

"Down the Bayou" Film



Shrimp from the film

Project Year: 2010

Category: Education

Status: Complete

Project #: None

Location:

Statewide

Project Partners:

EPA, LUMCON, Vision Communications LLC, Andrew Elliott

Problem Addressed:

Because of the strong ties between cultural heritage and our natural resources, the unique lifestyles of coastal Louisiana are threatened as our wetlands disappear. Within a generation, the fish and wildlife resources are diminishing, and many people are no longer directly dependent upon the land for their income.

Problem Description:

BTNEP's cultural preservation programs bring greater awareness to the interaction between people, lifestyles and the environment. As community pride is nurtured, citizens become more engaged in the preservation of both the physical and cultural resources of the region.

BTNEP partnered with Vision Communications, LLC and film producer Andrew Elliott to develop a film featuring the Louisiana shrimper. *Down the Bayou* documents life on a shrimp boat and the hardships of the trade -from commercial issues, the high cost of gasoline, to the disappearing coast and its effect on the industry.

A two-person documentary crew traveled the waters coastal Louisiana with shrimpers throughout the 2008 brown shrimp season and captured a truthful cross section of this unique livelihood. Through the exploration of the language, dialect, food, music, and traditions of a truly singular culture, *Down the Bayou* presents the challenges facing the residents of the estuary, possible solutions, as well as the cost of doing nothing. Stunning images and audio of the estuary showcase its beauty, as well as its national importance. *Down the Bayou* explores the interconnectability of the human condition and presents the people of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary as an important part of a larger picture.

In addition to the film *Down the Bayou*, BTNEP conducts a number of cultural preservation activities throughout the year including the annual La Fête d'Ecologie and Paddle Bayou Lafourche, a four-day canoe trip through the heart of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.



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