A Plan to Increase Louisiana Oyster Production East of the Mississippi River (DRAFT)

Combining Storm Surge Protection with Oyster Industry Development

Work with communities and the State to build multiple storm surge protection barriers that also define oyster production zones. The barriers will allow better water-flow- and salinity-control to rehabilitate traditional oyster bottoms, develop new oyster production areas, reduce man-made-flooding-risk to oyster industry investors, and provide "immediate" increases in storm protection to SE Louisiana. Most of SE Louisiana becomes a managed, oyster production zone with benefits for shrimp, crab, and finfish.

Components of the Plan:

1. Build storm surge protection reservoirs/levees to capture silt and control freshwater from:
    a. the Fort Saint Philip crevasse
    b. the Mardi Gras Pass crevasse
    c. the proposed Mid-Breton Sound Sediment Diversion
    d. the Caernarvon Diversion
    e. the Bonnet Carré Spillway
2. Complete the NOAA Land Bridge across upper Breton Sound. See location below.

3. Build one or more storm surge protection levees across the Biloxi Marsh
4. Build one or more storm surge protection levees running southwesterly from the MRGO
5. Build a lock at Hopedale to control freshwater and boats entering SW of the MRGO
6. Build "off-shore" storm surge barrier islands
7. Divert floods of "new"-global-warming-Mississippi-River-waters north of Baton Rouge.

The Oyster Task Force can use the Plan to build support for its industry among oyster growers and merchants, shrimp and crab industries, local communities, levee boards, environmental groups, economic development groups, elected- and governmental-officials at Parish, State, and National levels. Individuals and organizations interested in storm protection and in supporting the oyster industry will better understand how they can create programs to help.

Submitted by John Dale "Zach" Lea, Ph.D., jdzlea@hotmail.com, 985-272-3681. August 31, 2019.