PEOPLE AND THE COAST
Louisiana's Growth

Louisiana, particularly coastal Louisiana, is growing at an impressive rate. It is estimated that the state's population increased by 121,205 from 1970 to 1974. About 90% of this growth was in the coastal region.

The rise in population has been accompanied by economic gains. From 1970 to 1973 the per capita income of coastal residents rose 25%.

Growth

It is the people of the region who are responsible for this unprecedented growth. Many South Louisianians are Cajun, but even those not of Acadian background share in the "joie de vivre" that the Cajun culture brings to the area.

Many different spheres of activity are represented in everyday life. These activities which include industry, fisheries, recreation and tourism, agriculture and others, together result in the development of the greater Louisiana coast.
LOUISIANA COASTAL RESOURCES PROGRAM
A Process for the Wise Utilization Of Coastal Resources

The Louisiana Coastal Resources Program is the product of a careful study of the state's coastal region. In 1971 ten commissioners representing interests ranging from oil and gas to fisheries and water transportation were appointed to the Louisiana Advisory Commission on Coastal and Marine Resources. The Commission's Legislative mandate was fulfilled in 1973 upon submission of the "Wardlaw Prospectus"; a thorough evaluation of the state's coastal resources.

By joint funding of the state and the federal government, under the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program was created in 1973. Named to administer the program was the State Planning Office, in cooperation with the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, the Louisiana Coastal Commission and the Louisiana Sea Grant Program.

The purpose of the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program is to develop a process that will allow Louisiana and the people of the coastal region to guide future growth.

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Much of the industrial development of coastal Louisiana is based upon extensive mineral resources. These resources are nonrenewable, and production from Louisiana's land and water is declining.

Diversification of industries in the coastal region is necessary before complete depletion of mineral reserves actually occurs.

FISHERIES

Coastal Louisiana's resources are found not only in the land and under-ground but thriving in the waters of the state. Louisiana stands first in total tonnage of fisheries production, and second in oyster production. It accounts for about one-quarter of the U.S. shrimp landings and 35% of the nation's menhaden catch.

However, our waters are being impaired by pollution and salt water intrusion which could be detrimental to fish and shellfish production. The renewable fisheries resources will be available for future generations if depletion is prevented.

Agriculture

Coastal Louisiana's farmers make unique contributions to the nation's food basket. They produce about 40% of the mainland sugar cane harvested and nearly a quarter of the nation's rice. Substantial contributions are also made in soybeans, cattle and timber.

However, agriculture has begun to feel the pressure of competing land uses from other developing sectors, and growing concern is being voiced over the quality and availability of fresh water.

Municipal Development

The municipal population of coastal Louisiana grew by more than 25 percent from 1960 to 1970. More and more local municipalities find it necessary to deal with problems resulting from residential and commercial development in areas unsuitable for such growth.

In the future these unsuitable areas, such as former marshlands where subsidence occurs, may be identified and detrimental side effects of development avoided.

Public Participation

The cornerstone of the Coastal Resources Program is public participation. A really useful process for guiding the growth of the region will only evolve through the efforts of all the people, including individuals, organizations and private interests.

The Coastal Resources Program allows for maximum public involvement and provides opportunities for all to express their concerns and needs and to voice possible alternatives.

In each area public information meetings, seminars and workshops will be held to exchange ideas and explore proposals. These discussions and the work of the area's study coordinating committee will reflect the needs of the area.

For information on participation in each area, please contact the Coastal Resources Program at (504) 389-9044. The address is Coastal Resources Program, State Planning Office, P. O. Box 44425, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.