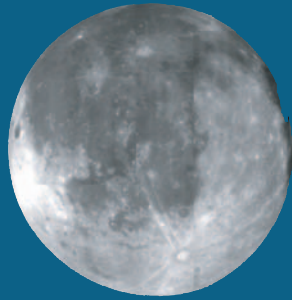


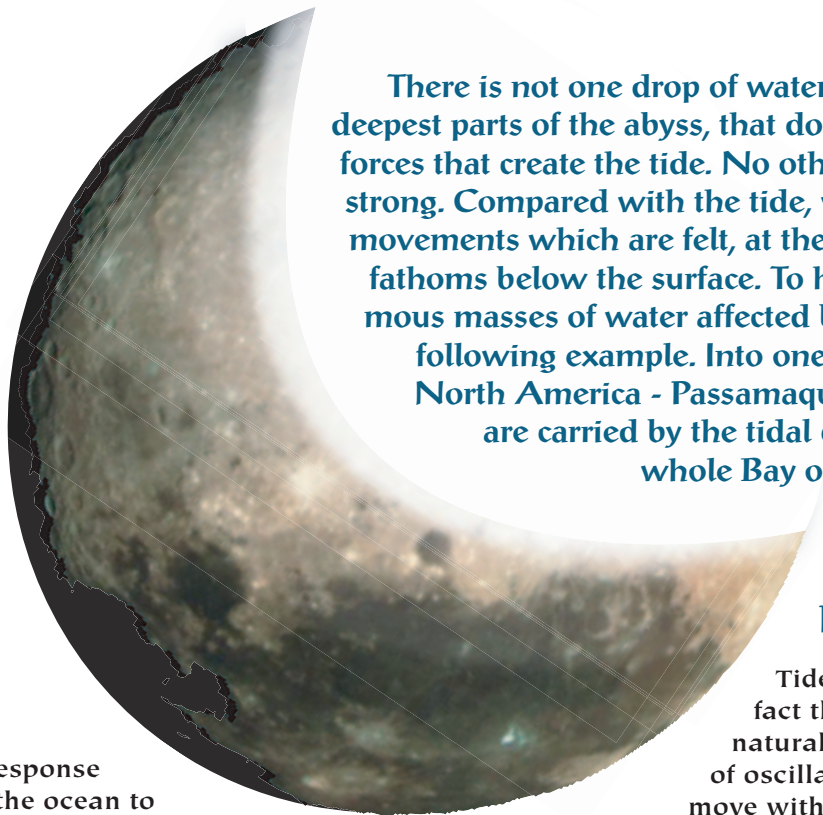


Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

2004 Tidal Graph Calendar



the MIGHTY Tides



Response to “Pull” of Moon

The tides are a response of the waters of the ocean to the gravitational “pull” of the moon and the more distant sun. Folks who live along the Louisiana coast know that the moon, far more than the sun, controls the tides. Why is this? Should not the sun, with a mass 27 million times that of the moon, have the great influence? No. Because in the mechanics of the universe, nearness counts far more than distant mass, and when all the mathematical calculations have been made, we find that the moon’s power over the tides is more than twice that of the sun.

Moon Deciding Factor

Here’s how it works – twice each month, when the moon is a mere thread of silver in the sky, and again when it is full, we have the strongest tidal movements – the highest flood tides and lowest ebb tides of the lunar month. These are called the spring tides. At these times the sun, moon, and earth are directly in line and the pull of the two heavenly bodies is added together to bring the water high on the beaches and draw a brimming tide into the bays so that boats float high beside their wharfs.

Likewise, twice each month at the quarters of the moon, when sun, moon, and earth lie at the apexes of a triangle and the pull of the sun and the moon are opposed, we have the moderate tidal movements called the neap tides. At this time the difference between high and low water is less than at any other time during the month. A simple way to explain or remember tidal rhythm is to think of it as twice-daily waves that move like the hour hand of a clock about a central point – mid ocean. These waves run 12 hours and 25 minutes apart; their crests are high tides and the troughs are low tides.

Tides More Complicated

However, the tides are enormously more complicated than all of this would suggest. The influence of sun and moon constantly changes with the phases of the moon, with the distance of moon and sun from the earth, and with position of each in relation to its position north or south of the equator.

The declination of the moon (its position north or south of the equator) is one of the most important factors affecting Louisiana tides. As the moon revolves around the earth from east to west, it also has a north-south movement. The declination is the distance in degrees of latitude that the moon is north or south of the equator. The plane of the moon’s orbit is not in the same plane as the equator; therefore, the declination of the moon is constantly changing. In the moon’s fortnightly change from maximum northerly to maximum southerly declination, the difference between morning and afternoon tides are greatest near the times the moon is over the equator.

There is not one drop of water in the ocean, not even in the deepest parts of the abyss, that does not respond to the mysterious forces that create the tide. No other force that affects the sea is so strong. Compared with the tide, wind-created waves are surface movements which are felt, at the most, no more than a hundred fathoms below the surface. To help you comprehend the enormous masses of water affected by tidal movement, consider the following example. Into one small bay on the east coast of North America - Passamaquoddy - two billion tons of water are carried by the tidal current twice each day; into the whole Bay of Fundy, 100 billion tons!

Power of Oscillation

Tides are further complicated by the fact that every body of water, whether natural or artificial, has its own period of oscillation. If disturbed, its waters will move with a seesaw or rocking motion with the most pronounced movement at the ends of the container and the least motion in the center. The truth of the matter is that local topography is all-important in determining the features that, to our minds, make “the tide”. The attractive force of the heavenly bodies sets the water in motion, but how, and how far, and how strongly it will rise depends on such things as the slope of the bottom, the depth of the channel, or the width of the bay’s entrance.

When we spend a holiday or weekend at Venice, Grand Isle, or Cocodrie, the ebbing and flowing of the tide may not leave much of an impression on our minds because in that great inland sea of the Atlantic – the Gulf of Mexico – the tidal rise is but a slight movement of no more than a foot or two.

On the shores of Louisiana the tide is long, deliberate undulation – one rise and one fall in the lunar day of 24 hours plus 50 minutes – resembling the untroubled breathing of that earth monster to whom the ancient Indians attributed all tides. In contrast, if you ever have the chance to summer on the Gulf of Maine around the Bay of Fundy, the rise and fall of the tide would be something you would never forget. You would have to accommodate your boating and swimming activities to a tide that rises and falls 40 to 50 feet a day! Although all earth lies under the same moon and sun, the above contrast shows us how much the topography, or shape of a basin in a certain location, affects the tide.

Tides Affect People, Fish

The lives of coastal Louisianians are affected daily by the tides and of even greater importance is the effect the rise and fall of the tides has on the lives of fish and shellfish we call “seafood.” The tidal flooding of the coastal marshes – the estuaries – is a vital factor that accounts for the fertility that enables us to enjoy the fishing and fine seafood that we sometimes take for granted.

Tides Growing Weaker

Let me leave you with the following fact: the tides are growing weaker and weaker. Tidal friction is constantly pushing the moon farther and farther away. As the moon recedes, it will have less power over the tides, and it will also take the moon longer to complete its orbit around the earth. When finally the length of the day and month coincide, the moon will no longer rotate relatively to the earth and there will be no lunar tides.

If the history of the earth’s tides should one day be written by some observer of the universe, it would no doubt be said that they reached their greatest grandeur and power in the younger days of Earth, and that they slowly grew feebler and less imposing until one day they ceased to be. As with all that is earthly, their days are numbered. All this, of course, will require time on a scale the mind finds difficult to conceive, and before it happens, it is quite probable that the human race will have vanished from the earth.



Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries

BIG RIVER PROGRAM

Eighty-four different species of fish were collected in just a few weeks time in just the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers!



Photos by Glenn Thomas

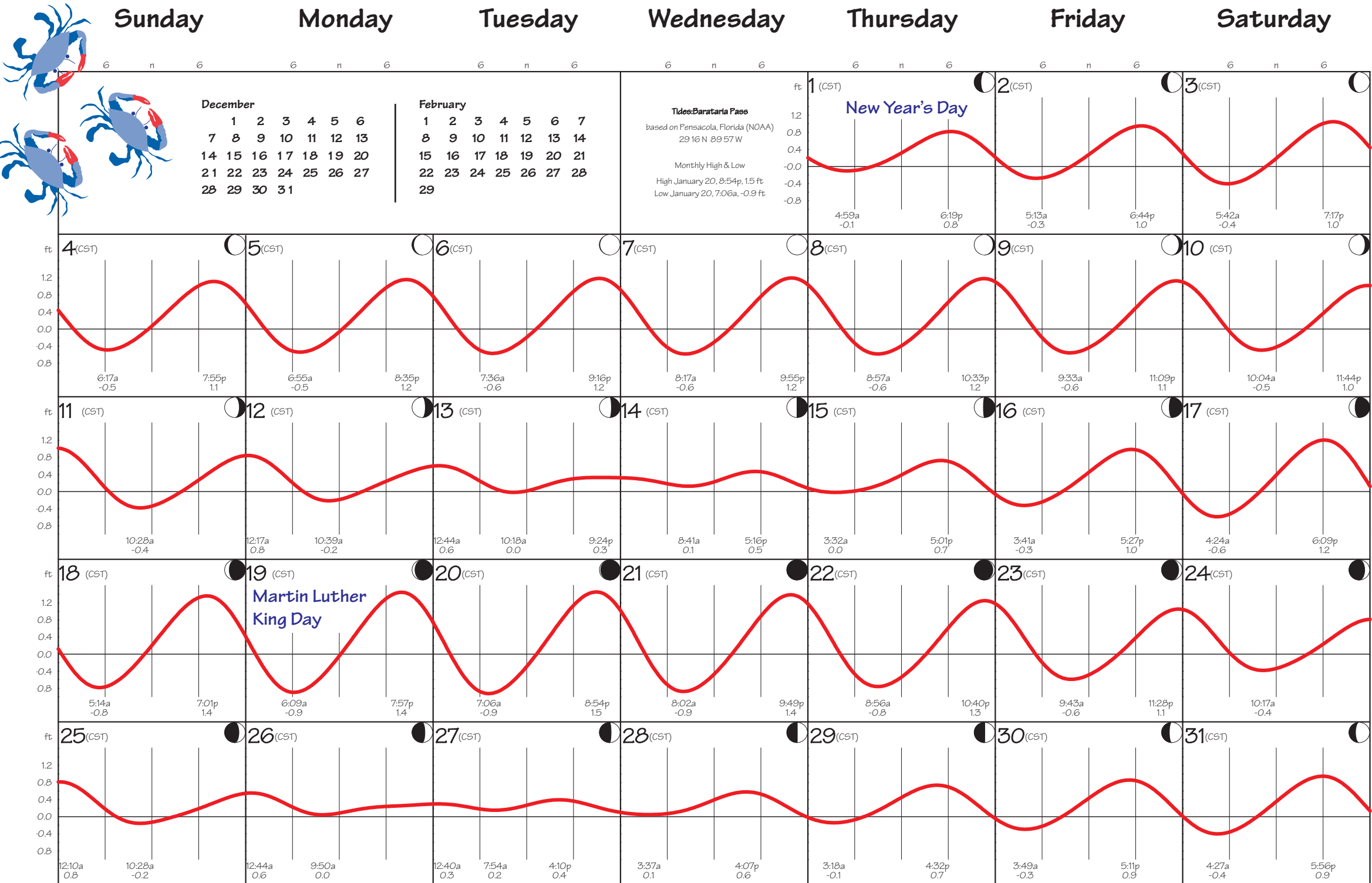
Louisiana's larger rivers (the Mississippi, Atchafalaya, Red, Black, Sabine, Ouachita, Mermentau, and Calcasieu) support both amazingly diverse fish populations and healthy recreational and commercial fisheries. Unfortunately, there have been only very limited efforts to document the nature and extent of these resources, and almost no efforts to enhance their utilization. LDWF Inland Fisheries biologists across the state have begun to address some of these questions with an extensive fish monitoring program.

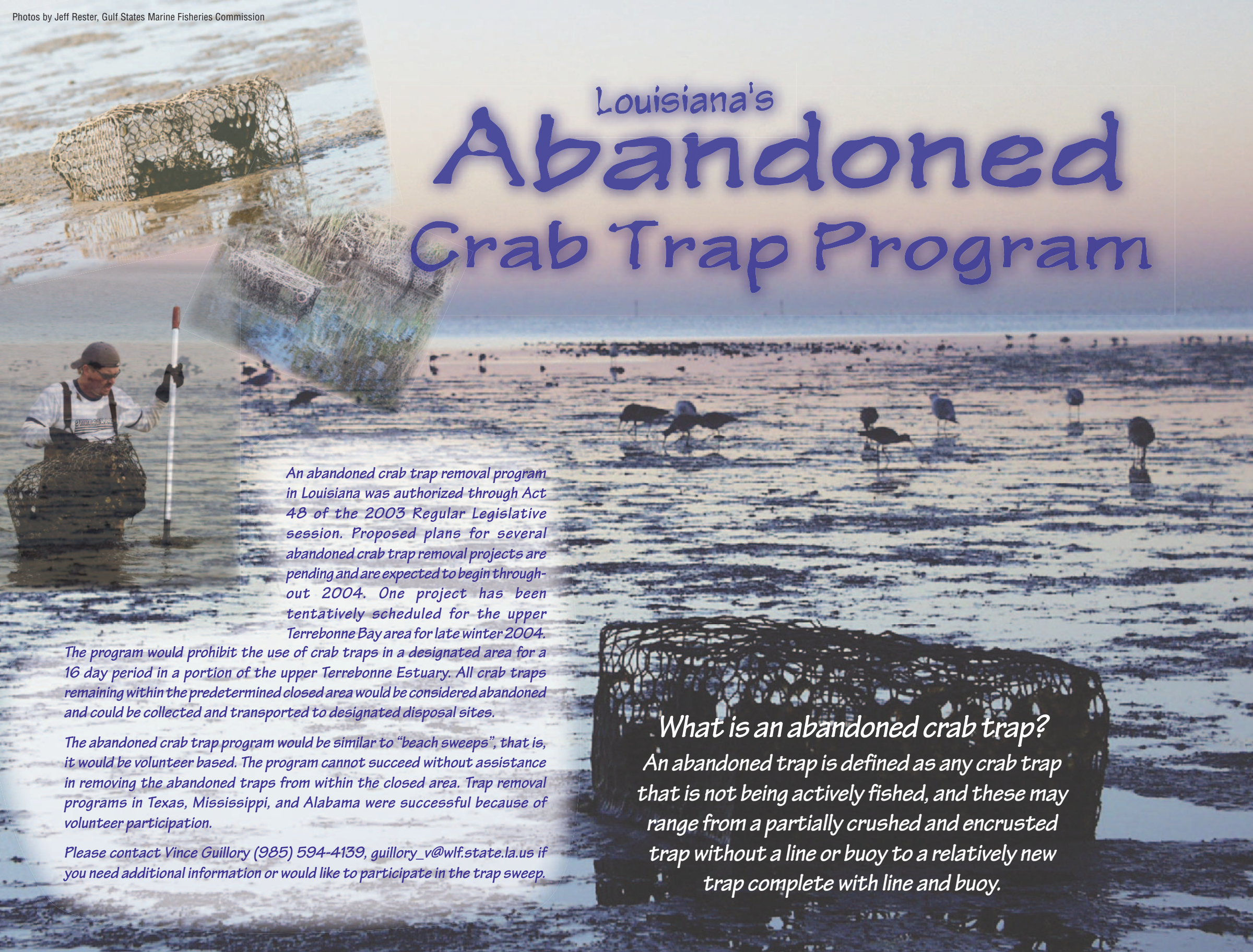
The information collected will be tremendously valuable for determining the health of our river systems. Data is being gathered on numbers and population structure of important recreational and commercial species (such as bass, crappie, catfish, buffalo, gar) and distribution and abundance of all

the other native species (such as the minnows and darters). Additionally, this work can define the routes used by invasive species (like the grass, bighead, and silver carps), and the distribution and status of unique, rare or endangered species (such as paddlefish and sturgeon).

The LDWF biologists have been very impressed both with the rivers' scenic values and with the impressive populations of fish. Eighty-four different species of fish were collected in just a few weeks time in just the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers! Catfish (blue, channel, and flathead) are extremely abundant. Invariably, there have been very few people out on these waters. If you are looking for a good fishing spot that is away from the crowds, you may want to consider one of the big rivers!

January 2004





Louisiana's Abandoned Crab Trap Program

An abandoned crab trap removal program in Louisiana was authorized through Act 48 of the 2003 Regular Legislative session. Proposed plans for several abandoned crab trap removal projects are pending and are expected to begin throughout 2004. One project has been tentatively scheduled for the upper Terrebonne Bay area for late winter 2004.

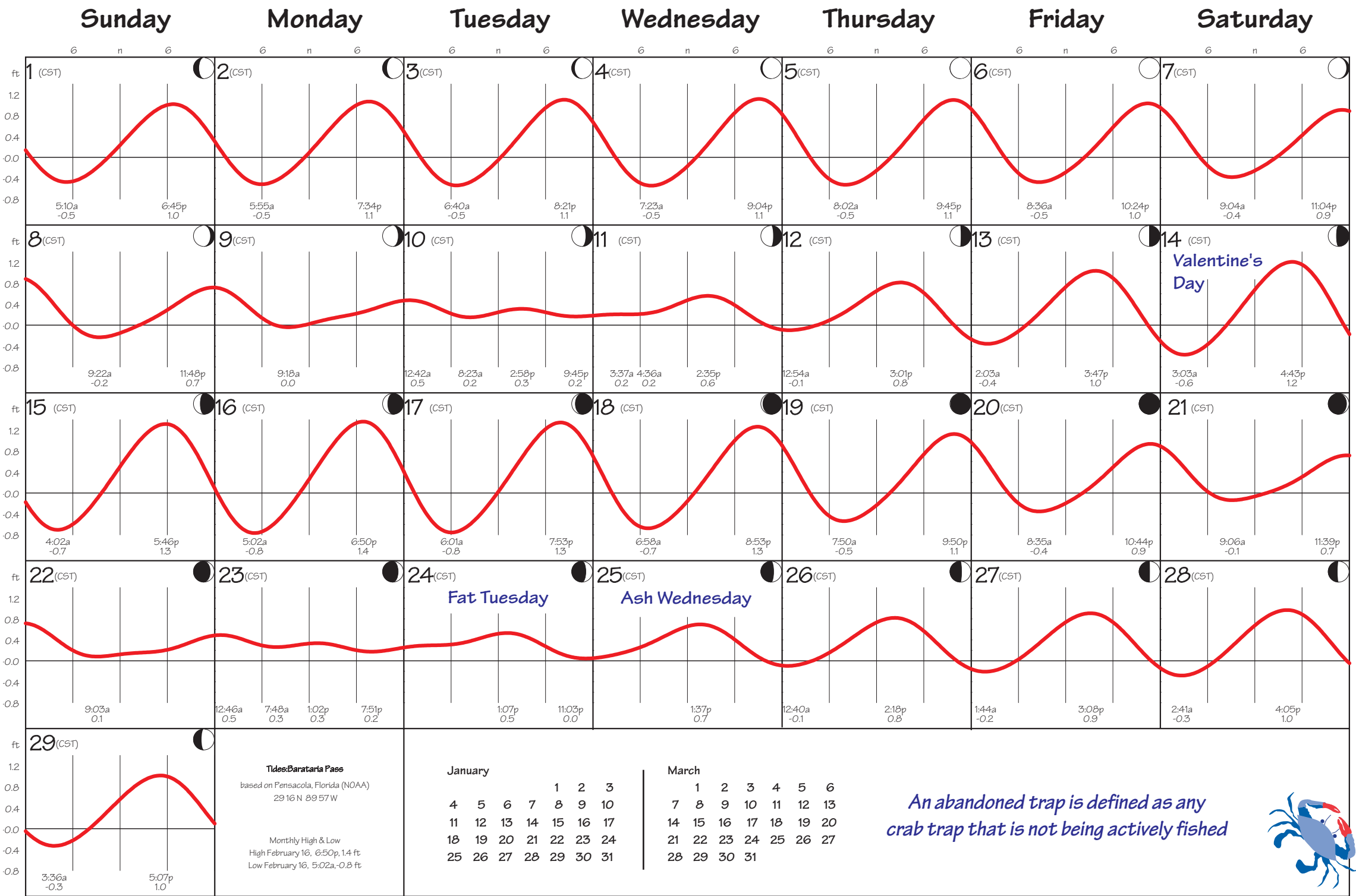
The program would prohibit the use of crab traps in a designated area for a 16 day period in a portion of the upper Terrebonne Estuary. All crab traps remaining within the predetermined closed area would be considered abandoned and could be collected and transported to designated disposal sites.

The abandoned crab trap program would be similar to "beach sweeps", that is, it would be volunteer based. The program cannot succeed without assistance in removing the abandoned traps from within the closed area. Trap removal programs in Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama were successful because of volunteer participation.

Please contact Vince Guillory (985) 594-4139, guillory_v@wlf.state.la.us if you need additional information or would like to participate in the trap sweep.

What is an abandoned crab trap?
An abandoned trap is defined as any crab trap that is not being actively fished, and these may range from a partially crushed and encrusted trap without a line or buoy to a relatively new trap complete with line and buoy.

FEBRUARY 2004



Salt Water Kills Salt Water Plants

WRONG

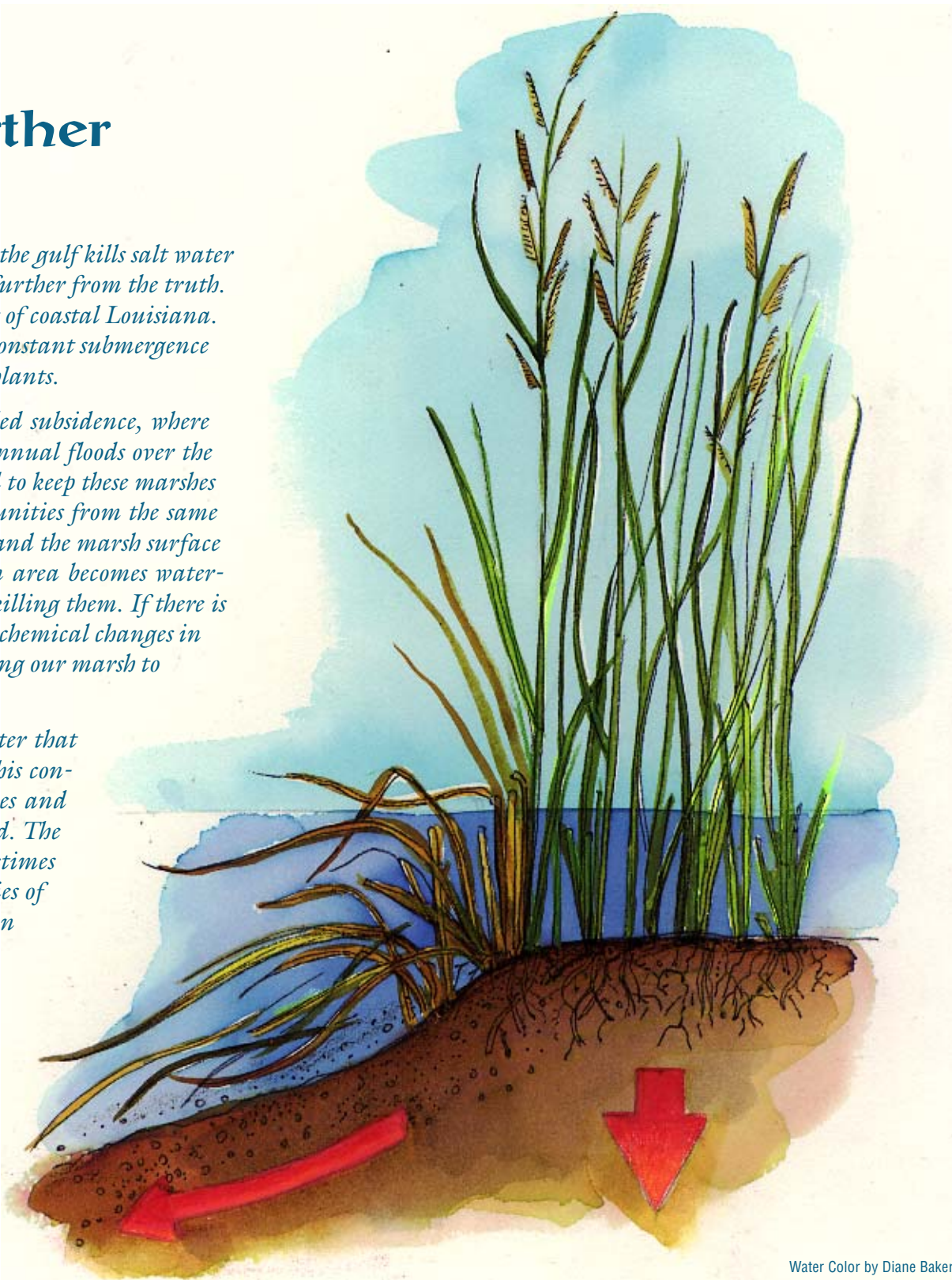
Nothing Could be Further From the Truth

It's a common misconception here in south Louisiana that salt water from the gulf kills salt water vegetation and as a result, leads to coastal wetland loss. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, salt water vegetation has adapted to live in the harsh environments of coastal Louisiana. It's not the salt water that kills the plants here in south Louisiana, it is the constant submergence of the root zone that kills plants i.e. continued subsidence of the land kills plants.

We know that coastal Louisiana is sinking through a complex process called subsidence, where marsh sediments compact and sink under their own weight. Historically, annual floods over the banks of the Mississippi River provided the freshwater and sediment needed to keep these marshes above water. Leveeing the river, which was necessary to protect our communities from the same flooding events, has eliminated these vital inputs. As subsidence continues and the marsh surface is continually flooded, the health of marsh plants is jeopardized. Once an area becomes water-logged, the soil chemistry changes in ways that stress the plants, eventually killing them. If there is enough sediment and drainage, waterlogging is avoided, and the harmful chemical changes in the soil do not occur. But all too often this process is one way - and that is losing our marsh to shallow open water environments.

Did you know that some species of marsh grasses are so tolerant of salt water that they have been known to live in up to 60 parts per thousand of salinity? This concentration is much higher than that found in Louisiana's coastal marshes and higher than full strength seawater, which is typically 35 parts per thousand. The most common salt water plant, smooth cordgrass, or oyster grass as it is sometimes called, is very tolerant of high salinity concentrations. Other common species of salt-water vegetation found in Louisiana are similar to smooth cordgrass in their ability to tolerate high salinity concentrations including salt grass and marsh-bay cordgrass.

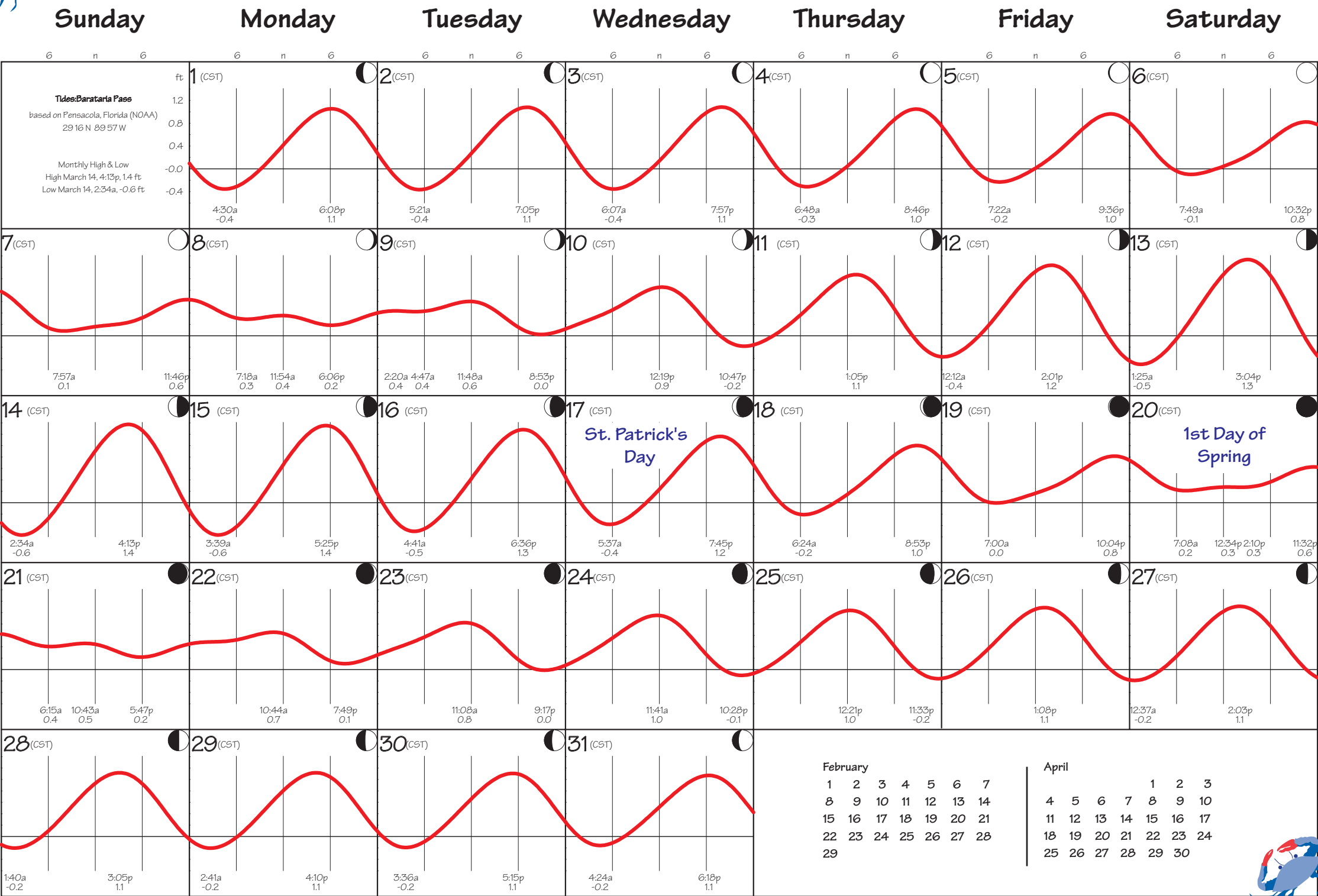
While salt water has been known to kill freshwater plants like cypress trees, bull tongue, wild celery, and others, these events are typically associated with the construction of navigation channels that allow salt water to travel into the interior coastal wetlands of Louisiana, as a result of hurricane force winds driving salt water high into the estuary, or because of land subsidence that allows salt water to penetrate farther northward. Freshwater vegetation has little tolerance for salt water, and huge areas of bald cypress/water tupelo swamp and freshwater marsh habitats have been severely affected as a result.



Water Color by Diane Baker



March 2004



False River

FALSE RIVER IS LOCATED IN POINTE COUPEE PARISH

and was once a great loop of the Mississippi River. In 1699 Native Americans showed the French explorers Iberville and Bienville a shallow passage through the swamp, saving more than 20 miles around the meander. By 1722 floodwaters had eroded this narrow channel and the river switched courses, creating the Pointe Coupee or “cut point”. Eventually, river sediment filled the upper and lower ends of the abandoned channel, forming a horseshoe shaped lake, Faussee Riviere, the southernmost oxbow on the Mississippi River.

False River is a half mile wide and ten miles long. When Europeans arrived the highest ground on the natural levee was a forest of live oak, water oak, red gum, and pecan. Two to three miles from the river and lower in elevation the backswamp included bald cypress, tupelo gum, and palmetto. Today, the natural levees have been cleared of forest, first for plantations and now for commercial development.

Several plantations, such as Parlange (c. 1750) and Austerlitz (c. 1832), are reminders of a lifestyle long past and sugar cane still dominates the local agriculture. At the north end of False River is New Roads (1822) founded at the terminus of a “new road” connecting to the Mississippi River.

Because of its size (2,912 acres) and location only 25 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, False River is a very popular recreation destination. Water related activities such as boating, skiing, and fishing are popular year around. Launches, such as Bonaventure’s Boat Landing on the south shore, public facilities in New Roads, and small ramps, are scattered along “The Island” and outside shoreline. It is said that a bass tournament can be found somewhere on the lake on any given week. On summer weekends and three-day holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day, False River hosts many recreational boats, jet skies, party barges, and bateaus. State highways parallel the shoreline, LA 1 on the outside of the bend and LA 413 on the opposite bank, locally called “The Island” side. Fishermen have always been attracted to the lake in search of largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead, blue, and channel catfish, and sac-a-lait. As a result, camps crowd the shoreline, in particular on “The Island”. Beginning in the 1970s, more and more people moved to the lake and built permanent homes, electing to commute the 50 minutes to work in Baton Rouge or in the plants along the River. Today, half-million dollar homes are not uncommon. - Rod Emmer

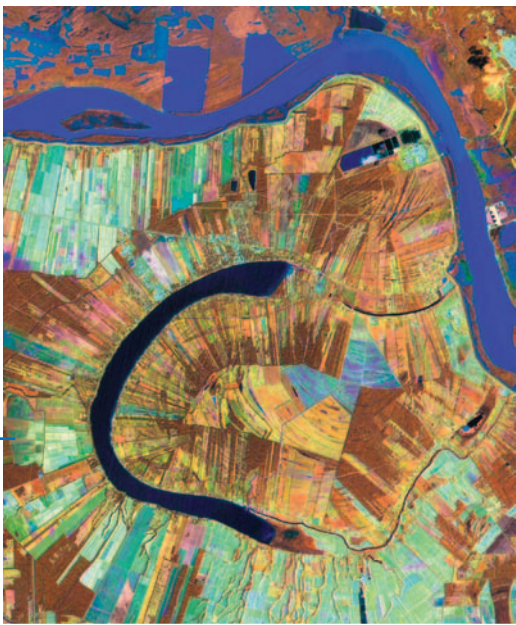


Image from LA DEQ, GIS Center



Photo by Mary Denny



Photo by Mary Denny



Photo by Joshua Holder



April 2004

Sunday

Monday

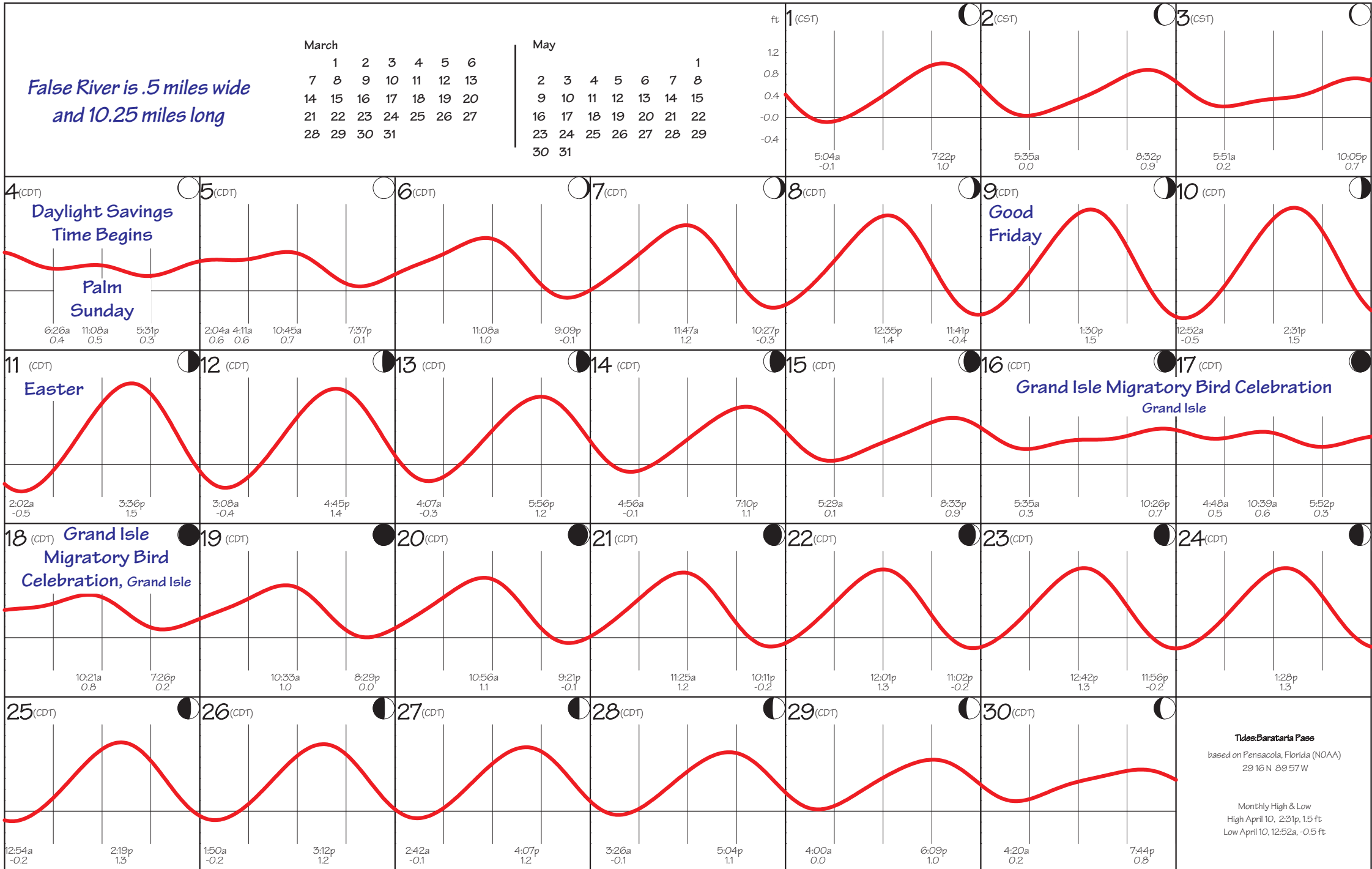
Tuesday

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Saturday





COASTAL LOUISIANA'S FAVORITE

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary supports one of the largest shrimp fisheries in North America. According to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries landings statistics, commercial shrimp landings within the Barataria and Terrebonne basins totaled about 42.6 million pounds (heads-on weight) in 2002. In addition to the economic benefit generated through dockside and value-added product sales of shrimp harvested within the estuary, the estuary provides many recreational shrimpers and their families a source of shrimp for stocking freezers for summer and early fall backyard seafood boils.

The warm and nutrient-rich waters of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary serve as critical habitat in the early development of juvenile shrimp species. Following hatching in offshore waters, early stage shrimp larvae undergo a series of larval stages before entering the estuary as post-larvae. Lacking much swimming ability, these post-larvae are largely

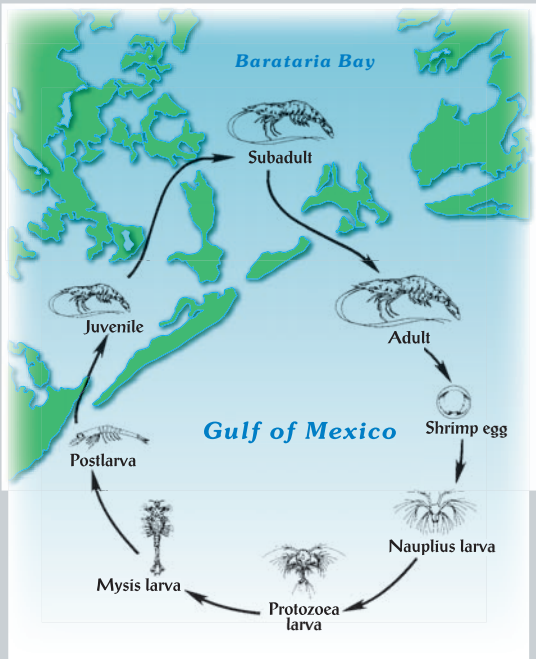
dependent on wind and tidal driven currents and tides as a means of transport into the estuary. Once recruited into the marshes, post-larval growth and development into juvenile shrimp is rapid under a wide range of salinities. As growth and development progresses, juveniles next begin to move from shallow marshes, bays, and bayous into the lower bays where staging may occur. Staging refers to that period of time shrimp spend in the lower bays before migrating into offshore waters. Because of barrier island land loss brought about by coastal erosion, many coastal bays largely remain open to the gulf, and staging periods may be brief lasting just a few days before migration into deeper offshore waters begins. Migrations into offshore waters are generally triggered by high tidal ranges associated with lunar cycles or in response to sudden changes in weather such as cold fronts, heavy rainfall events, and storms. Once the shrimp migrate offshore, growth continues as they mature into adults, spawn, and complete their life cycle.

"PUTS" ROBICHAUX'S SHRIMP REMOULADE

- 4 T. horseradish mustard
- 1/4 c. tarragon vinegar
- 2 T. tomato catsup
- 1 T. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. capers, finely minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 clove garlic, seived
- 1/2 c. celery, finely minced
- 1/2 c. green onions & tops, minced
- 1 c. salad oil

In a bowl, mix: oil, mustard, vinegar, salt, pepper, paprika, tomato catsup and seived garlic. Beat well. Add remining ingrediantis. Mix well. Pour over cold boiled shrimp. Marinate 4-5 hours.

DR. MIKE ROBICHAUX
RACELAND, LOUISIANA

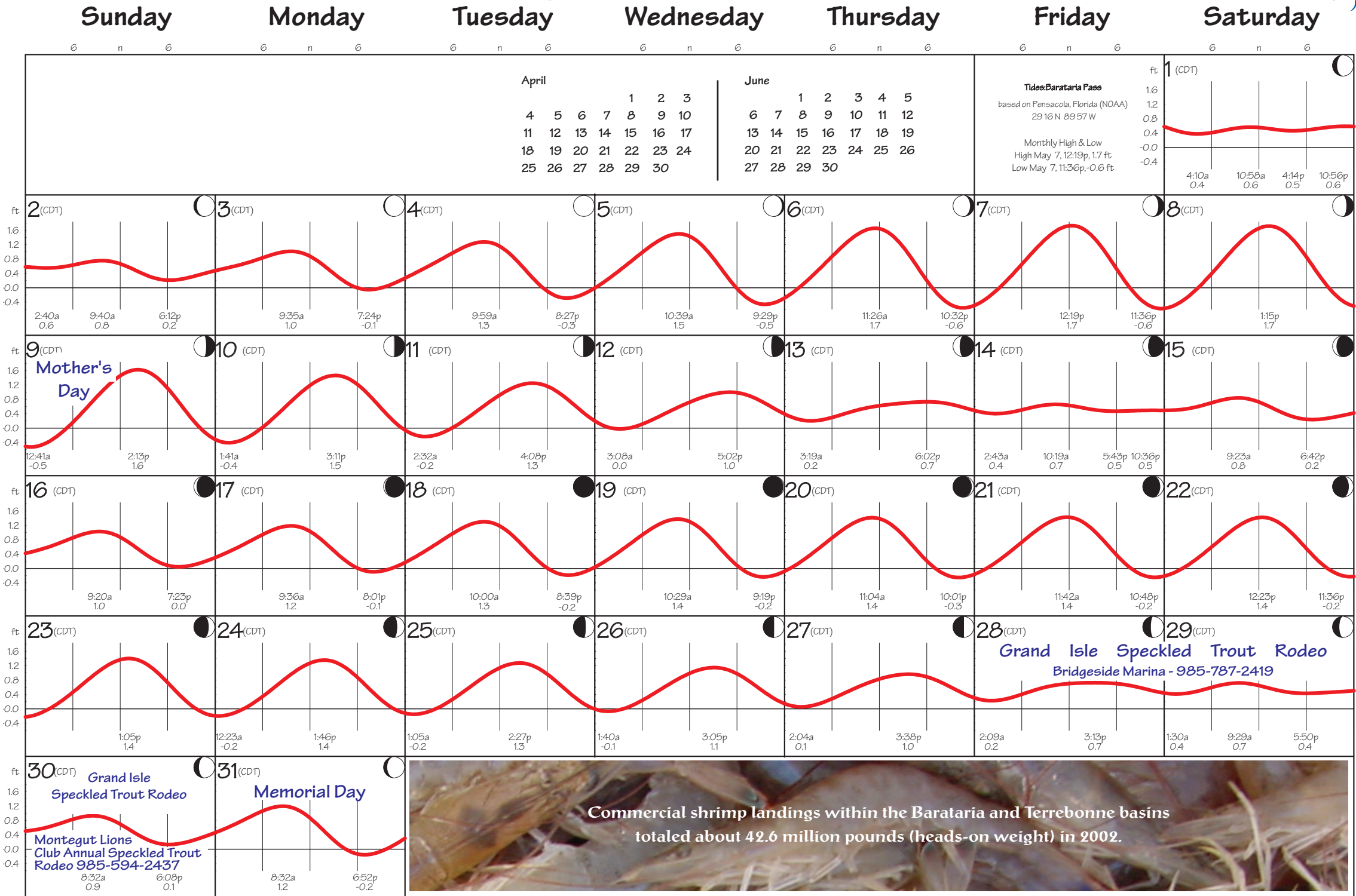
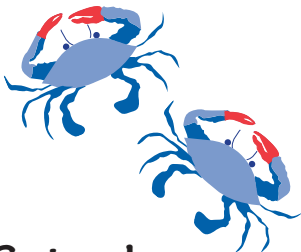


Shrimp Life Cycle



Photo by Dianne Lindstedt

May 2004





Crawfishing

in the Atchafalaya Basin

The crawfish is by a 1983 act the official state crustacean.

Thirty crawfish species are found in Louisiana where they occupy a niche in the ecosystem as a detritivore, a voracious and indiscriminate eater of decomposing vegetation and associated microbes. By converting organic matter into meat, the crawfish in turn becomes a meal for fish, birds, and mammals such as raccoons and humans.

Nationally, over 100,000,000 pounds of crawfish are harvested annually. Louisiana swamps, marshes and artificial ponds produce 80-90% of this amount. Normally, crawfish become extremely abundant in April and May and gradually decline in quantity and quality into the summer months.

Commercial operators who fish the natural crop from the deeper waters use specially designed traps. The most common is the "pillow" type that lies horizontally on the bottom and is completely submerged. Between one-quarter and one-half pound of rough fish are placed in each trap as bait.

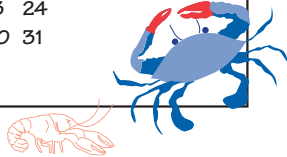
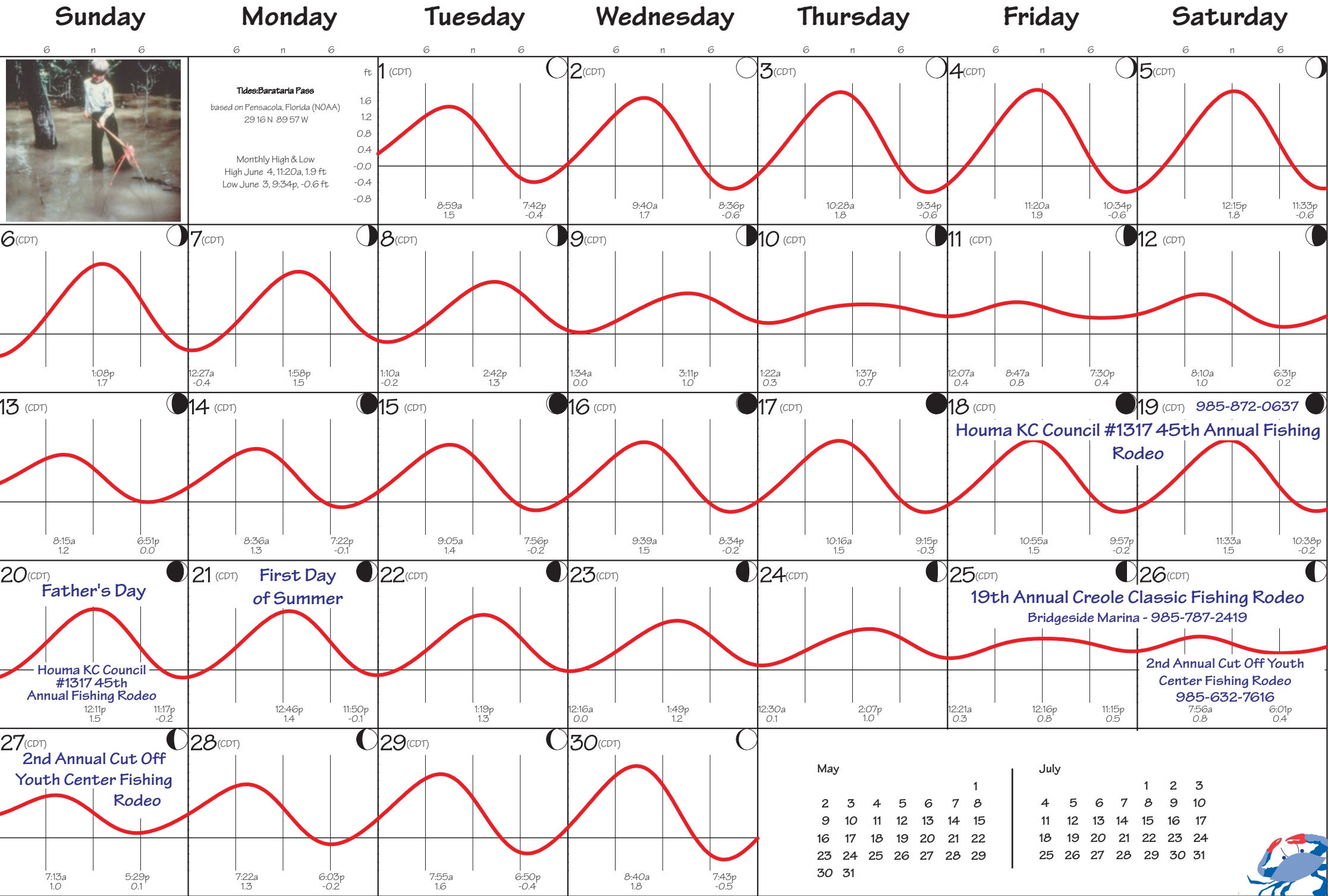
The number of traps the average fisherman tends in 24 hours ranges up to 200, although very aggressive operators are reported to run many more. Most fishermen work from custom made flat-bottomed aluminum boats with a pointed bow. As the traps are retrieved, the crawfish are dumped onto tables and sorted. Those kept are placed in a plastic mesh sacks to a maximum weight of 35 pounds.

Recreational or sport crawfishing in the basin is significantly less than commercial operations. The most frequent shape for a recreational net is square with an "A" wire frame tied to opposite corners and intertwined at the apex. Bait is tied in the center and the net lower into shallow water. Poles with a hook or nail are used to lift the nets at regular intervals. - Rod Emmer

Acadian folklore traces the origin of the Louisiana crawfish to Nova Scotia and its closely related look-a-like, the lobster. It is said that when the Acadians were uprooted during Le Grand Dérangement, the lobsters became so lonely they began an exodus of their own, marching south, searching the bays and estuaries until the exhausted and emaciated lobster finally found the Acadians in south Louisiana in the late 1760s. In fact, by journey's end the lobsters had shrunk so much in size that the Acadians did not at first recognize their old friends.



June 2004



Blessing of the Fleet

Since before recorded history, people have asked for divine intervention for loved ones facing dangers and uncertainties on the open seas, for a bountiful catch, and for the security of the those they leave. Returning with a successful harvest affects more than just the fisherman and his family. Supporting the fisherman are the net maker, marine supplier, and shrimp / fish processing plant and workers and the economic stability of the community as a whole. The French from the old world and the Acadians from Nova Scotia brought their customs with them when they settled in coastal Louisiana. Today, this ritual is manifest in the "blessing of the fleet" before the fisherman and shrimpers begin another perilous season.

-Rod Emmer



Photos from the D.W. Davis Collection

July 2004

Sunday

Monday

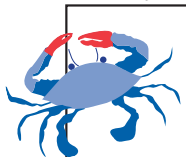
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June

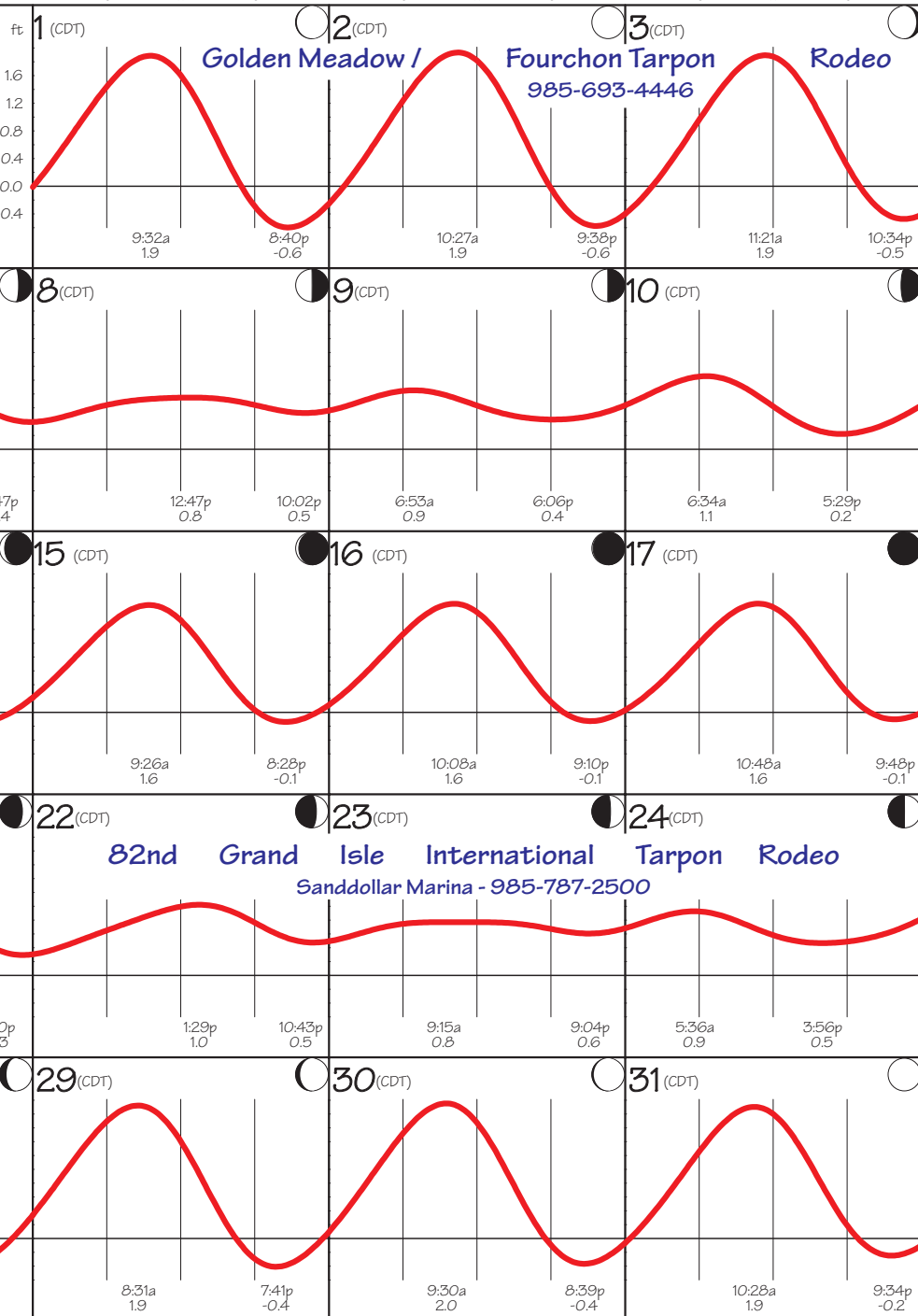
1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

August

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

Tides: Barataria Pass
based on Pensacola, Florida (NOAA)
29 16 N 89 57 W

Monthly High & Low
High July 30, 9:30a, 2.0 ft
Low July 1, 8:40p, -0.6 ft



Restoration Report

Photos by T. Baker Smith & Son



Photos by the NRCS

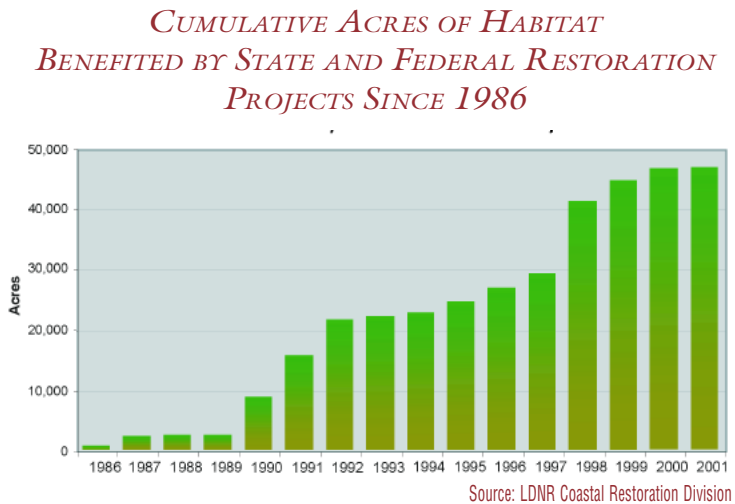
The region we call home is disappearing into the Gulf of Mexico. The enormous expanse of coastal marsh in the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System—which provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife and protects us from storm surges and hurricanes—is rapidly deteriorating. Massive conversion of wetlands to open water and the erosion of our barrier islands, is something most fishermen, oystermen, duck hunters, and trappers have seen over the years. Scientists are able to analyze historical photographs and satellite images of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary System to determine changes caused by land loss over the last fifty years. This analysis tells us

that the Barataria-Terrebonne basins alone lost more than 700 square miles of wetland and associated upland ridges between 1950 and 2000. These coastal marsh habitats are critical to the health of fish and wildlife populations, and provide a considerable buffer from flooding, storms, and hurricanes that periodically threaten homes, businesses, and oil and gas production infrastructure.

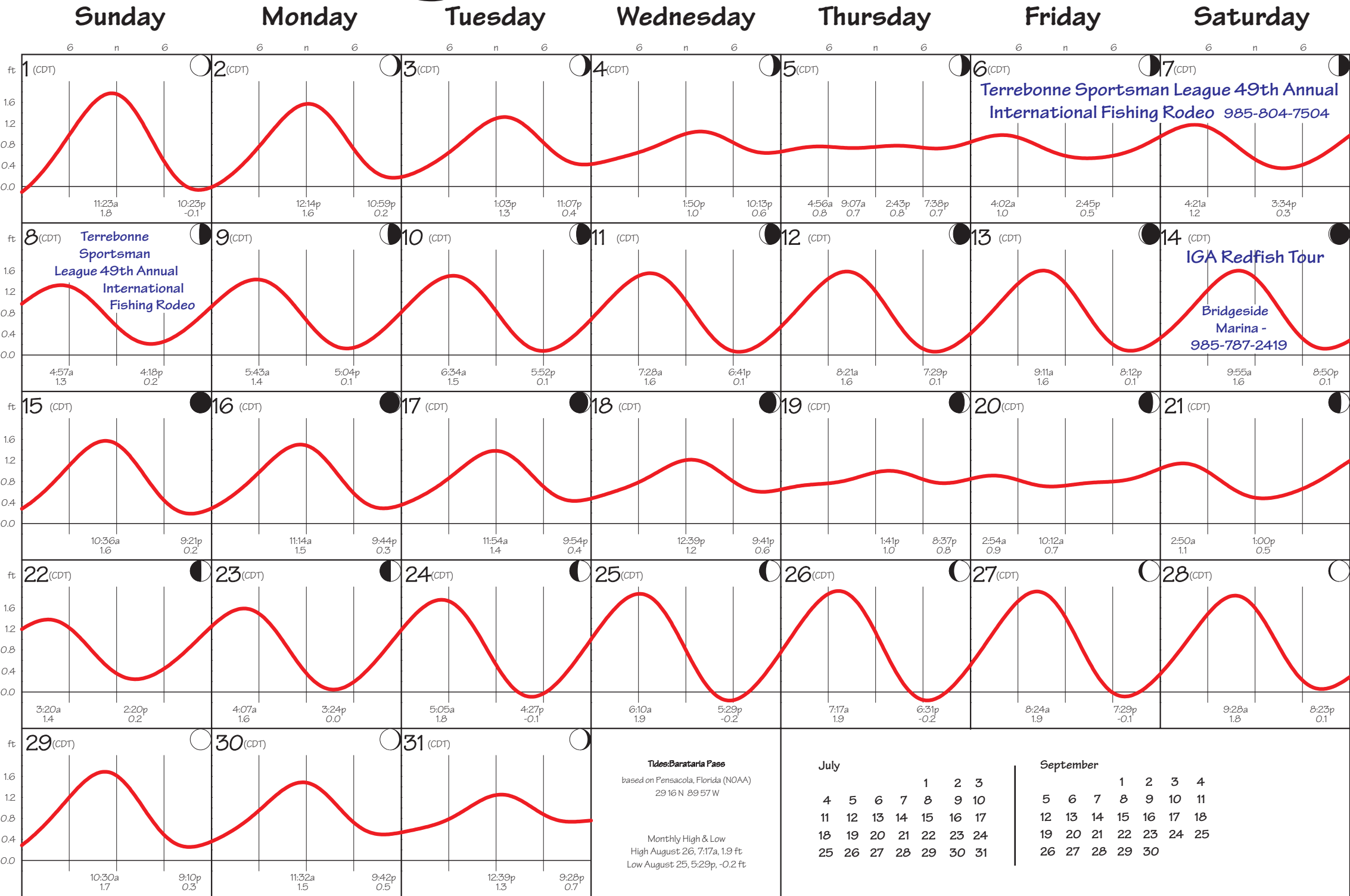
Several state and federal programs are countering habitat loss by investing in large-scale habitat restoration activities. In the past 15 years, nearly 50,000 acres have benefited from local, state, and federal habitat restoration programs within the Barataria-Terrebonne

Estuary System. Most of these projects focus on habitats with high rates of loss, such as the barrier islands, interior marshes, bays, and bayou shorelines in Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne Parishes.

Natural resource managers in Louisiana have gone to great lengths to make information on habitat restoration available to the public. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) has a database of approved federal, state and non-federal restoration projects available on the Internet, along with associated scientific monitoring data. Anyone interested in discovering more about the restoration projects occurring in their parish can visit www.savelawetlands.org/site/alphabet.html. An interactive map at this site will allow you to view details about restoration projects in your community.



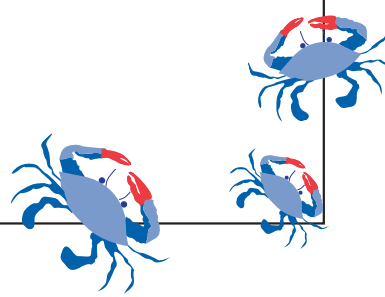
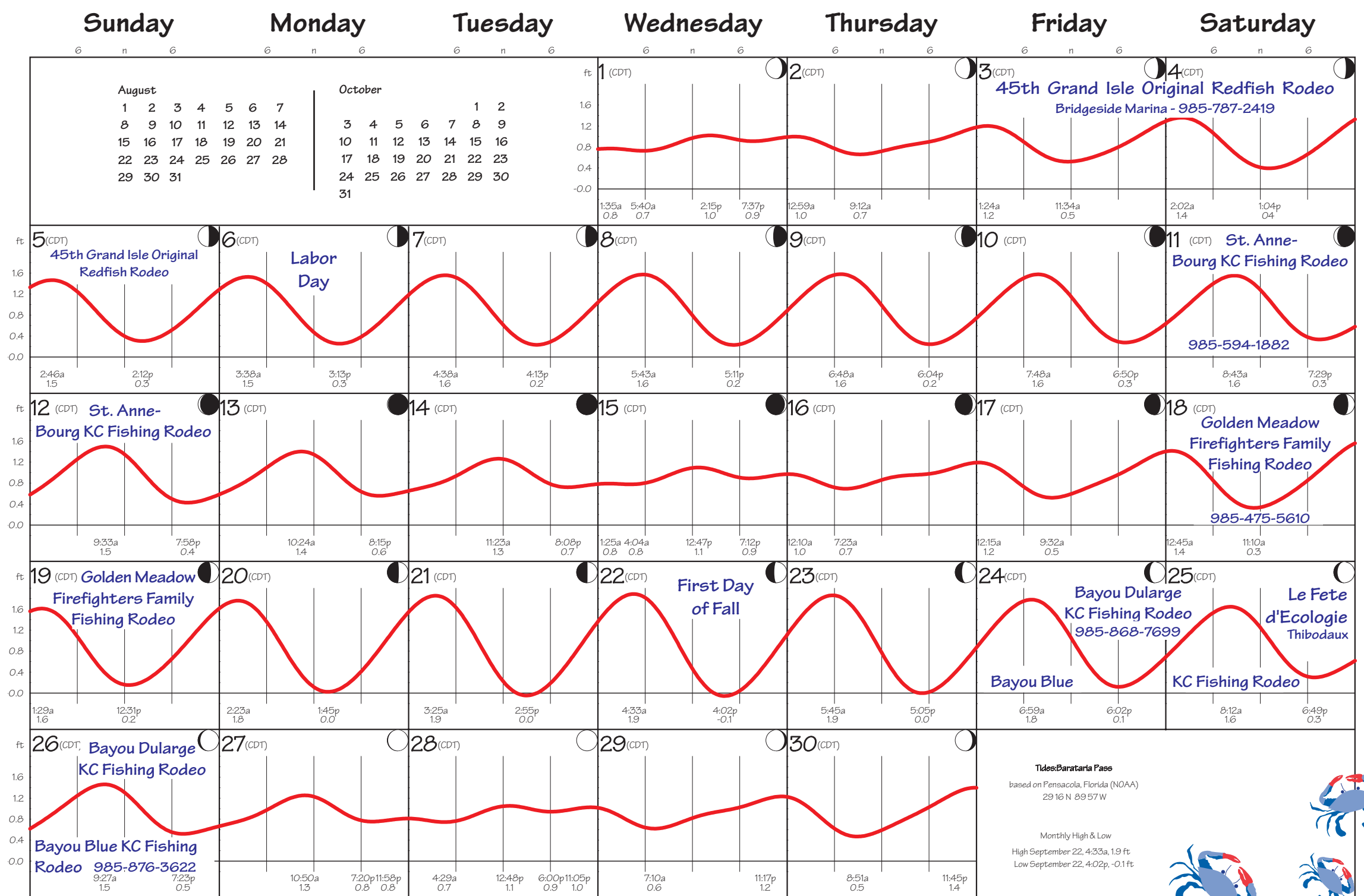
August 2004



The closing of Bayou Lafourche prevented freshwater from reaching the marshes in the southern Barataria and Terrebonne basins. Now, the Barataria and Terrebonne basins are experiencing the most severe coastal land loss rates in the state. Problems with drinking water supplies such as saltwater intrusion are also increasing. Reactivating Bayou Lafourche as a distributary of the Mississippi River could be a readily available means for increasing freshwater supplies for consumption and for coastal restoration by reintroducing freshwater into areas that were historically connected to freshwater flows of the river.

For more information on this project, its history, its current status, and a listing of project outreach events, please visit our project website, www.bayoulafourche.org. This website is a joint effort of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Restoration Division, and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program.

September 2004



Hydrilla

Water Hyacinth

Zebra Mussel

Salvinia

Chinese Tallow

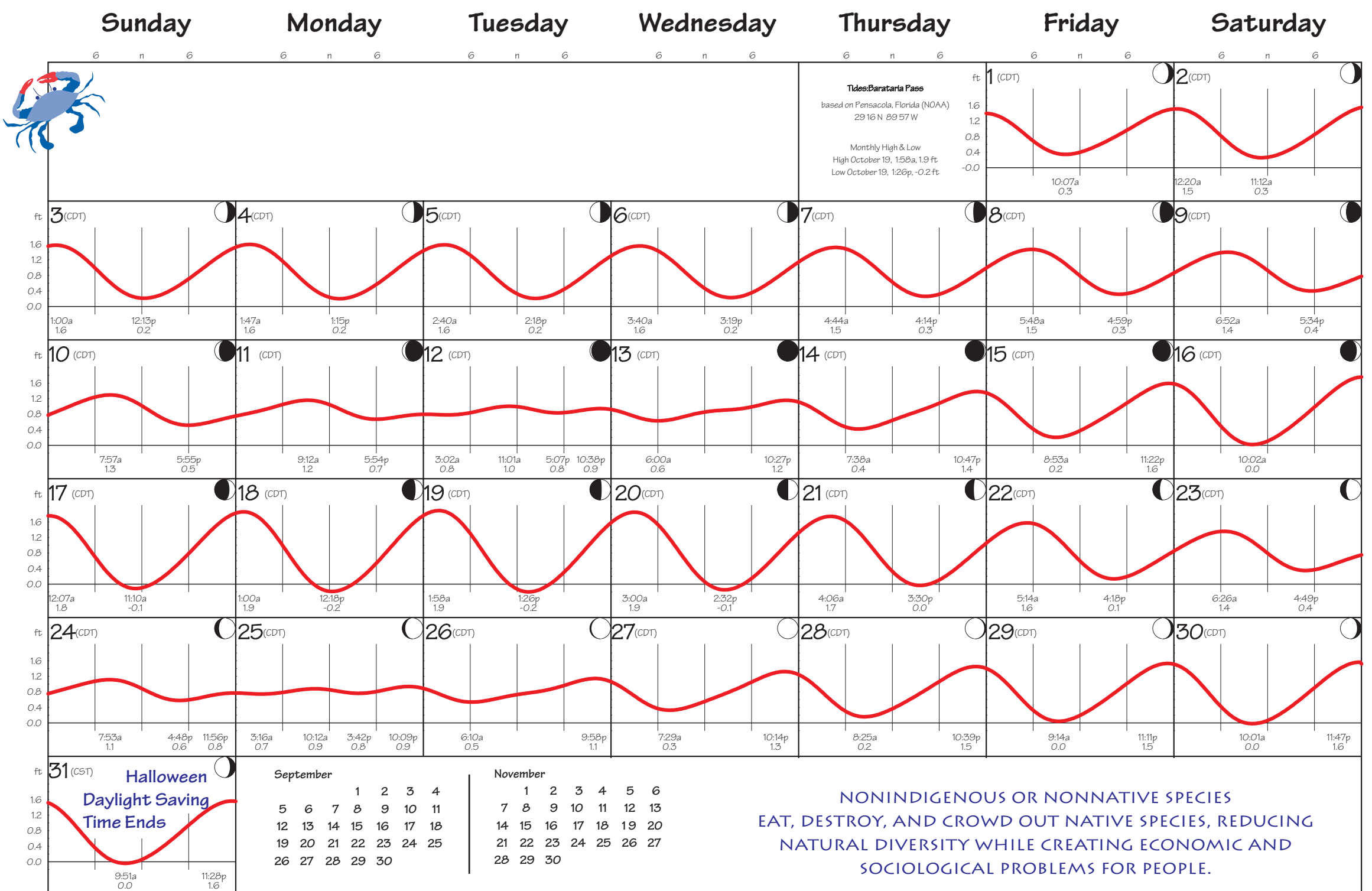
Nutria

Photos by Louisiana Sea Grant

Once an invasive species begins to reproduce, it is almost impossible to eradicate, but everyone can prevent introductions. Those in the plant and aquarium, aquaculture, and baitfish production trades can contain nonindigenous species and dispose of them carefully, teaching their customers, hobbyists, and collectors proper disposal methods. Sportsmen can clean off boats and trailers at the ramp after use to avoid transporting a plant segment or animal larvae to another waterbody. Those involved in transportation and commerce can incorporate inspection and disposal control methods into operations to avoid importing nonindigenous species accidentally.

WWW.BTNEP.ORG

October 2004



Tidal data by Tides & Currents for Windows™ by Nobeltec Corporation. (503) 579-1414 • www.tides.com



Photos by Brian Sauzier



Recreational Size and Limits

Salt Water

Species

- Speckled Trout 12" Min. (TL) • 25 Daily
- Redfish 16" Min. (TL); 1 Over 27" • 5 Daily
- Black Drum 16" Min. (TL); 1 Over 27" • 5 Daily
- Southern Flounder No Size Limit • 10 Daily
- Amberjack State and Fed. Reg. - 28" Min (FL) • 1 Daily
- Cobia (Ling or Lemon) State and Fed. Reg. - 33" Min (FL) • 2 Daily
- King Mackerel State and Fed. Reg. - 24" Min (FL) • 2 Daily
- Spanish Mackerel State and Fed. Reg. - 12" Min (FL) • 15 Daily
- Red Snapper State and Fed. Reg. - 16" Min (TL) • 4 Daily

Fresh Water

Species

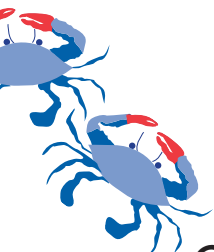
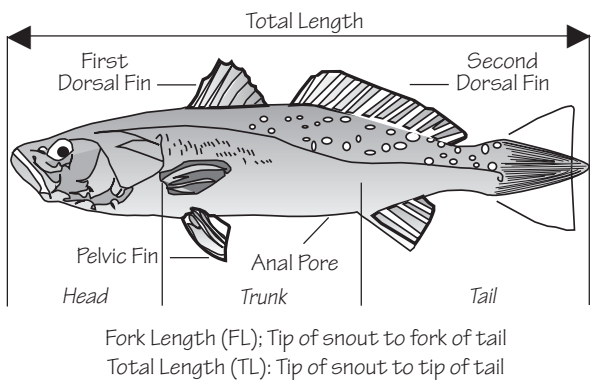
- Black Bass (Largemouth) No Size Limit • 10 Daily
- Black Bass (Largemouth) Atchafalaya Basin, Lake Verret-Palourde Area 14" Minimum (TL) • 10 Daily
- Crappie (Sac-a-lait) No Limit • 50 Daily
- Striped or Hybrid Striped Bass No Limit; 2 over 30" (TL) • 5 Daily
- White Bass No Limit • 50 Daily
- Yellow Bass No Limit • 50 Daily
- Channel Catfish 25 less than 11" (TL) • 100 Total
- Blue Catfish 25 less than 12" (TL) • 100 Total
- Flathead (Spotted, Yellow, Opelousas) Catfish 25 less than 14" TL • 100 Total
- Freshwater Drum (Gaspergou) 25 less than 12" (TL) • No Limit Over 12"



Photo by Russell Talbot



Photo by Richard DelMay



November 2004

Sunday

Monday

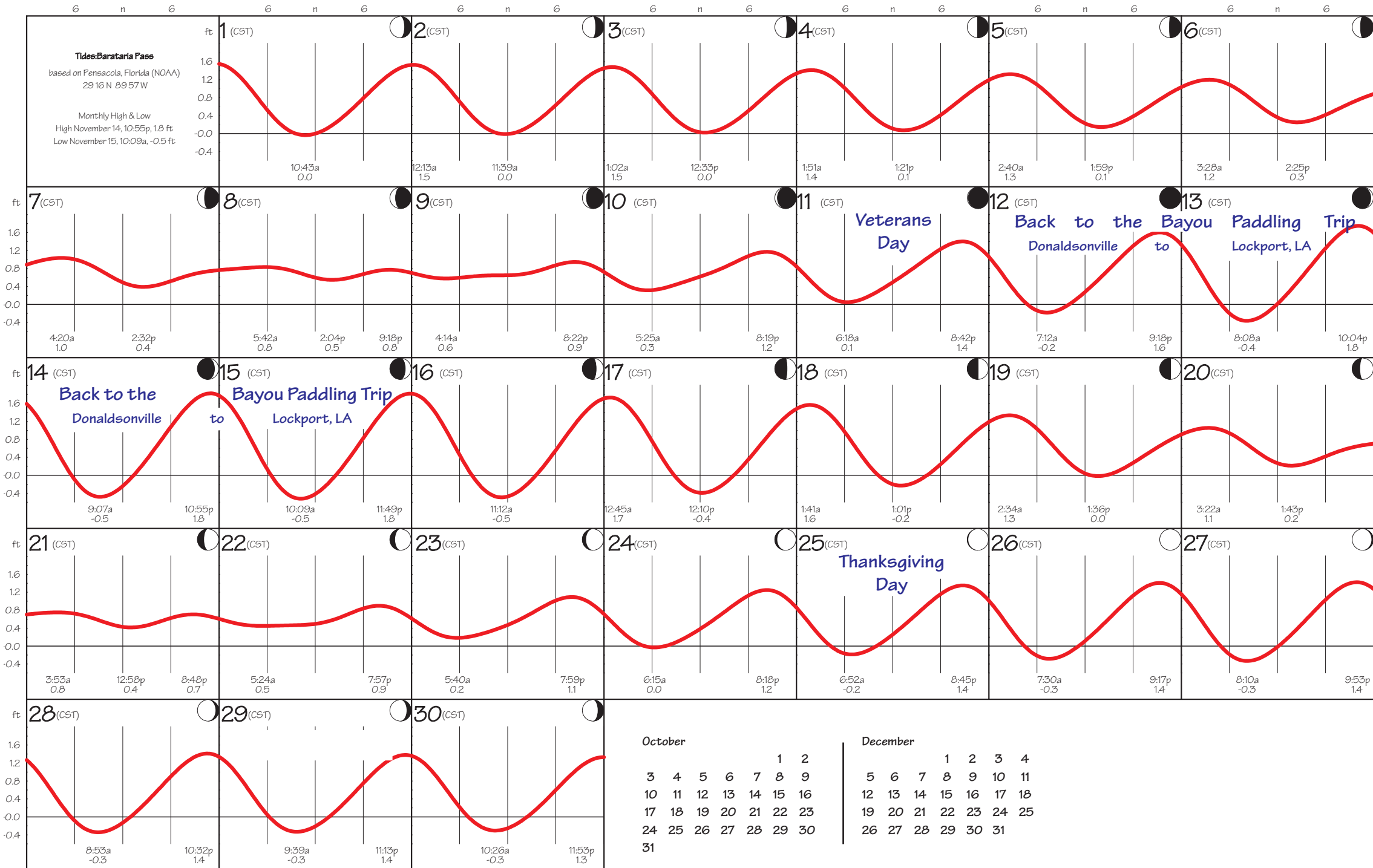
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Keep it 'above board'

Each person's
small efforts
add up to a
BIG DIFFERENCE
for fish habitat!

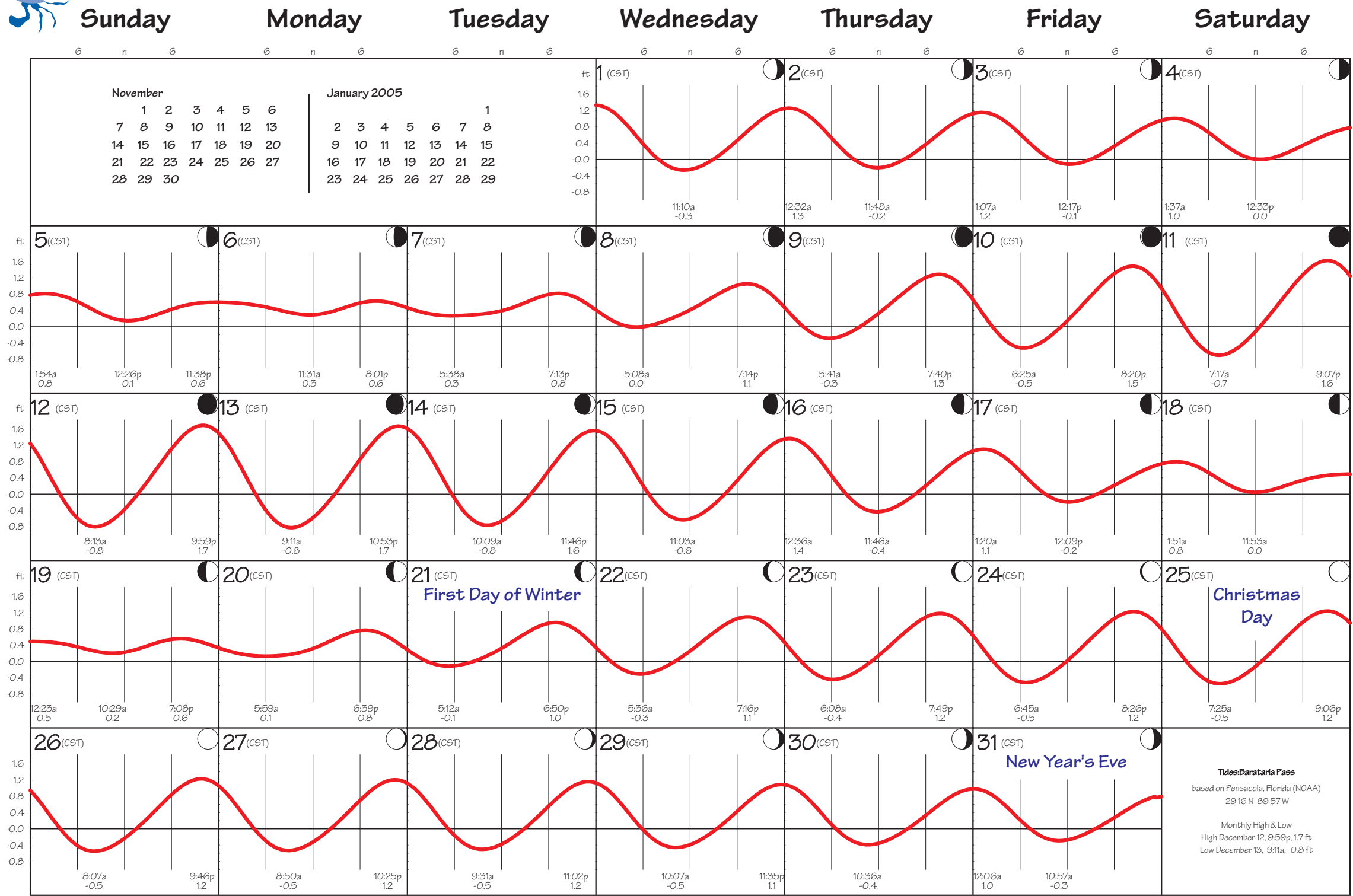


- Recycle used oil and filters, batteries and antifreeze;
- Keep trash from blowing overboard; Use shore based restrooms and pumpout facilities;
- Use oil absorbent materials in your bilge and for spill cleanup;
- Keep detergents and bilge cleansers out of the water;
- Whenever possible, do repairs and painting away from the water;
- Avoid boating in shallow waters, especially those with submerged vegetation;

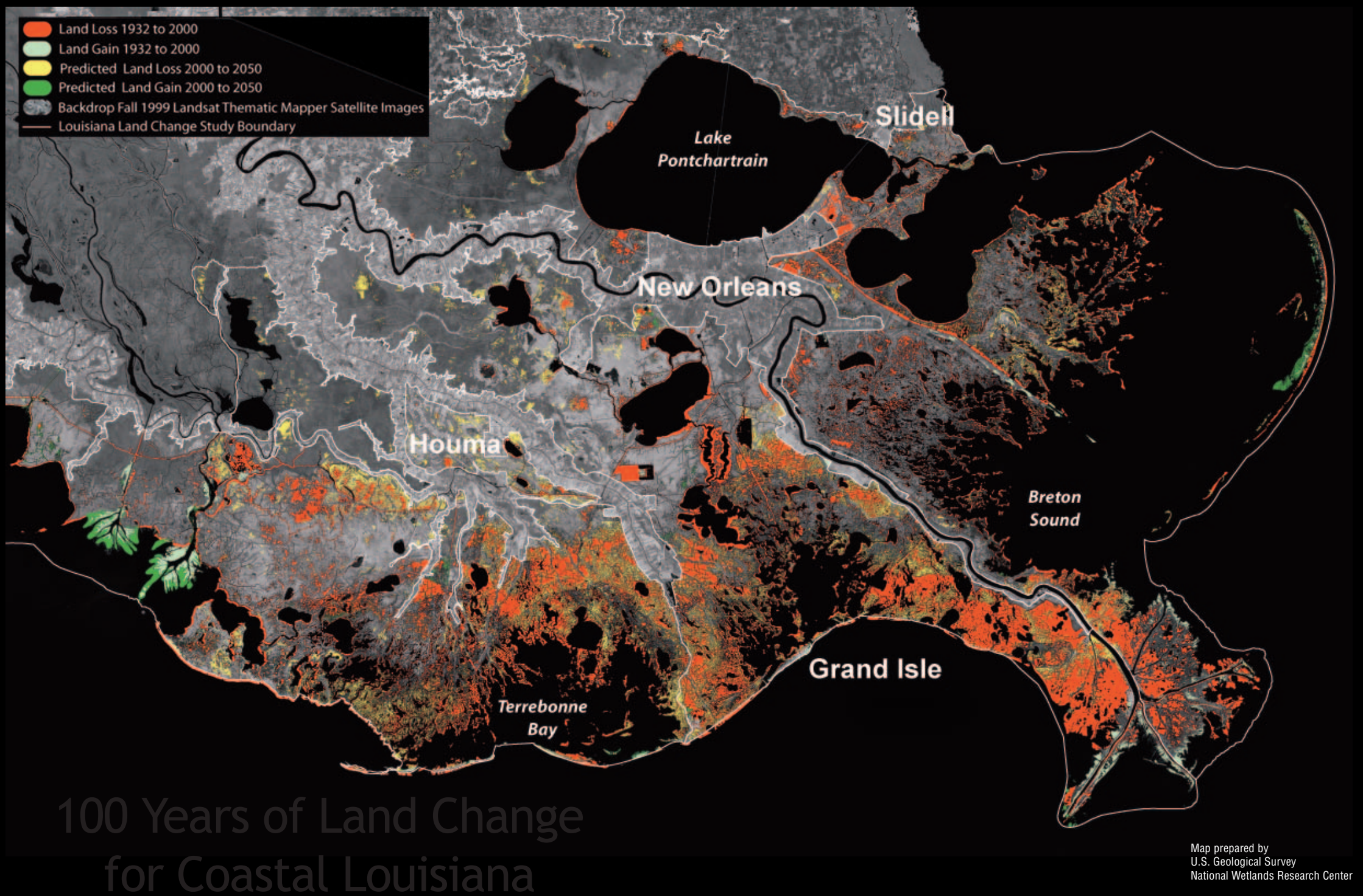
Please don't throw your trash overboard
It takes a long time for trash to "disappear" from the deep!

Ala. Marine Resources Division

December 2004



Tidal data by Tides & Currents for Windows™ by Nobeltec Corporation. (503) 579-1414 • www.tides.com



Louisiana's Biggest Environmental Problem

As all who are familiar with coastal Louisiana know, we are on the losing end in our efforts to combat coastal wetland loss. This is evident to any fishermen - both recreational and commercial, hunters, bird watchers, beach combers, and especially those folks who live close to the coast. And it is easily made evident to anyone who views and understands this map.

Recent efforts have been completed to assess the magnitude of coastal land loss in Louisiana. Based on the available information, Louisiana has lost an estimated 1,900 square miles of coastal land between 1932 and 2000, roughly an area the size of the state of Delaware. Additionally, the best scientific estimates that are presented in the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Land Loss Report indicate that the Louisiana coast will lose an additional 700 square miles by the year 2050.

The area currently undergoing the greatest wetland loss is the Barataria and Terrebonne basins - the area essentially between the Atchafalaya and Mississippi rivers. From 1956 to 1978, Barataria-Terrebonne accounted for 43 percent of Louisiana's coastal wetland loss. From 1978 to 1990, this

area experienced 61 percent of the state's loss and from 1990 to 2000, it was 66 percent. The LCA report predicts the area's percentage of loss to be as much as 80 percent from 2000 to 2050 if no new restoration occurs. If these predictions are correct, this means that the Barataria-Terrebonne area would lose an additional 560 square miles of coastal habitats.

These coastal habitats are economically, ecologically, and culturally important not only to the residents who reside here and the folks who visit, but they are also valuable to the Nation. If these losses continue, the impacts on human populations, oil and gas infrastructure, fisheries and the seafood industry, and wildlife will be unimaginable.

It is your responsibility to become educated about these issues and inform your elected officials about your thoughts. Many informative products have been developed that address Louisiana's biggest environmental problem, including brochures, reports, videos, maps, cd's, etc. For more information or to find out how to receive these products, visit the Web sites below.

www.lacoast.gov

www.savelawetlands.org

www.btnep.org

www.crcl.org

www.estuaries.org

www.americaswetland.com

Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System

The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuarine System consists of two estuarine basins separated by Bayou Lafourche. The Terrebonne estuary lies to the west, and the Barataria estuary to the east.

Dear Friends,

Thirteen years ago, the State of Louisiana made a momentous pledge to you and to the nation. As part of that pledge, the State of Louisiana and the United States of America agreed that the Barataria and Terrebonne systems, the entire area between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, were nationally important yet critically threatened. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the U.S. government, pledged to elevate the status of this entire region to a “National Estuary”. To fulfill Louisiana’s portion of the pledge, representatives from business and industry, universities, local governments, Federal and State agencies, farmers, fishermen, and teachers gathered in 1991 to begin developing a comprehensive plan to restore and preserve the newly designated Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary.

It was an ambitious and courageous endeavor. It was ambitious because the effort was going to require thousands of hours and hundreds of people working together over a 5-year period to develop a comprehensive plan. It was courageous because it represented a major change in the way we addressed the restoration and preservation of a complex natural system. The people and groups that together formed the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) drove the entire plan development process through consensus.

BTNEP is now in the most important phase of its existence. We are actively implementing our comprehensive plan, taking advantage of the enormous support we have created together as a National Estuary Program. We are driven by the common desire to save a system that is disappearing before our eyes: system suffering from coastal wetland loss, degrading water quality, and adverse changes to our fish and wildlife resources. We wish to see a system capable of sustaining and protecting our homes, the places we work and play, and our way of life. Perhaps more importantly, we want these things for our children and grandchildren.

It is important for you to realize that we are all still on the losing side of this war to save the Barataria-Terrebonne Basins against the forces of subsidence and erosion. While there is certainly still hope that we will succeed, the solutions to our problems are far more costly than the current funding levels available to State and Federal restoration efforts. We must succeed... or this place that for generations has defined who we are as people, will be lost forever.

We are encouraged by our elected officials increasing commitment to coastal restoration and the need to educate the nation that we are serious about protecting the natural treasures in our own backyards. United, we can send that clear and resounding message to the nation: This place that we are blessed to call HOME will be defended by us all...together.”

How can you help? You must first arm yourselves with information. Educate yourselves now. Do you know what restoration efforts are being planned to protect the near-term future of your homes and communities? Do you think a high enough priority is being put on the protection of your families, your communities, your way of life, the highways you use to flee hurricanes, the places where you work, your drinking water supplies, the birds you enjoy, or the fish, crabs, and shrimp you catch? There is nothing more important than these things. And you can learn much more of the ongoing efforts to protect them.

Story lines provided in this calendar serve only as a place to start. For more information, visit our web site, www.btnep.org or call 800-259-0869. Here you will find out how to obtain free videos, brochures, CD-ROMs, and maps that address a number of ecological, economic, and cultural issues and the efforts of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. You will also find links to other sights that address issues such as coastal restoration, fish and wildlife management, cultural resources, education, and many more.

Join us in this struggle. Become informed. Be heard.

With Warm Regards,

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program



Disclaimer

This product is intended for use solely as a reference guide to Louisiana fishing. It is not intended for navigational use. BTNEP makes no warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this document. BTNEP assumes no liability with respect to the use of, or damages resulting from the use of any information contained in this document.

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