



BTNEP PROGRAM SUPPORT

Conservation & Management

PROJECT STATUS

Project Year: 1990-Present
Status: Ongoing
Category: Protection of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary
Location: All or part of Ascension, Assumption, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge

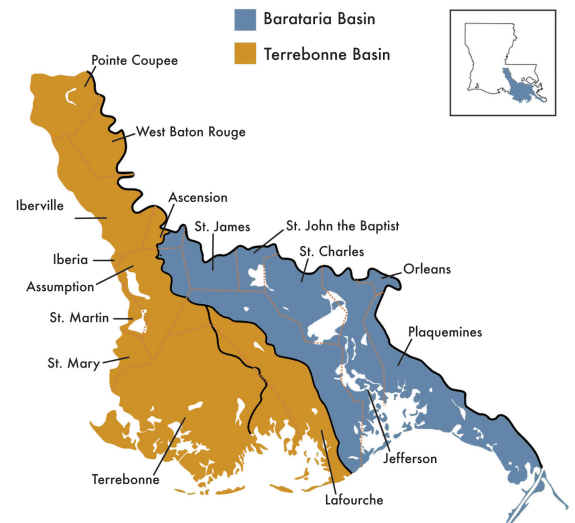
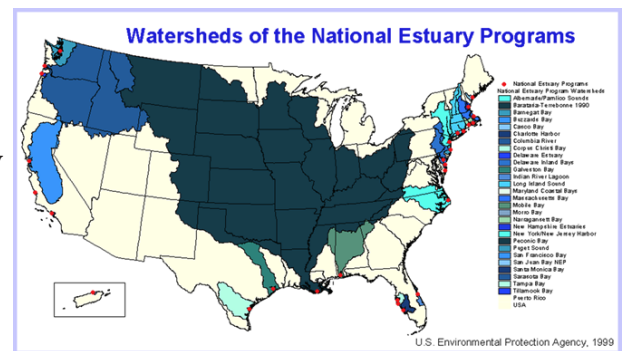
Project Partners: BTNEP Management Conference Members include a diverse group of federal, state, and local government agencies, businesses, scientists, conservation organizations, agricultural interests, and individuals

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM ADDRESSED

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP) has been engaged in the protection and restoration of the 4.2 million acres of land and water that are at the heart of Louisiana's land loss crisis since 1990.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of Louisiana, and local partners formed a novel partnership at that time. The goal of BTNEP was to protect the estuary from further degradation and to undertake programs that would begin to check human-made damage that had already occurred to habitats throughout the estuary. That mission continues today. The base funding for this program is provided through Section 320 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and a State match in funds.

A Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) was created to coordinate actions to address the needs of the estuary.



The CCMP is designed to work specifically to overcome the priority issues identified for the estuary by enlisting all of the effected stakeholders, establishing priorities, and synchronizing efforts. The priority problems addressed in the CCMP are: hydrologic modification, sediment reduction and loss, habitat loss, eutrophication, pathogen contamination, exposure to toxic substances, and changes in living resources.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The main goal of establishing the need for a protected State of Louisiana funding source is to avoid losing federal funds which supports BTNEP. The US Congress is proposing to change the federal contribution to each of the current National Estuary Programs (NEPs) from \$600,000 per year to nearly \$1,000,000. BTNEP uses a science-based, stakeholder-lead consensus-driven plan of actions that make positive changes to improve our wetland ecosystem. BTNEP is one of the 28 NEPs that receives its base funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in order to implement its CCMP. While EPA funding is one of the primary sources of revenue for its work, BTNEP is required to match the EPA grant one to one. The primary source of matching funds comes from the State of Louisiana.

The Board of Regents (BoR) through the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) has been legislatively designated since 2001 and continues in its role as the responsible agency for the fiscal and administrative support function of BTNEP.

Over the course of several years the actual cash match has continued to be insufficient despite the fact that at the end of the 2019 State Legislative Session lawmakers had a surplus and implied that the BoR/LUMCON/BTNEP would be fully funded.

Fiscal Year	Federal Award	State General	Difference
FY2010	\$625,000.00	\$468,302.00	\$156,698.00
FY2011	\$800,000.00	\$413,000.00	\$387,000.00
FY2012	\$623,800.00	\$475,843.00	\$147,957.00
FY2013	\$597,333.00	\$468,903.10	\$128,429.90
FY2014	\$512,000.00	\$461,568.00	\$50,432.00
FY2015	\$538,000.00	\$461,568.00	\$76,432.00
FY2016	\$600,000.00	\$461,568.00	\$138,432.00
FY2017	\$625,000.00	\$449,553.32	\$175,446.68
FY2018	\$625,000.00	\$454,183.00	\$170,817.00
FY2019	\$600,000.00	\$454,183.00	\$145,817.00
Total	\$6,146,133.00	\$4,568,671.42	\$1,577,461.58
Average over 10 years is - \$157,746.15 per year			



CCMP ACTION ITEMS ADDRESSED

PI-2 -Barataria-Terrebonne Program Office

To provide administrative and logistical support to the BTNEP MC by maintaining a Program Office with an active full-time staff