

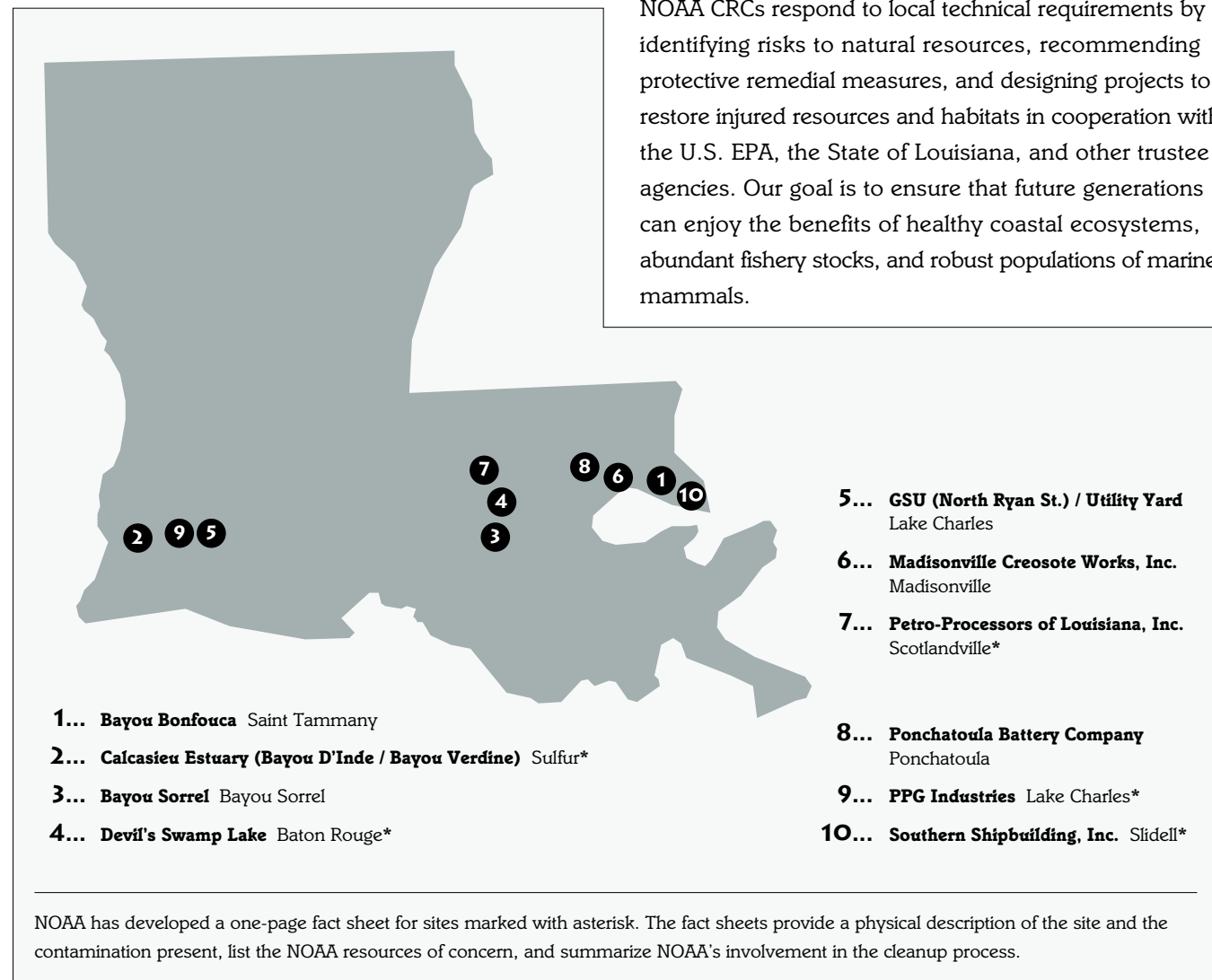
NOAA Coastal Resource Coordination Program Louisiana Sites

OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

CRC PROGRAM MISSION...

NOAA acts on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce as a Federal trustee, under CERCLA and other laws, for natural resources in coastal and marine areas. NOAA's mandate is to protect and restore trust resources that are injured by hazardous substance contamination. NOAA fulfills its responsibilities through an effective network of Coastal Resource Coordinators (CRCs) placed in eight EPA regional offices, as well as an interdisciplinary support group located in Seattle.

NOAA CRCs respond to local technical requirements by identifying risks to natural resources, recommending protective remedial measures, and designing projects to restore injured resources and habitats in cooperation with the U.S. EPA, the State of Louisiana, and other trustee agencies. Our goal is to ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of healthy coastal ecosystems, abundant fishery stocks, and robust populations of marine mammals.



NOAA has developed a one-page fact sheet for sites marked with asterisk. The fact sheets provide a physical description of the site and the contamination present, list the NOAA resources of concern, and summarize NOAA's involvement in the cleanup process.

NOAA TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITY IN LOUISIANA...

NOAA trust species in Louisiana include blue crab, brown, pink, and white shrimp. Finfish species that support commercial or recreational fisheries include speckled trout, red drum, black drum, Atlantic croaker, flounder, Gulf

menhaden, snappers, grouper, king and spanish mackerels. Brown shrimp comprise 60-70% of all shrimp caught in the Gulf of Mexico each year. The Gulf menhaden fishery comprises the largest tonnage fishery in the U.S.

NOAA CRCs AND THE SITE CLEANUP PROCESS...

NOAA CRCs provide technical expertise to EPA on resources and ecological risk assessment, mitigative measures, and cleanup strategies to ensure protection of NOAA trust resources. Federal and state trustees' early involvement and coordination in the scoping and design of ecological risk assessments ensures that assessments and the entire remedial process adequately evaluate the risk to natural resources. For instance, commercial fishing in the Gulf of Mexico is highly dependent on the health and productivity of the extensive estuaries on the Louisiana coast. The NOAA CRC works to protect and restore these valuable fishery resources through its participation in waste site remediation by assuring that contaminant effects to these resources are minimized. In addition, the CRC seeks timely restoration of the habitats on which these resources depend. Designing a cleanup that protects natural resources as well as human health is a cost effective and efficient way to address the threat posed by coastal waste sites. Through CRC participation in the cleanup process, the government saves time and money by avoiding duplication of effort and litigation. Responsible parties benefit from an early resolution of natural resource damage liability. Best of all, environmental threats are addressed sooner, increasing the chances for effective protection, recovery and/or restoration of coastal and marine resources.

AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN LOUISIANA...

The NOAA CRC program works to protect and restore natural resources throughout coastal Louisiana. However, the Calcasieu River estuary is of special concern due to its status as a highly productive estuarine habitat that supports many NOAA trust resource species and the severity of contamination found there. Hazardous substance contamination has resulted in the issuance of closures and advisories against the consumption of fish and shellfish, as well as swimming. Additionally, commercial fishing has historically been banned in portions of the estuary due to this contamination. NOAA has provided valuable assistance to EPA and local governments in reviewing and revising ecological risk work plans and providing input in determining best methods to expedite ecological risk assessment and cleanup actions. NOAA is working with EPA, Louisiana, and several industries to develop a coordinated approach to comprehensively address hazardous substance contamination in the Calcasieu Estuary and to resolve natural resource liability. Additionally, NOAA, in cooperation with EPA and industry, is assembling available contamination sampling data into a comprehensive database and mapping program for the estuary. This database will be invaluable in determining areas that need further investigation and for promoting consensus on remedial strategies necessary to the cleanup process.

FYI...

For more information about NOAA's CRC program in Louisiana, please contact:

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