

-Harvesting effects on marginal reefs, small patchy areas that have cyclical production, can have a greater effect than harvest from large established reefs on future cultch availability at those specific harvest sites.

-Apart from recent hurricane recovery programming subsidizing bedding operations, has bedding decreased over recent years? Is a lot more of the industry more of a fishery than farming? It seems that the public grounds are more used for a fishery than for bedding.

- Drum predation was discussed as one of the reasons bedding activities have been reduced. It is hard to gain a return on bedding investment when black drum predation is heavy.
- Bedding incentive is not something a lot of farmers want to put capital into because of poor return. Losing private investment is hurting Louisiana.
- Small oyster production has been declining. Perhaps the water quality has not supported oyster production in recent years.
- The bottom line is economics. If oysters are plentiful, bedding will occur.
- The closure of Ostrica locks also has affected bedding activities.

-Why the decline in the value of the public grounds?

- Salinity still is the driving force for seed production, assuming appropriate amounts of available surface cultch exists for larval attachment. Hurricanes, Mississippi River and Pearl River flooding have major influences.

-What is going to happen with the damming of the MRGO? (As a note, some areas of Lake Borgne may see upwards of a 2 part per thousand drop in average salinity).

-Fresh water diversions were discussed on how they affected oyster production.

- Freshwater diversion-based restoration versus piped sediment-based restoration.
- Caernarvon was open during 2008 through June 2009. Spat catch was good on the inside this past summer. Caernarvon outfall has squeezed the optimum conditions of the growing areas. What happened to the inside leases is now happening to the public grounds. Oyster quality is not what it used to be during November. Lower meat condition and thinner shell result in lower yields to processors. Warm weather extends into November now. The calendar says November, but the oyster "thinks" its September and continues to spawn, therefore lowering yield due to poor meat condition (volume).