR)
- Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LDED)
- Louisiana Sea Grant Program

FEDERAL PARTNERS

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (NOAA)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation (MARAD)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture (NRCS)



For more information, please visit: <http://brownfields.noaa.gov>