

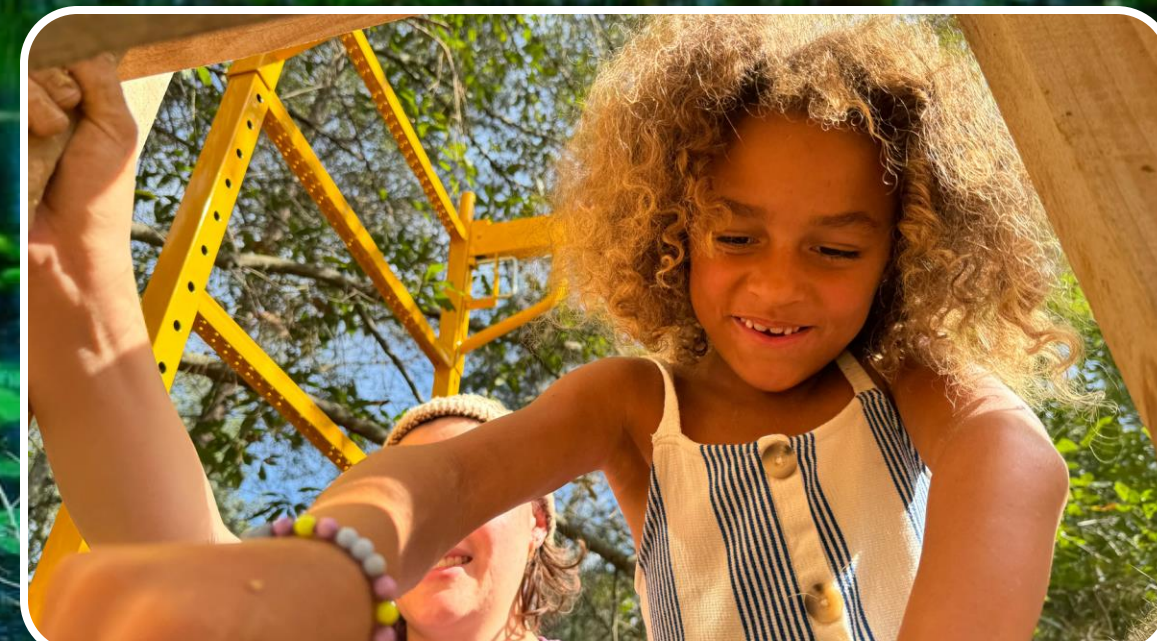


SHRIMP, SCIENCE, STORIES, & SPIRIT

From Cameron, Louisiana
Habitat Recovery Project

HABITAT RECOVERY PROJECT

Founded in 2018, Habitat Recovery Project is a community-focused conservation movement dedicated to restoring, generating, and preserving ecological habitats in existing and proposed contaminated communities, through supporting and benefiting the people and emerging grassroots initiatives that reside within them.



ALYSSA PORTARO

Founder/Director of Habitat
Recovery Project

Mother of two feral swamp children

Land steward - Mentored over 150
beginner farmers through WWOOF

Studied at Ramapo College of New
Jersey with Professor Michael
Edelstein, Author of Contaminated
Communities: Coping with
Residential Toxic Exposure.

Moved to Louisiana 3.5 years ago



LESSON OUTCOMES

01

The nets know what the NOAA satellites don't.

02

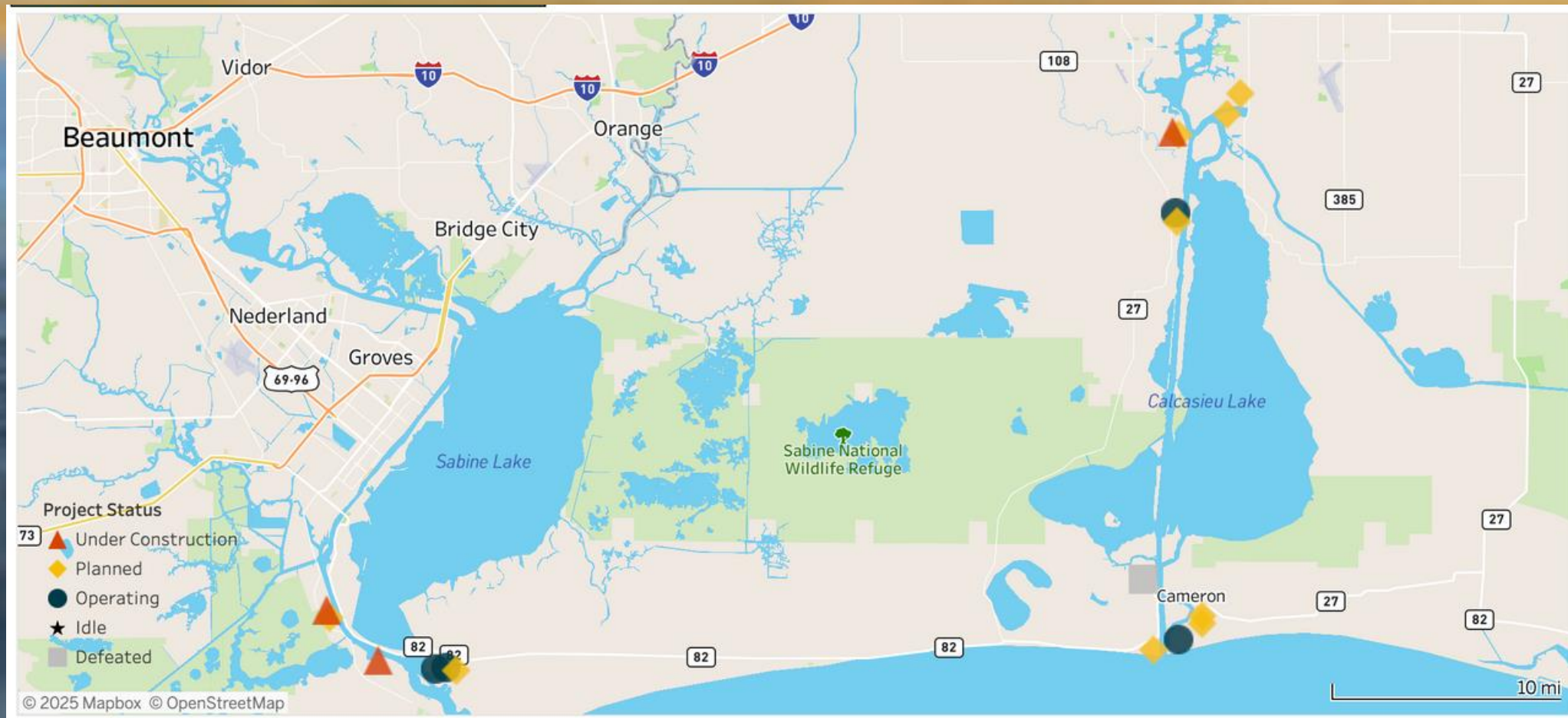
Where there isn't data, there are stories.

03

Coastal collapse is a moral crisis. It's not just ecological, it's existential.



Town of Cameron Census Population: 163
Cameron Fisherfamily Turnout at the America's Energy Summit: 50+



Sierra Club, LNG Tracker

CAMERON AS A COMMUNITY

Cameron Parish is designated an environmental justice zone due to the adverse effects of liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants and related industries. Formerly known as the seafood capital of the USA, the community now faces environmental degradation, declining fish stocks, and habitat loss; on top of hurricane exposure.

It is home to the largest fossil fuel buildout in the world of our lifetime.

Fun Fact: Cameron was the highest President Trump voting town in the USA in 2020 with 93% in favor of him.

QUALITATIVE DATA AS “THE FACTS”

The FACTS – Fisherfamily Advisory Council for Tradition & Stewardship brings together coastal families, seafood workers, and cultural stewards to guide Habitat Recovery Project’s programs, legal strategies, and organizational practices regarding the preservation of our waters.

Core Purpose

This council serves as a frontline voice for ecosystem and cultural preservation within Louisiana’s intergenerational fishing communities. As ecological assessment agents and community liaisons, we watch over the shifting conditions of our waters and people. We witness and report on the changes we see, with our observations grounded in generations of traditional ecological knowledge. Through amplifying our lived experiences and intrinsic knowledge of our ecosystems, we connect to the global conversations on the ways in which humanity uses and treats its waters.



SCIENCE WITH A CAJUN ACCENT

“Go forth with white boots, soft hearts, and sharp data.”

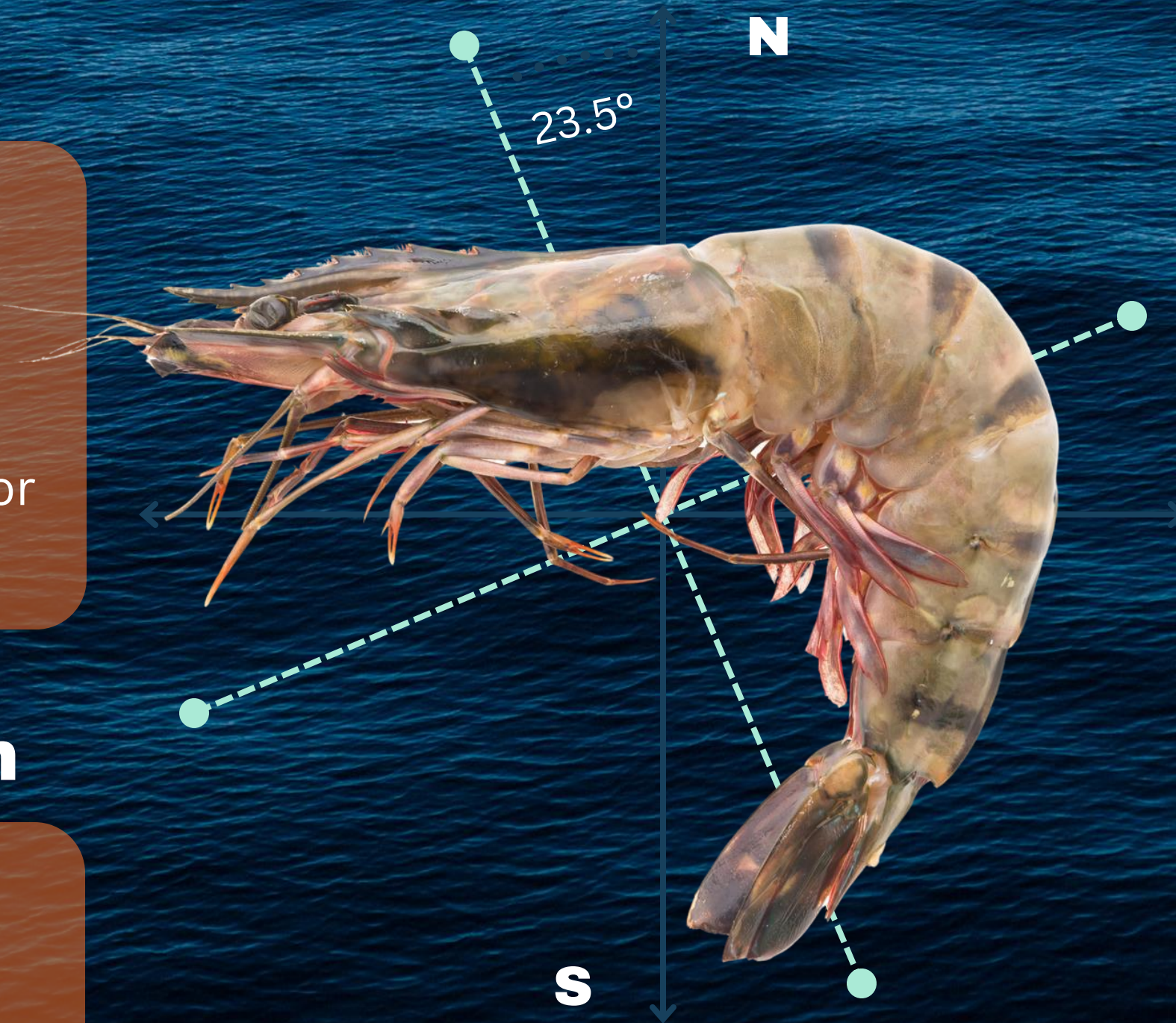
Air and Water Quality

Water: Temperature, Salinity, pH, Dissolved Oxygen Levels

Community Air Monitors for Residents

Noise Pollution

Deploy Hydrophones
Collect Baseline Data
Identify Noise Sources
Data Analysis



Community Assessment for Tracking
Cameron's Habitats (CATCH)

Shrimp & Oyster Stock Assessment

Shrimp: Population density, Size, distribution and recruitment rates, Migration patterns.

Oysters: Density and biomass of reefs, Age and size distribution of oysters, Reef health

Tracking The Tides

Moon cycle, tide, migration routes and cycles, dredging operations, ship traffic, etc.

CREATIVE RESISTANCE

“The Little Shrimp & The Terrible Noise” Puppet Show



Our Lady (S)tar of the Sea



STATE OF OUR WORK

53 Fishermen's 10-year Trip Ticket Data
Collected showing up to an 85% drop

FERC Victory - Delay of CP2 for further
Environmental Assessment

Citizen Suit Filed re: Venture Global's
2,000 Permit Violations

Fisheries listed on DOE's Impacts of
LNG Study

Chubb Insurance dropped LNG in
Cameron





RAY MALLET

Since I was 12 or 13, I've been fishing in Cameron Parish.

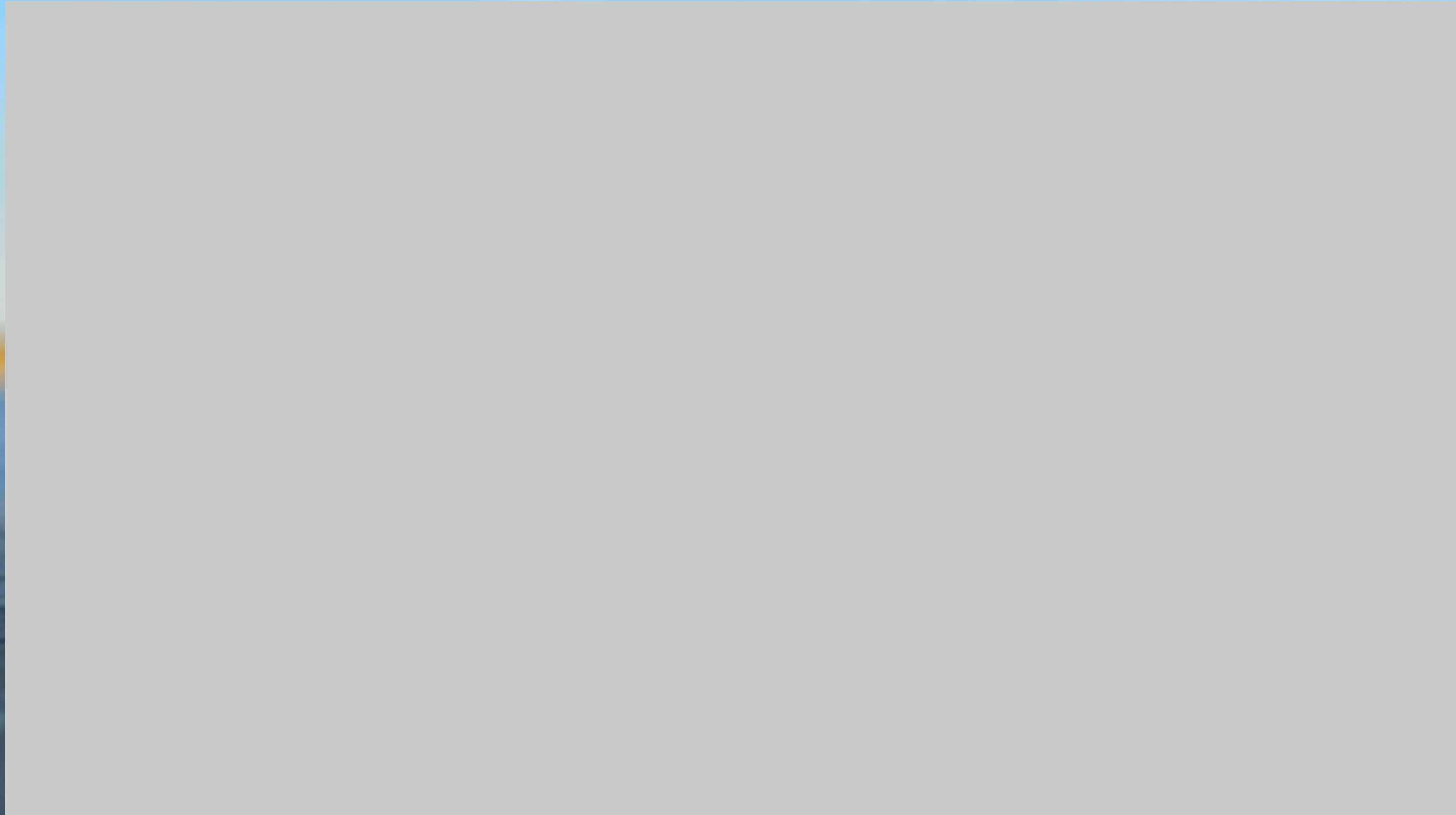
The adults used to call us kids on our tiny boat "The Mosquito Fleet".

My dad, mom, and four brothers all fish.

I have gill fished, and primarily oyster and shrimp now.

My boat is named "Cajun Memories."

VIDEO: CAPTAIN RAY MALLETT



LET'S IMAGINE

FROM SOUNDS OF THE OCEAN TO A
ROAR OF THE PLANT

FROM THE STARS IN THE SKY TO THE
LIGHT OF INDUSTRY

FROM THE SMELL OF THE MARSH, TO
THE SMELL OF CHEMICALS

FROM 'BLESSING OF THE BOATS' TO
EVERY CHURCH GETTING DEMOLISHED

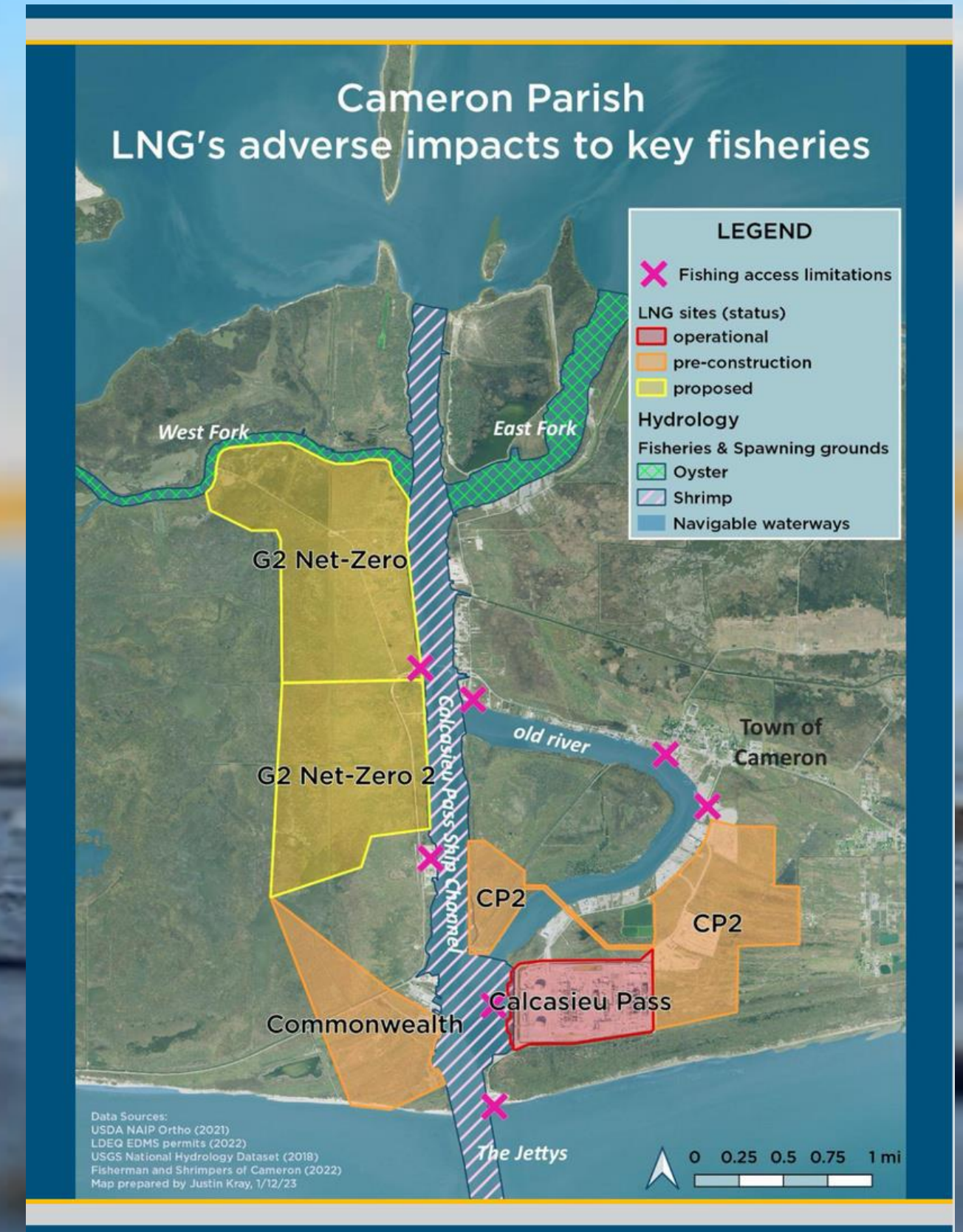
Would your questions be about:

RESISTANCE OR RESSURECTION?



CALCASIEU RIVER & FISHERIES

- Over 150 Cameron Parish Fishermen, but it's a graying industry.
- Dwindling infrastructure and catch creates more pressure, on top of seafood imports.
- Fish along the Calcasieu River to the Gulf, now we go further East.



CATCHING GHOSTS

What You Hear When You Listen to Fishermen

- Damage to boats
- Up to 80% loss in catch
- Noise & Light Pollution
- loss of lighthouse
- loss of fisheries infrastructure
- Displacement
- Illness
- Operations impact
- Disproportionate Impact on elder fishermen



THE FISHERMEN'S INSIGHT

How their intrinsic knowledge and cultural heritage prove vital for the State of the Coast

They know...

How to analyze the waters

- *Where to look*
- *Where they see the most impact*
- *How the migrations have changed*

How to restore the ecosystem

- *How to turn over an oyster reef to keep it healthy*
- *Where they have the best chances of survival*

How to support and organize community

- *Key messaging and priorities*
- *Community care*

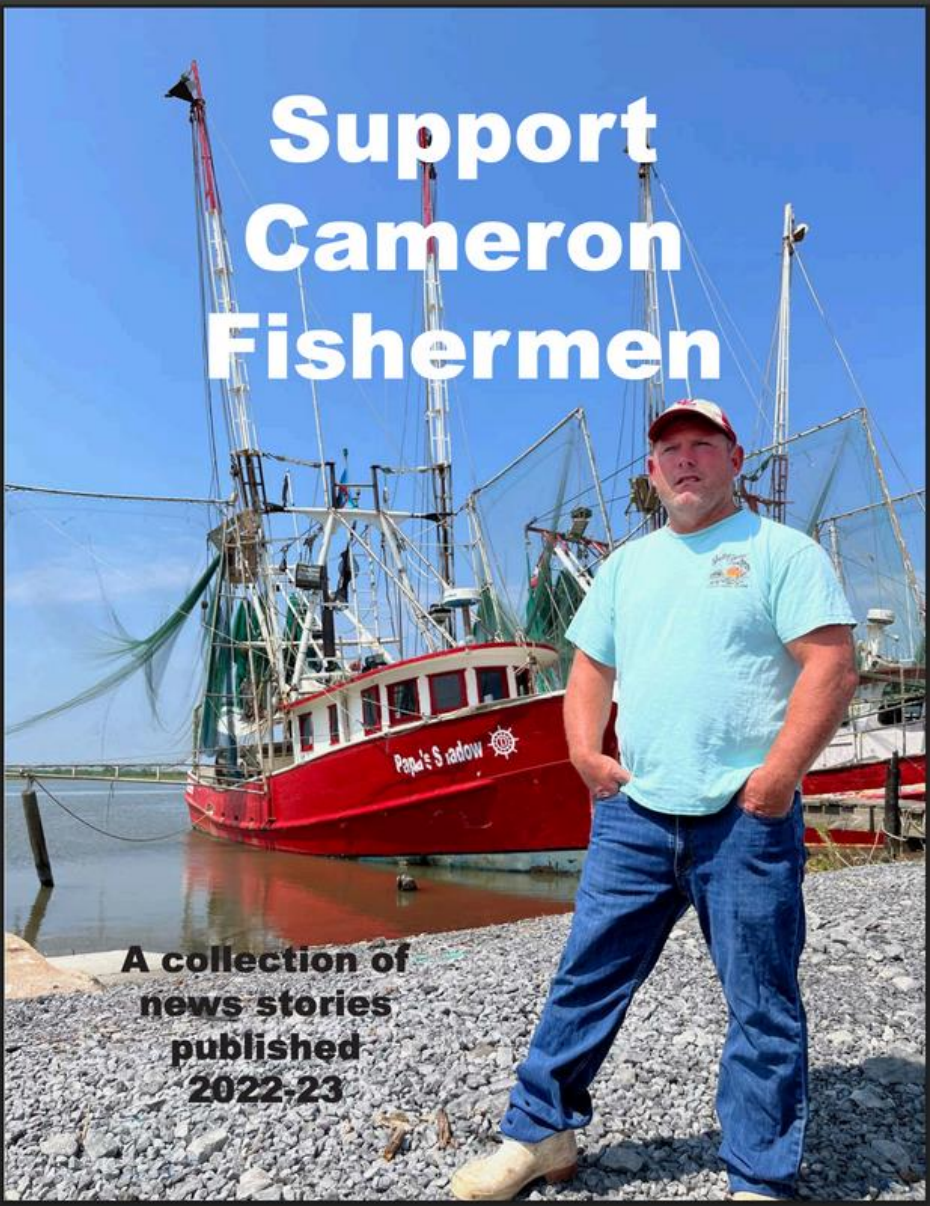


HOLDING ONTO A WAY OF LIFE

- A shrimper wants to shrimp
- Traditional ecological knowledge is observational and passed through generations.
- Fishermen notice what sensors miss: behavior, rhythm, change.
- Life on the water is beautiful, harsh, thrilling.



LEARN MORE RESOURCES



**Support
Cameron
Fishermen**

**A collection of
news stories
published
2022-23**

Gas Export Spotlight:

Venture Global's
Operational Failures
& the Impacts on
Fishermen

9

CALCASIEU RIVER

THREAT: Pollution

STATES: Louisiana

AT RISK: Health of humans and ecosystems

SUMMARY


For centuries, the Calcasieu River has been the lifeblood of southwestern Louisiana, sustaining local communities, abundant wildlife, and thriving ecosystems. It is home to Pinky, the beloved pink dolphin, and is a place of

THE RIVER

The Calcasieu River in Southwest Louisiana runs approximately 200 miles, passing the towns of Oakdale, Westlake, Sulphur, Lake Charles, Hackberry, and Cameron before emptying into the Gulf.

IN THE WAKE OF LNG 003

Louisiana is proud of its local seafood. People come from around the world to feast on the world-class oysters, shrimp, and crawfish from the Gulf Coast region. Increasingly, the oil, gas, and LNG industries threaten the viability of Louisiana seafood. In this episode, we dive



**NO MORE
SACRIFICE ZONES**

Risks of Methane Export Financing in Southwest Louisiana | APRIL 2025

Summary of Risks for Financial Institutions



Photo: Bryan Parras, Sierra Club Healthy Communities Organizer

How Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Loopholes Give Free Passes to Polluters

EPA must protect fenceline communities by ending free passes to pollute and closing all Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction (SSM) loopholes



OUR ASKS

Buy Gulf Coast Seafood!

Check out the Louisiana
Seafood Passport

Take Action

We're seeking support:

- Science Experts and Partners
- Funding to stipend fishermen, boat fuel, etc. to run our CATCH Program

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

LISTEN TO @GULF.RISING

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:
@HABITAT.RECOVERY.PROJECT**

CONNECT ON LINKEDIN

EMAIL: TEAM@HABITATRECOVERY.ORG

