

LA Wetland Education Coalition

Wetland News for December 10, 2004



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1. Louisiana Wetlands Eco-Cultural Tourism highlighted in BusinessWeek Magazine!

When BusinessWeek's December 10th issue hits newsstands today, it will expose millions of readers to a new brand of experiential travel and adventure called "eco-cultural" tourism.

The special section is part of the extended launch of the "A Place Called America's WETLAND" initiative, which was designed to create a new sense of global awareness about the physical and cultural riches found in Louisiana and attract attention to the area as a prime site for "eco-cultural" tourism, which focuses on cultures intrinsically tied to the land and ecosystem around them.

This is the second special section focusing on America's WETLAND published by BusinessWeek, a weekly news magazine read by 5.6 million people worldwide. Shell Oil Company, World Sponsor of the America's WETLAND campaign and lead sponsor of the "A Place Called America's WETLAND" initiative, also supported this article, which will ensure that national and global decision-makers learn not only about what coastal Louisiana has to offer, but also what is at stake.

For more information about "America's WETLAND" visit the Web at <http://www.americaswetland.com>

Want to learn more about the Breaux Act? Visit www.LaCoast.gov

SPREAD THE WORD!

You can subscribe to the Breaux Act Newsflash by subscribing at: <http://www.lacoast.gov/newsletter.htm>

FOR MORE PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Subscribe to WaterMarks, the Breaux Act newsletter, by contacting Jim Addison at James.D.Addison@mvn02.usace.army.mil or (504)862-2201. To view online issues visit <http://www.lacoast.gov/WaterMarks>

2. Governor Blanco Seeks Unified Effort Among Coastal Producing States

BATON ROUGE, LA-- Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco sent a letter of request to Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi, Governor Bob Riley of Alabama, Governor Frank Murkowski of Alaska and Governor Rick Perry of Texas yesterday, November 29, 2004.

Governor Blanco is asking her colleagues in other coastal producing states to join Louisiana in its ongoing efforts to secure a fair share of revenues from offshore outer continental shelf oil and gas production to address the short and long term impacts to states hosting exploration, production and distribution off their shores.

The text of the letter is attached below:

Dear Governor:

I am writing to ask you to join me in an effort to secure a fair share of revenues from offshore outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas production and to encourage our colleagues in other coastal producing states to become a part of what will be a powerful coalition.

Our states provide the nation with its offshore oil and gas supply and play a key role in this country's economic and energy security. Like all other coastal producing states, Louisiana is proud to contribute to the energy needs of this great nation. There are costs, however, that go along with the national benefits we provide. But these are costs too great for any one state to bear alone -- costs to our environment and costs to maintain onshore infrastructure that supports offshore energy activities.

Sharing OCS oil and gas revenues with the producing states is the obvious and appropriate way to provide the steady stream of revenue needed to mitigate the effects of this production. In Louisiana's case, stemming an annual loss of coastal wetlands at the rate of 24 square miles a year requires the kind of steady, dependability only this type of revenue sharing would provide. However, all coastal producing states sustain impacts and all deserve to be addressed.

Offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico has provided close to \$140 billion to the Federal government, its second largest source of revenue. I believe that states like ours deserve a portion of these one-time revenues to be invested in our natural resources for future generations.

As you know, there is precedence for this. States hosting energy production on Federal lands onshore receive 50% of those revenues in direct payments and with no strings attached. When it comes to states hosting offshore production, however, the inequities are profound.

For example, in 2002, more than \$7.5 billion in offshore revenues went into the Federal treasury. That same year, Wyoming and New Mexico together received about \$800 million, or 50% of the revenues generated from mineral production on Federal lands within those states. Yet, our coastal producing states received only a fraction of a percent of the billions produced off our shores. I hope you will agree that 10% of OCS revenues is the bare minimum that states like ours should be receiving from the Federal government.

Every coastal state that serves our country by hosting offshore oil and gas production must deal with the impacts of that activity and the impacts and needs are as unique as their individual coastlines. By banding together, we can make a powerful case to the Congress that it is time for the nation to compensate us for the costs of oil and gas exploration off our shores.

I would like to explore with you how we can make our collective voice heard in Washington. I would like to request that our concerns be heard by the congressional committees with jurisdiction over these issues while we are in Washington, DC for the National Governors' Association meeting next February. I would also like to explore the possibility of a meeting with the President during that time as well. Please let me know if you agree with this course of action and would like to join me in these efforts.

I will have Andy Kopplin, my Chief of Staff, get in touch with your staff, and I look forward to talking with you personally in the near future about this effort.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Governor

3. Action for Nature Young Eco-Hero Awards

Action for Nature (AFN) is seeking applications from students ages 8-16 for its 2005 Young Eco-Hero Awards program. The Young Eco-Hero Awards Program recognizes the individual accomplishments of young people who have carried out environmental action projects. Projects must concern environmental advocacy & health, protection, or research. Winners will receive a cash award. Deadline: February 28, 2005. For information, visit <http://www.actionfornature.org/eco-hero/>.

4. Pollution Pipe: Street to Stream

Two-page [pdf] for students in Grades 6-12 on non-point sources of pollution found in runoff and the effects of development on watersheds. Shows the relationship between urban development and impervious ground cover created by streets, parking lots, and roofs. Provides a list of pollutants found in runoff, as well as some steps that can be taken to prevent water pollution. From the Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE). Visit <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action/background/Pipe.pdf>.

5. National Ocean Service (NOS) Education Discovery Center announces new websites

The National Ocean Service (NOS) Education Discovery Center presents innovative products to enlighten students and educators about the breadth of scientific research, technology, and activities conducted by NOS in the areas of oceans, coasts, and charting and navigation. The Discovery Center expands on NOS's Discovery Kit offerings with the addition of Discovery Stories and the Discovery Classroom. The Discovery Kits, Stories and Classroom incorporate numerous multimedia features. While developed for students and educators at the high school level, they contain information and features that will be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in science. To view the new NOS Education Discovery Center, point your browser to: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education>.

The newly launched Discovery Stories are case studies in coastal and ocean science drawn from research conducted by NOS. They are opportunities to learn through inquiry and are accompanied by a set of supporting resources, including student and teacher guides, interactive quizzes, exercises with real data, and interviews with NOS scientists that explore how scientists think. In addition, a For Teachers section provides materials and resources for use in the classroom. To view the first Discovery Story, The Lionfish Invasion!, point your browser to: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/stories/lionfish>.

The Discovery Classroom is a collection of inquiry-based, formal lesson plans based on the major thematic areas of the National Ocean Service website. All of the lessons are downloadable, emphasize hands-on activities using on-line data resources, and are correlated to National Science Education Standards and the American Association for the Advancement of Science Benchmarks for Science Literacy. Current topics in the Discovery Classroom include: Coral Reef Conservation, International Collaboration, Marine Protected Areas, National Marine Sanctuaries, Ocean Exploration, Coastal Ecosystem Science, Coastal Management, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Natural Resource Restoration. To view the new Discovery Classroom, point your browser to: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/classroom>.

The NOS Discovery Kits on Corals, Geodesy, and Tides and Water Levels are also found within the NOS Education Discovery Center, and in coming months will be joined with Discovery Kits on Estuaries, and Marine Archaeology. The Discovery Kits describe the scientific principles underlying the applied science and activities of NOAA's National Ocean Service, and contain interactive tutorials, roadmaps to data resources, and formal lesson plans. The tutorials, roadmaps, and lesson plans in each Discovery Kit are designed to work together, but are comprehensive enough to be used on their own. To view the Discovery Kits, point your browser to: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits>.

We hope that these resources will help guide students and educators in their quest to learn more about our coastal and ocean realms.

Information from: Bruce Moravchik, NOAA's Ocean Service, Communications & Education Division

6. Sanctuary Watch: Special Education Issue

Ocean education and hands-on field activities from around the country at a local, regional and national level are highlighted in the new education edition of the **Sanctuary Watch** newsletter produced by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program. You can subscribe to Sanctuary Watch electronically by sending an email to requests@willamette.nos.noaa.gov and putting "subscribe sanctuarywatch" in the subject line. To receive a hard copy, please email your name and mailing address to: Sanctuary.Education@noaa.gov. To view or download a PDF copy of this special education edition of Sanctuary Watch, you can visit http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/sanctuarywatch/sanctuary_watch.html.

7. LAWEC-L LISTSERVE INFORMATION

- **Description of this listserv:** A listserv serving educators interested in LA wetlands.
 - **To send a message of your own to the listserv:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and type your message into the body of the email. The message will be distributed to ALL PARTICIPANTS subscribing to the listserv. As a participant, you are welcome to send messages to educators subscribing to the LA Wetland Education Consortium listserv. We ask that participants focus their emails on educational opportunities and materials *directly related to wetland education*.
 - **To UNSUBSCRIBE from this listserv:** email LAWEC-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU and enclose the following single line in the body of the email
unsubscribe LAWEC-L
 - **To SUBSCRIBE to this listserv:** email LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU, with only the following line listed in the body of the email:
subscribe lawec-l YourFirstName YourLastName
For example:
subscribe lawec-l John Doe
- NOTE: You should not put anything in the subject line and should remove any automatic signatures from the email, otherwise the signup process will not work. You will get a return message indicating that you have been subscribed to the listserv along with information on other listserv operations you can perform (such as unsubscribe, etc.). If you have trouble, email Dr. Pam Blanchard at <pamb@lsu.edu>.

Please do not reply to the entire list unless you want everyone to read your message!

