MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2014

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The safety, economic and ecological security of our nation is greatly dependent on the secure use of Louisiana's ports and waterways. Louisiana is the location of an array of critical infrastructure which greatly supports the economic stability of the state and nation. Recent studies by Dr. Timothy Ryan of UNO found that ports and the maritime industry have an annual $33 billion impact to the state's economy, approximately 23% of the gross state product. In addition, ports and the maritime industry have an impact of $5.7 billion in the job market by supporting 270,000 jobs directly and indirectly. This is equal to one (1) of every eight (8) jobs. These combined impacts provide more than $470 million in state and local taxes. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' statistics show that cargo handled by Louisiana's ports account for nearly twenty-five (25%) percent of the nation's waterborne commerce. In fact, Louisiana's five (5) deep-water port districts on the Mississippi River comprise the largest port complex in the world, handling nearly 480 million tons of cargo. It should be noted that the vast amount of cargo handled by the coastal oil/gas industry service ports is not counted in that total nor is that activity associated with the cruise ship industry. Additionally, Gulf of Mexico and the near coastal open waters bordering Louisiana are leading contributors to the vast natural resources available to the United States. Abundant fisheries and oil/gas deposits adjacent to the Louisiana coast are also vital to economic stability. These resources, in and of themselves are considered "critical infrastructure" requiring protection.

Public safety and critical infrastructure protection are essential. Louisiana has lacked appropriate engagement at the state level toward port and maritime security. From a coordinated federal, state and local strategy perspective, this is a potential gap in the protection of the state's maritime domain. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division (LDWF/LED) is in the best position to fulfill the state's role in port and maritime security. LDWF/LED engages professional law enforcement personnel who possess maritime knowledge, skills and abilities that are critical to this effort, and field assets that are strategically located throughout the state. Our personnel and equipment are uniquely prepared to integrate with other agencies to provide a proactive response to support and enhance a safe and secure maritime domain. The LDWF/LED maritime security role will coincide as a multi-mission responsibility and further enhance the agency's core mission responsibilities: to improve public safety services, and protect natural resources and the supporting ecosystem while improving security in the state and nation.

SCOPE

This five year strategic plan is designed to develop and guide LDWF/LED toward an enhanced role in port and maritime security on behalf of the state. This plan will build on prevention while strengthening response capabilities in support of the National Response Framework and the Emergency Support Function 13. This role will further advance coordination efforts between the United States Coast Guard, Louisiana State Police, federal, state, ports, and local government partnerships to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of maritime safety and security and all hazards response for Louisiana and our nation.

Vision

To enhance Louisiana's partnerships and collaborative efforts in the maritime domain in order to build a safe and secure environment that supports public safety, promotes public confidence and ensures our economic stability.

Mission

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is dedicated to fulfilling the state's role in port and maritime security by enhancing inter-agency coordination, providing proactive and reactive support aimed at preventing, protecting against, responding to, and recovering from acts which may threaten the safety of the public, critical infrastructure and the economic stability generated from Louisiana's maritime domain.

Strategic Goal 1

Protect our state's maritime domain from all hazards.

To provide adequate and essential maritime security to the citizens and critical infrastructure of Louisiana, the state must have cooperative proactive and reactive response capabilities.

Objective 1.1
Enhance proactive and strengthen reactive security measures.

- Patrol the state's marine domain to increase the detection and deterrence, aimed at maritime security incident prevention.
- Effectively respond to incidents that require a state level maritime response.

Objective 1.2
Provide a safe environment for persons who work, recreate and live on our state's waterways.

- Protect the people, with increased patrols to provide greater security.
- Safely respond to incidents that require a state level maritime response.

Objective 1.3
Incorporate maritime security effort with core mission responsibilities to effectively address small vessel security threats.

- Enhance and increase the frequency of compliance and safety inspections to vessels utilizing Louisiana's maritime domain.

Strategic Goal 2

Ensure continuity of government communications and operations in the maritime domain.

The state of Louisiana must increase involvement of its subject matter experts, and professional capabilities of the LDWF/LED in the maritime domain to provide security in a coordinated manner with federal, port, state and local partners to ensure continuity of communications and operations.

Objective 2.1
Enable accurate, dynamic and confident decisions and responses to the full spectrum of maritime threats.

- Strengthen information sharing, interoperability and collaboration capabilities.

Objective 2.2
Enhance maritime security and safety, based on a coherent framework with layered innovative approaches.

- Organize and synchronize efforts to strengthen maritime security.

Strategic Goal 3

Strengthen our state's preparedness and emergency response capabilities in the maritime domain.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division must develop, enhance and provide adequate support to protect our state's maritime domain.

Objective 3.1
Enhance the state's maritime domain awareness through partnerships with government and private sector authorities.

- Strengthen intelligence gathering, sharing and dissemination capabilities.
- Strengthen the application of functional and operational knowledge in the context of known and potential threats.

Objective 3.2
Develop and leverage a strong partnership with the commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing industry and recreational boating industry to educate others and enhance marine domain awareness.

- Incorporate maritime security awareness within existing outreach programs.

Objective 3.3
Obtain and maintain adequate training associated with the division's role in maritime security.

- Identify and implement necessary training opportunities for wildlife enforcement agents associated with maritime security.

Strategic Goal 4

Seek, obtain and optimize funding opportunities in support of the state's strategic mission.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Law Enforcement Division must maximize funding to further the state's strategic mission as related to the advancement of maritime security without weakening existing duties and responsibilities.

Objective 4.1
Identify funding sources to expand and support maritime security.

- Seek federal funding from various federal agencies, including but not limited to, the Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard and Port Authorities to support maritime security in Louisiana.
- Seek maritime security funding in Louisiana from the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Objective 4.2
Maximize efficiency and outputs associated with funds received in support of maritime security efforts.

- Provide proactive maritime security patrols in concert with core mission responsibilities of fish, wildlife, ecosystem and boating safety activities.

Objective 4.3
Assist cooperative partnerships to attain funds which support maritime security efforts statewide.

- Work with other agencies to obtain funding opportunities which may benefit maritime security in Louisiana.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STRATEGIES AND PLANS

The LDWF Maritime Security Strategy complements and is consistent with all applicable portions of the following legislations and strategies:

- 2009 National Infrastructure Protection Plan
- 2008 National Incident Management Systems
- 2008 Small Vessel Security Strategy
- 2008 Dept. of Homeland Security Strategic Plan (2008-2013)
- 2007 National Strategy for Homeland Security
- 2006 Florida Wildlife Commission Division of Law Enforcement Strategic Vision and Framework
- 2006 Annex to Maryland Maritime Concept of Operations and Strategic Security Plan
- 2005 National Strategy for Maritime Security
- 2003 National Strategy for Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets
- 2002 Homeland Security Act
- 2002 Maritime Transportation Security Act
- National Response Framework
- State of Louisiana Homeland Security Strategy

PEER REVIEW

Representatives from the following agencies provided a review and assessment of this strategic plan.

- Louisiana State Police
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Maine Department of Marine Resources