Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM): Phase 2 – Updated Shoreline Compilation and Change Assessment, 1880s to 2015

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Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM): Phase 2 – Updated Shoreline Compilation and Change Assessment, 1880s to 2015

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Mark R. Byrnes (Applied Coastal) was the primary author of this report and Principal Investigator for the project. He was responsible for project management and execution, including data analyses, interpretations, and report preparation. **Jennifer L. Berlinghoff** (Applied Coastal) conducted quality assurance and control efforts regarding shoreline mapping and geodatabase development, completed all shoreline change analyses, prepared maps and figures, and contributed to written sections of the report. **Sarah F. Griffee** (Applied Coastal) compiled historical shoreline positions, conducted quality assurance and control analyses, and contributed to report preparation. **Darin M. Lee** was the CPRA project manager and technical lead, and contributed report sections on the BICM program.

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Executive Summary

The Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) provides integrated, comprehensive data on Louisiana shorelines, aiding in planning, design, maintenance, and evaluation of restoration projects. The primary goal of this BICM-Phase 2 effort was to revise and update existing BICM historical shoreline change data (Phase 2 - Byrnes et al., 2017; Phase 1 – Martinez et al., 2009) for coastal Louisiana from the mid-1800s to 2015. The principal addition to the existing Phase 2 data set was the 2015 regional shoreline derived from orthoimagery from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (National Agriculture Imagery Program [NAIP]). Backbarrier shorelines for the 1998, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2015 periods also were digitized for establishing geomorphic polygons for habitat change analysis within the broader BICM program. Coastal structure locations were digitized for the 2015 epoch as well. As an update to existing Phase 2 shorelines, topographic maps for the 1930s were digitized and integrated with existing 1930s shorelines for more complete coverage in the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin Regions. Finally, 1950s shoreline data previously interpreted from smaller-scale maps/photographs were re-interpreted from higher-resolution imagery for portions of the Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands Regions.

Once shorelines were compiled and attributed, the USGS Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS version 4.3) was used to quantify changes in shoreline position for six epochs: 1) 1880s to 1930s, 2) 1930s to 1950s, 3) 1950s to 1998, 4) 1998 to 2015, 5) 2004 to 2012, and 6) 1880s to 2015. Shoreline change analysis was completed for nine geomorphic regions and 83 shoreline reaches by establishing region-specific baselines and shore-perpendicular transects at 50-m (164-ft) longshore intervals.

Although shoreline change variability is large for all geomorphic regions, regional changes isolate areas of large and chronic loss that have been the primary focus of shoreline restoration. Mean shoreline position change for the entire coast of Louisiana varied between -9.5 and -13.5 ft/yr (see Table below). Most vulnerable geomorphic regions include the Eastern Chenier Plain, Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands. As expected, primarily protected shorelines of the Acadiana Bays, Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas, and Pontchartrain Basin regions recorded relatively small mean shoreline recession rates. For open-Gulf shorelines, mean shoreline change varied between -10.5 and -21.7 ft/yr. These regions absorb the greatest impact from storms, thereby requiring greatest potential for shoreline restoration to provide protection to interior shorelines. For semi-protected coastal areas, a smaller range in mean shoreline recession was documented (5.8 to 8.6 ft/yr). Further, variability in shoreline change rates was much lower in semi-protected coastal areas away from the direct impact of open-Gulf waves and currents (see Table below).

Smallest average shoreline changes for open-Gulf regions occurred between the 1930s and 1950s (-10.5 ft/yr) when hurricane occurrence and intensity were lowest. Conversely, the epoch with greatest average shoreline changes (1998 to 2015; -21.7 ft/yr) recorded 10 hurricanes impacting the coast, including two Category 3 (Hurricanes Katrina and Rita) and four Category 2 events (~5.9 per decade). Although the 1880s to 1930s epoch contained a large number of Category 3 and 2 storms, the frequency of hurricane impact was lower $(\sim 3.4$ hurricanes per decade) resulting in an average shoreline change of -17.1 ft/yr for the open-Gulf coast. The 1950s to 1998 epoch experienced the greatest number of hurricane impacts; however, the frequency of occurrence was similar to that for the 1880s to 1930s epoch $(\sim 3.5$ per decade), as was mean shoreline change (-17.6 ft/yr). Although the 1998 to 2015 epoch incurred significant storm impacts over a relatively short period, this epoch also was a time of increased shoreline

and barrier island restoration, with millions of cubic yards of sand added to barrier island systems, increasing the resilience of restored shorelines. Coastal Louisiana shoreline response is driven primarily by tropical cyclone impacts; however, the magnitude of change varies substantially depending on shoreline exposure, orientation, and tropical cyclone characteristics.

Coast-wide variations in shoreline response were driven by regional changes in erosion along the most vulnerable coastal reaches, particularly those associated with the barrier shorelines of the Early and Late Lafourche Deltas, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands. These beaches bear the brunt of direct storm wave impacts from the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in chronic erosion, barrier beach overtopping, and island migration and deterioration. Rockefeller Refuge and Mulberry Island coastal reaches of the Eastern Chenier Plain geomorphic region experience similar high rates of shoreline recession (20 to 40 ft/yr) as barrier beaches of the delta plain. However, dominant west-directed sediment transport to downdrift beaches along the entire chenier plain tempers the magnitude and direction of shoreline change along the Western Chenier Plain coast. The remaining coastal regions are protected to varying degrees from open-Gulf wave processes, although most experience net shoreline recession (5.8 to 6.5 ft/yr) in response to locally-generated storm waves (i.e., those generated within coastal lakes and bays) and relative sea-level rise.

When one isolates shoreline changes by epoch for the central barrier island coast from Raccoon Island to Sandy Point (Reaches 37 to 50), average shoreline recession rates are approximately 10 ft/yr greater than those recorded for the entire Louisiana open-Gulf coast. For the 1880s to 1930s epoch, open-Gulf shoreline recession averaged 17.1 ft/yr. For the same period, shorelines along the central barrier island coast receded at 29.7 ft/yr, emphasizing the influence of the central barrier island coast on coastwide erosion rates. The Chandeleur Islands region recorded similar recession rates for this period. Between the 1930s and 1950s, a period of reduced hurricane impacts, average shoreline change decreased to -10.5 ft/yr along the open-Gulf coast, and erosion rates along the central barrier island coast decreased as well. However, the magnitude of change for the central barrier island coast (-19.5 ft/yr) and the Chandeleur Islands region (-16.0 ft/yr) was greater than 1.5 times the open-Gulf shoreline change average. During the 1950s to 1998 epoch, shoreline recession increased along the central barrier island coast (26.7 ft/yr) and the Chandeleur Islands (33.9 ft/yr), contributing substantially to the coast-wide

average erosion rate of 17.6 ft/yr. However, between 1998 and 2015, when large-scale restoration of the central barrier island coast was active, shoreline recession decreased to 19.6 ft/yr compared with an open-Gulf mean shoreline change of -21.7 ft/yr. Conversely, the Chandeleur Islands region experienced a nearly three-fold increase in shoreline recession for the same period.

Overall, regional shoreline response is relatively predictable and driven by tropical cyclone magnitude and frequency; however, engineering activities (e.g., beach/island restoration and coastal structure placement) have measurable impacts on localized shoreline response. Where barrier island restoration efforts have been implemented, the coast has been made more resilient and sediment volume lost from eroding deltaic shorelines has been replenished, in part, with sand from sources outside the active sand transport system, thereby augmenting the existing littoral sediment budget. Barrier shoreline changes for the 1998 to 2015 (and 2004 to 2012) epoch(s) document the positive impact of beach and island restoration. As an example, East Grand Terre Island (Reach 48) illustrates increasing shoreline deterioration between the 1880s and 1998, but that trend was reversed after approximately 3 million cubic yards (MCY) of sand and 1.6 MCY of mixed sediment were used to restore the island in 2010. Between 1998 and 2015, shoreline recession rates were reduced to 21.9 ft/yr, and for the period 2004 to 2012, shoreline change was nearly stable at -0.5 ft/yr. Overall, beach restoration/protection projects during the 1998 to 2015 epoch along the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, and Modern Delta Regions resulted in net reduction in shoreline recession relative to that recorded during the 1950s to 1998 epoch.

Conversion Factors

Abbreviations

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1.0 Introduction

Shoreline position, defined as the land-water interface at high water, is one of the most important features to monitor in coastal settings. It is particularly important in coastal Louisiana where shoreline erosion is relentless. This dynamic feature marks private versus public ownership, is a tangible line of defense against storm waves for inland communities, is an important ecological habitat for fisheries, and is the primary boundary for numerically predicting coastal landscape changes under natural and engineered future conditions. Morgan and Larimore (1957) were the first to systematically map shoreline position and change in coastal Louisiana, and many other project-level (e.g., Edwards and Namikas, 2011) and regional-scale (e.g., McBride et al., 1992) efforts have aimed to improve on this initial effort. Martinez et al. (2009) completed the BICM-Phase 1 coast-wide shoreline mapping task, and the present report (BICM-Phase 2) updates and replaces the Martinez et al. (2009) data set.

Approximately a third of all Louisiana residents live in coastal zone parishes, the most populated of which are associated with the City of New Orleans. Terrebonne and Lafourche are the two most populated parishes south of New Orleans with extensive beach erosion and shoreline migration where the shoreline meets the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). As such, State resource agencies have allocated considerable resources to establish a comprehensive monitoring strategy, developing a systematic approach at managing risk associated with living within the coastal zone. Geologically, these areas reside on the mostrecently abandoned deltaic deposits of the Mississippi River Delta; the Lafourche Delta complex (Frazier, 1967; Kulp et al., 2005; Blum and Roberts, 2012). Besides shoreline and wetland changes recorded on the Modern Birdfoot Delta (Britsch and Dunbar, 2006; Martinez et al., 2009), Gulf beaches associated with the Lafourche Delta Complex document greatest historical changes in south Louisiana (McBride et al., 1992).

West of the Mississippi River Delta Plain are the marginal deltaic deposits of the Chenier Plain (McBride et al., 2008). Shoreline erosion dominates the Gulf-facing coast east of the Mermentau River, whereas historical deposition for large segments of coast west to Sabine Pass has been documented (Byrnes et al., 1995). Although shoreline-change magnitude is less than that observed for the deltaic barrier island coast, sheltered shorelines of the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin regions document lowest average change rates for the Louisiana coast (Martinez et al., 2009).

1.1 Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM)

Development of a comprehensive program to evaluate the State's barrier shoreline was initiated by a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) workgroup in 2002 (now Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority [CPRA]). This workgroup developed a monitoring framework to assess shoreline processes and resulting habitats, and the changes in these ecosystems over time. The initial plan was reviewed in 2004 by the Louisiana Shoreline Science Restoration Team (SSRT) working under the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) program. The LCA plan recommended establishment of a coordinated System-Wide Assessment and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) that would integrate the environmental monitoring of wetlands (Coast-wide Reference Monitoring System, or CRMS-Wetlands), rivers and inshore waters (CRMS-Waters), nearshore waters, and barrier islands (BICM).

The initiation of BICM in 2005 was conducted through CPRA and funded by the LCA Science and Technology (S&T) office through a partnership between the University of New Orleans (UNO) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Initial goals of the BICM program were to establish baseline conditions for the State's barrier shoreline after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as to refine methods and products for use in programs other than LCA (e.g., Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act [CWPPRA]; Coastal Impact Assistance Program [CIAP]; Barrier Island Maintenance Program [BIMP]).

The advantage of BICM over project-specific monitoring is the ability to provide integrated long-term data on all Louisiana shorelines, instead of just those areas with constructed projects. As a result, large amounts of long-term data are available to evaluate constructed projects, facilitate planning and design of future barrier shoreline projects, support operations and maintenance activities, determine storm impacts, and provide coast-wide baseline conditions necessary for assessing system evolution. BICM encompasses a wide variety of datasets that include: 1) post-storm damage assessment photography, 2) coast-wide shoreline change and assessment, 3) topography, 4) bathymetry, 5) habitat composition with land/water changes, and 6) surficial sediment composition.

1.2 Initial BICM-Phases 1 and 2 Shoreline Analyses

Although coast-wide monitoring has been an important component of coastal restoration activities in south Louisiana since the 1990s, comprehensive shoreline assessments along the outer coast in support of shoreline restoration projects were not initiated until after the 2005 hurricane season. Severe storm impacts were encountered throughout most of coastal Louisiana during the passage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Damages associated with these storms became a catalyst for increased attention on the need for a comprehensive monitoring effort to document shoreline and nearshore sediment transport processes on a consistent basis in support of Gulf shoreline restoration. As such, BICM was established in 2005 to provide long-term data on Louisiana barrier shoreline systems for planning, design, evaluation, and maintenance of restoration projects. The first phase of BICM was completed in 2012, culminating with a workshop on program achievements, the initial development process, and lessons learned from data collection and analysis (Kindinger et al., 2013). Initial shoreline compilation and change analyses were completed under BICM Phase 1 (Martinez et al., 2009) with shorelines from the 1880s, 1930s, 1998, 2004, and 2005 epochs. BICM Phase 2 shoreline compilation and change analyses (Byrnes et al., 2017) revised and updated Phase 1 efforts, and included three additional regional shorelines (1950s, 2008, and 2012). The present report is a continuation of BICM Phase 2, and specifically addresses assessment of historical and modern shoreline positions from the mid-1800s to 2015, as well as changes derived from temporal comparison of positions. Backbarrier shorelines also were developed for the period 1998 to 2015 for use with habitat delineation and change mapping.

1.3 Purpose

The primary goal of this BICM-Phase 2 effort was to revise and update existing BICM historical shoreline change data (Phase 2 - Byrnes et al., 2017) for coastal Louisiana from the mid-1800s to 2015. The principal addition to the existing data set was the 2015 regional shoreline derived from orthoimagery from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (National Agriculture Imagery Program [NAIP]). Backbarrier shorelines for the 1998, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2015 periods also were digitized for establishing geomorphic polygons for habitat change analysis within the broader BICM program. Coastal structure locations were digitized for the 2015 epoch as well. As an update to existing Phase 2 shorelines, topographic maps for the 1930s were digitized and integrated with existing 1930s shorelines for more complete coverage in the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin Regions. Finally, 1950s shoreline data previously interpreted from smaller-scale maps/photographs were re-interpreted from higher-resolution imagery for portions of the Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands regions for consistency with USC&GS shoreline positions mapped elsewhere. For this report, six periods were identified for documenting shoreline change and map production: 1) 1880s to 1930s; 2) 1930s to 1950s; 3) 1950s to 1998; 4) 1998 to 2015; 5) 2004 to 2012; and 6) 1880s to 2015.

2.0 Project Area

Shorelines along the Louisiana outer coast define the seaward geomorphic feature for protecting inland marsh habitat. Erosion, migration, and deterioration of this boundary pose a long-term impact to interior marsh extent and ecology, thereby potentially limiting the effectiveness of marshes as a buffer to storm energy. The 2012 and 2017 Louisiana Master Plans, as well as previous CWPPRA restoration efforts, recognize the importance of shoreline and barrier island restoration as a first line of defense for interior marshes. Project design depends on detailed analysis of historical shoreline position change under normal and storm processes. As such, shoreline positions for the outer coast of Louisiana were compiled to document historical changes since the mid-1800s from the most western portion of the Chenier Plain at Sabine Pass to the easternmost portion of the Delta Plain at the Chandeleur Islands. The only areas excluded from our analysis were the Modern Birdfoot Delta region and recent Wax Lake – Atchafalaya deltaic deposits where sedimentation processes resulted in shoreline changes inconsistent with those recorded along most other open-coast regions where waves and wave-generated currents dominate erosion and sedimentation patterns.

2.1 BICM Regions

Nine geomorphic regions were identified for which shoreline position and changes are documented between the mid-1800s and 2015 (Figure 1). Barrier beach shorelines are prominent along the Chenier Plain of southwestern Louisiana and the barrier island coast of the Mississippi River Delta Plain, whereas marsh shorelines primarily are associated with the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin regions. Although shorelines for active deltaic areas of the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas and Mississippi River Delta are not included in our analyses, shorelines adjacent to these areas were compiled and evaluated for temporal changes.

2.2 Shoreline Change Reaches

Based on geomorphology and shoreline change characteristics, shoreline reaches were established for each geomorphic region (Figure 2). Eighty-three (83) reaches were delineated for documenting historical shoreline changes along the outer coast and within Lakes Maurepas, Pontchartrain, and Borgne in the Pontchartrain Basin (Table 1). Similar to geomorphic regions, shoreline extent is not constant for shoreline reaches; instead, reach boundaries are defined based on historical shoreline change trends and coastal features including bayou and inlet entrances and structures such as jetties. Overall, 15 of the 20 coastal zone parishes are included in this shoreline change assessment, the top five of which encompass about 60% of the Louisiana outer coast shoreline (Terrebonne [121.1 mi (195 km)], St. Bernard [113.2 mi (182 km)], Cameron [81.3 mi (131 km)], Iberia [79.2 mi (127 km)], and Vermilion [61.8 mi (100 km)]). The Mississippi River Delta Plain exterior shoreline encompasses about 66% of the outer coast (geomorphic regions east of Acadiana Bays), of which the barrier beach shorelines (Raccoon Island to Shell Island reaches and the Chandeleur Islands) extend approximately 142.8 mi (230 km; 30% of the deltaic plain exterior shoreline) and buffer interior marsh habitat against ocean waves from the GoM.

Louisiana Geomorphic Regions

Figure 1. BICM geomorphic regions for coastal Louisiana.

Louisiana Geomorphic Regions and Reaches Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2

2700000			3000000			3300000		3600000			
No.	Reach Name	No.	Reach Name	No.	Reach Name	No.	Reach Name	No.	Reach Name	No.	Reach
	Johnson's Bayou	12	Marsh Island - South Point	24	The Jaws - West	35	Point Au Fer Island	46	Grand Isle	65	Bayou B
	Ocean View Beach	13	Marsh Island Bayside	25	The Jaws - East	36	Oyster Bayou to Caillou Boca	47	West Grand Terre	66	New Orlean
	Holly Beach	14	SW Pass - Marsh Island	26	Point Marone	37	Raccoon Island	48	East Grand Terre	67	Lake Ca
4	Hackberry Beach	16	Hell Hole Bayou	27	Point No Point	38	Whiskey Island	49	Chaland Headland	68	South
כ	Mermentau River	17	Redfish Point	28	Bayou Sale	39	Trinity Island	50	Shell Island	69	Little
6	Rockefeller Refuge	18	Vermilion Beach	29	Wax Lake Delta	40	East Island	59	Breton Island	70	New Orlea
	Mulberry Island	19	Avery Island	30	Atchafalaya Delta	41	Wine Island	60	Grand Gosier and Curlew Islands	71	Jeffersor
8	Freshwater Bayou	20	Weeks Island	31	Plumb Bayou	42	Timbalier Island	61	North Chandeleur Islands	72	LaBranch
9	Chenier Au Tigre	21	Cypremort Point - West	32	Four League Bay - East	43	East Timbalier Island	62	Isle Aux Pitre	73	Frenie
10	Rainey Refuge	22	Cypremort Point - East	33	Four League Bay - West	44	West Belle Pass	63	Biloxi Marsh	74	Mancha
11	Marsh Island	23	Cote Blanche Island	34	North Point	45	Caminada Headland	64	Shell Beach	75	Maurepas

Figure 2. Shoreline reaches within BICM geomorphic regions for coastal Louisiana.

2.3 Shoreline Restoration/Protection Projects

Thirty-one (31) shoreline restoration/protection projects were constructed between 1994 and 2015 along the outer coast of Louisiana. Most projects have been constructed along the barrier island coastline, where shoreline recession rates exceed those recorded along the Chenier Plain coast, thereby signifying regions of greatest need (CPRA, 2016; Table 2). Projects include three along the Western Chenier Plain Region, two along the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, eight associated with the Early Lafourche Delta Region, nine along the Late Lafourche Delta Region, seven along the Modern Delta System, and two associated with the Chandeleur Islands Region (Table 2; Appendix A). Most of these projects have been monitored, and their performance has been assessed to improve design and performance of future shoreline restoration/protection efforts.

For the period 1998 to 2015, 23 projects were completed along the southeastern Louisiana Gulf shoreline. Approximately 67 million cubic yards (MCY) of sand and mixed sediment from borrow areas was placed to create barrier beach and dune habitat, and backbarrier marsh habitat (Appendix A). The projects have added substantial material to the coastal sediment budget, thereby providing resilience to the outer deltaic coast that constitutes the first line of defense to interior deltaic habitat from storm waves and water levels. The long-term benefit of this restoration approach is the addition of sediment to a littoral system that is otherwise sediment starved (Morang et al., 2013). Augmenting natural sediment delivery to the outer coast not only offers an immediate benefit in that created subaerial land protects interior habitat, but sediment added to the system replenishes adjacent environments through littoral sediment transport during the natural reworking process associated with barrier restoration.

Along the Chenier Plain coast, most projects involved the use of structures to protect shorelines against incident wave and current energy (Table 2). However, beach restoration and channel dredging placement were recorded between Sabine and Calcasieu Passes during the analysis period (CPRA, 2014). Approximately 1.75 MCY of sand from offshore borrow sites was added to the beaches landward of breakwater structures near the community of Ocean View Beach. Based on observations from aerial imagery and personal communications with Galveston District dredging engineers, approximately 4 MCY of sediment dredged from the Sabine navigation channel was pumped east of the Sabine Pass jetties at the coast between 2006 and 2010. Further, 2012 imagery illustrates sediment deposition immediately west of the Calcasieu jetties, presumably resulting from channel dredging, resulting in shoreline advance. Finally, approximately 2 million cubic yards of sand was placed along the shoreline between the western jetty at Calcasieu Pass and Holly Beach between August 2013 and February 2014. This restoration effort created a protective beach for nearly 6 miles west of Calcasieu Pass.

2.4 Historical Storms

Tropical cyclone wind, wave, and water level forces impart greatest changes to beach and wetland environments in coastal Louisiana. In fact, Stone et al. (1997) suggested that up to 90% of shoreline recession can be accounted for by hurricanes and tropical storms. Although daily variations in wave approach and intensity continually shape the boundary between land and sea, destructive energy associated with periodic events control shoreline evolution at all temporal scales. As such, observed historical shoreline changes were evaluated within the context of storm frequency and intensity for specific change periods and their proximity to shoreline survey end points. Research has noted the impact of tropical cyclones along the Louisiana coast and associated variations in storm magnitude and frequency

(e.g., Stone et al., 1997; Mock, 2008). We focused on variations in tropical cyclones for the four analysis periods when shoreline changes were documented along the south Louisiana coast. Our analysis relies upon data present in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) web site on historical hurricane tracks (NOAA, 2016). Tropical cyclone frequency and magnitude are summarized for two specific coastal segments; southwestern Louisiana between Sabine Pass and eastern Marsh Island, and southeastern Louisiana between eastern Marsh Island and the Chandeleur Islands. All direct hits within 125 miles of Lake Charles (southwestern Louisiana area) and 125 miles of New Orleans (southeastern Louisiana area) were recorded.

Tables 3 and 4 document the occurrence and magnitude of tropical cyclones impacting shoreline response in south Louisiana. For the initial shoreline change epoch (1880s to 1930s) in southwestern Louisiana, shoreline compilation for the 1880s encompassed the period 1855 to 1886, although the entire Chenier Plain outer coast was surveyed between 1883 and 1886 (see Appendix B). For the 1930s period, the western half of the Chenier Plain was surveyed in 1923 and 1924, whereas the eastern portion of the region was surveyed between 1933 and 1935. During this period, 20 tropical cyclones (2.5 per decade) crossed the coast, three (3) of which were Category 3 hurricanes (Figure 3A). The outer coast of southeastern Louisiana experienced 50 tropical cyclones (about 6 per decade) with greater intensity (two Category 4 and six Category 3 hurricanes) during the same period (Figure 3B).

The second shoreline change epoch (1930s to 1950s) recorded nine cyclones over a 20-year period for southwestern Louisiana, two of which were Category 2 hurricanes and six of which were tropical storms. Along the southeastern Louisiana outer coast, 14 cyclones impacted deltaic wetlands (about 5 per decade), but only one of the three hurricanes was a Category 2. This was a relatively calm period for south Louisiana (Figure 3B).

During the 1950s to 1998 epoch in southwestern Louisiana, hurricane frequency and intensity increased (eight hurricanes; one Category 4, one Category 3); however, the rate at which cyclones impacted this area was not substantially different than the previous period. Along the southeastern Louisiana coast, 12 tropical cyclones crossed the delta plain (11 hurricanes and 1 tropical storm). In the 1960s and early 1970s, one Category 5, two Category 4, and one Category 3 hurricane impacted the coast and interior wetlands, a trend similar to that experienced in southwestern Louisiana (Figure 3). Hurricanes had substantial impact on coastal change throughout south Louisiana during this period.

Between 1998 and 2015, the southwestern Louisiana coast experience five hurricanes and three tropical storms (Figure 3A). Hurricane Rita (category 3) had greatest impact on coastal changes; however, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike caused substantial beach changes in 2008 (Byrnes and McBride, 2009). For the 17-year period, cyclone frequency averaged about 5 per decade. Within this period, storm intensity and frequency were greatest between 2004 and 2012 (seven tropical cyclones). Four events were hurricanes and three were tropical storms. Because the period of record was 8 years, cyclone frequency was highest of any shoreline change epoch (about 9 per decade). Storm impacts resulted in greatest changes throughout the period of record, particularly those associated with Hurricanes Rita and Ike. The same trend was present in southeastern Louisiana, where 13 tropical cyclones resulted in large shoreline changes along the outer coast, especially those associated with Hurricanes Georges, Katrina, and Gustav (Table 4; Figure 3B).

Figure 3. Tropical cyclone occurrence along the Louisiana coastal zone: A) Sabine Pass to eastern Marsh Island, B) eastern Marsh Island to the Chandeleur Islands.

3.0 Methods

Regional historical shoreline changes along the outer coast of Louisiana have been documented previously to determine the extent of Louisiana's jurisdiction over resource ownership in the offshore coastal zone (Morgan and Larimore, 1957), to document variations in shoreline recession and advance relative to dominant coastal processes and geological controls (Morgan and Morgan, 1983; McBride et al., 1992 [Louisiana Delta Plain]; Byrnes et al., 1995 [Louisiana Chenier Plain]), and to support coastal restoration requirements under the BICM program (Martinez et al., 2009; Byrnes et al., 2017). The present study updates Byrnes et al. (2017) to include a 2015 regional shoreline and backbarrier shorelines. Furthermore, shoreline position data for the 1930s were added for the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin Regions, and some 1950s shoreline data previously interpreted from smaller-scale maps/photographs were re-interpreted from higher-resolution imagery for the Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands Regions. When necessary, shoreline positions were re-analyzed to quantify change for the 1880s to 1930s, 1930s to 1950s, 1950s to 1998, 1998 to 2015, 2004 to 2012, and 1880s to 2015 epochs. Results presented in this report and accompanying data files supersede all existing BICM shoreline change data presented in Martinez et al. (2009) and Byrnes et al. (2017).

3.1 Shoreline Data Sources

US Coast & Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) topographic maps (T-sheets), US Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangles, and orthorectified aerial imagery were used for compiling high-water shoreline position throughout the coastal zone of Louisiana. Nine shoreline periods were compiled during BICM Phase 2: 1) 1880s, 2) 1930s, 3) 1950s, 4) 1998, 5) 2004, 6) 2005, 7) 2008, 8) 2012, and 9) 2015. The 1880s, 1930s, and 1950s T-sheets encompassed multiple years (Appendix B). However, 1930s and 1950s USC&GS shorelines were limited in the Acadiana Bays and Pontchartrain Basin. As such, data gaps in the 1930s were filled with USGS topographic maps where appropriate, and gaps in the 1950s were filled using using aerial photography. The time range for orthorectified imagery between 1998 and 2015 was much narrower than map data and required no gaps to be filled with alternate sources. For all time periods, map dates for specific segments of coast were linked within each regional geodatabase, ensuring exact time comparisons for all shoreline position changes. Further, source data information presented in Appendix B is included with all digital data.

3.2 Shoreline and Structure Compilation

High-resolution scans of original USC&GS shoreline manuscripts (metric maps) were registered using graticule markings on the maps and projected to the 1983 North American Datum (NAD83) Louisiana South State Plane coordinate system using ArcGIS mapping software. National Geodetic Survey (NGS) control monuments were used as an independent check of map registration accuracy. Further, maps from the 1950s and 1930s were registered first because graticule, datum, and ellipsoid parameters for newer vintage maps are defined within ArcGIS, and these newer registered maps were used to bridge control to 1800s vintage maps for accurate co-registration. Finally, selected 1950s vintage maps were co-registered with orthorectified imagery to verify registration for the shoreline data set before temporal comparisons were made. This system of registration checks and balances produces internal consistency within the data set, producing most reliable shoreline changes.

High-water shorelines, as mapped by USC&GS (see Shalowitz, 1964), were compiled for temporal comparison using standard GIS mapping procedures, registration techniques aimed at highest accuracy and internal data set consistency, and heads-up digitizing of high-resolution scans at a scale of 1:5,000. When initial BICM shoreline data from Martinez et al. (2009) met these compilation standards, data were incorporated within the present geodatabases. High-resolution orthorectified aerial imagery was used to interpret shoreline position for modern times (1998 through 2015). High-water shoreline position determined from orthoimagery represents the upper limit of average wave runup at high tide; relative to geomorphology, this position generally is recognized as the berm crest or an active scarp at the toe of a dune (Byrnes et al., 2012). It also is recognized as the wet/dry boundary on the beach at high water or a debris line marking the position of wave uprush (Leatherman, 2003). For south Louisiana, the wet/dry boundary on the beach at high tide was the primary shoreline marker. Where marsh/swamp shoreline type was dominant, shoreline position was mapped as the vegetation/water boundary, consistent with USC&GS historical shoreline mapping (Shalowitz, 1964). For sections of coast where high-water shoreline interpretation was complicated, and image acquisition date and time were available, measured water levels at nearby NOAA gauges were used to assist with interpretation (e.g., Sabine Pass, Calcasieu Pass, Port Fourchon, Grand Isle). For most images, acquisition was completed at or near the time of highwater. Interpretation from aerial imagery followed procedures consistent with that described by USC&GS for their shoreline position surveys, thereby resulting in consistent comparisons for the period of record.

In addition to shoreline compilation from maps and imagery, a coastal structures inventory was compiled for each period to assist with interpretation of shoreline change variations. Where shore-parallel structures represented the outer coast boundary along a shoreline (e.g., revetment), the outer structure boundary and shoreline boundary were concurrent, unless the structure became separated from the shoreline. Because structures generally do not change position between time periods (although they can be repaired or altered), most-recent structure positions were used to fix locations for all time periods where structures were present. This produced a consistent data set from which to make comparisons and interpretations.

3.3 Shoreline Position Measurement Uncertainty

All shoreline position measurements contain some degree of inherent uncertainty associated with data acquisition and compilation procedures. It is important to quantify limitations in survey measurements and document potential systematic errors that can be eliminated during quality control procedures (Anders and Byrnes, 1991; Crowell et al., 1991; Byrnes and Hiland, 1995; Fletcher et al., 2003; Baker and Byrnes, 2004). Substantial effort was made to ensure any systematic errors were eliminated prior to change analysis. Consequently, measurement uncertainties associated with present and past shoreline surveys are considered random.

Uncertainty estimates were determined to gauge confidence associated with shoreline change measurements for research/engineering applications and management decisions. Because individual uncertainties (those associated with map/image resolution and shoreline feature interpretation) are random and uncorrelated, a combined uncertainty measure was determined by summing in quadrature (root of sum of squares [RSS]) (Taylor, 1997; Fletcher et al., 2003; Genz et al., 2007; Hapke et al., 2010). Shoreline position interpretation from small-scale maps resulted in greatest uncertainty. RSS uncertainty for each shoreline can be calculated using the information in Table 5. Based on these estimates, total

position uncertainty for each shoreline was determined as $U_t = \pm \sqrt{U_{fs}^2 + U_{ci}^2 + U_{si}^2}$, where U_{fs} is the estimated uncertainty associated with field survey measurements, U_c is the estimated uncertainty for shorelines derived from cartographic sources, and U_{si} is the estimated uncertainty for shoreline interpre-

Table 6. Maximum RSS uncertainty for BICM shoreline change data for the south Louisiana coast. Bold numbers identify uncertainty estimates for shoreline change epochs.

tation from aerial imagery. However, change analysis requires comparing two shorelines from the same geographic area, but different time periods, which means random errors associated with each shoreline must be summed in quadrature for comparison with change results. Table 6 presents a summary of potential RSS uncertainty (i.e., random errors) associated with change analyses computed for specific epochs. Most change estimates for the Louisiana coast document shoreline advance or recession greater than uncertainty estimates. Further, because random uncertainty is considered equally distributed (i.e., has no preferred direction), average uncertainty approaches zero as the number of observations (individual transect measurements) increases (Taylor, 1997). As such, uncertainty estimates are statistically minimized relative to average change calculations for coastal reaches containing many change measurements (i.e., \approx 50 or more transect measurements).

3.4 Shoreline Change Analysis

Once shorelines were compiled and attributed, the Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS version 4.3; Thieler et al., 2009) was used to quantify changes in shoreline position for six epochs along the coast: 1) 1880s to 1930s; 2) 1930s to 1950s; 3) 1950s to 1998; 4) 1998 to 2015; 5) 2004 to 2012; and 6) 1880s to 2015. Shoreline change analysis was completed for each of nine geomorphic regions and 83 shoreline reaches (see Figure 2) by establishing region-specific baselines and shore-perpendicular transects at 50-m (164-ft) longshore intervals. Rates of change were determined by subtracting shoreline positions from a common baseline for distinct time periods and dividing by the exact acquisition period for each shoreline location within the geodatabase used by DSAS for analysis. DSAS output tables were joined with transect files to analyze spatial changes. Detailed quality control procedures were employed on a transect-bytransect basis to ensure accurate shoreline comparisons for reach and region data summaries. All shoreline and change information was recorded within geodatabases established for each geomorphic region. For our analyses, we consider a mean calculated change rate to be insignificant if its magnitude is less than the uncertainty rate and the number of measurements used to determine the mean is less than about 50. As expected, all shoreline change rate averages exceed maximum RSS uncertainty estimates for the above criterion.

Shoreline change data are attributed by reach for every geomorphic region, and average changes are recorded for each reach and region by epoch. Further, maps illustrating changes at 50-m (164-ft) intervals document spatial and temporal variations within each geomorphic region (Appendix C). Because the duration of analysis epochs varies from 8 to 135 years, change rates for shorter intervals generally record greater variability than longer epochs. Shorter intervals do not have the benefit of time averaging of storm and normal coastal processes impacting change, and therefore are more susceptible to short-term event impacts. Unless one is interested in evaluating impacts associated with specific events, decade or longer epochs are most useful for comparing average shoreline changes between epochs. The data presented below offer a consistent framework from which to evaluate future shoreline changes along the coast, as well as for planning, design, evaluation, and maintenance of current and future barrier shoreline restoration projects. CPRA will make all shoreline and change data available through the Coastal Information Management System (CIMS).

4.0 Results

The challenge for regional shoreline change data sets is to develop an effective means to summarize and illustrate thousands of measurements throughout a project area (e.g., 16,000 to 21,000 measurements per epoch for south Louisiana) to document temporal and spatial trends, enabling users to understand

relationships between average changes by geomorphic region and reach and change measurements at individual transects. A series of digital and paper map products were developed for the BICM-Phase 2 shoreline change project to address these needs (see CIMS and Appendix C). All digital data were organized within geodatabases by geomorphic region and contain all change calculations. Shoreline change maps were produced for each epoch by geomorphic region, and individual change measurements at each transect were illustrated with average change by reach. These maps allow users to observe change variability within each reach relative to average change by region. In addition, coast-wide summary maps of average reach changes were created for each epoch.

4.1 Shoreline Changes

Six shoreline change epochs were evaluated to document variability in change trends relative to geographic location and engineering activities (i.e., beach restoration and coastal structure placement). The first three epochs (1880s to 1930s, 1930s to 1950s, and 1950s to 1998) illustrate shoreline changes prior to the advent of most shore protection measures along the Gulf shoreline, although navigation structures (jetties) and shore protection in Lake Pontchartrain were present. Since 1998, shore protection and coastal restoration have influenced shoreline response, primarily along the Ocean View Beach and Holly Beach Reaches of the Western Chenier Plain and barrier shoreline environments of the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, and Modern Delta Regions.

Table 7 illustrates average shoreline change by region for all of coastal Louisiana. Although shoreline change variability is large for all geomorphic regions, regional changes isolate areas of large and chronic loss that have been the primary focus of shoreline restoration. Mean shoreline position change for the entire coast of Louisiana varied between -9.5 and -13.5 ft/yr, a relatively consistent change rate regardless of temporal epoch. Most vulnerable geomorphic regions include the Eastern Chenier Plain, Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands. As expected, primarily protected shorelines of the Acadiana Bays, Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas, and Pontchartrain Basin regions recorded relatively small mean shoreline recession rates (Table 7). Low mean shoreline recession rates to net shoreline advance for the open Gulf shoreline of the Western Chenier Plain is an anomaly compared with other open-Gulf shorelines in south Louisiana.

When shorelines with open-Gulf wave exposure are evaluated independent of semi-protected interior shorelines for the same temporal epochs, measurable differences in average shoreline change are illustrated. For open-Gulf shorelines, mean shoreline change varied between -10.5 and -21.7 ft/yr (Table 7). When shoreline position data are available for all regions, open-Gulf shorelines encompass about 40% of total shoreline length. These regions absorb the greatest impact from storms, thereby requiring greatest potential for shoreline restoration to provide protection to interior shorelines. For semi-protected coastal areas, a smaller range in mean shoreline recession between epochs was documented (5.8 to 8.6 ft/yr). Further, variability associated with shoreline change rates within epochs was much lower in semiprotected coastal areas away from the direct impact of open-Gulf waves and currents (Table 7).

4.1.1 1880s to 1930s Epoch. The only reaches of coast that illustrated net shoreline advance during this period were those associated with the Western and Easter Chenier Plain Regions and land built into Lake Pontchartrain for development (Figure 4). Reach 1 (Johnson's Bayou) recorded greatest net shoreline advance, although change variability was relatively large and not all segments of this reach showed accretion (Figure 5; Appendix C, Figure C1; Appendix D). Reach 4 (Hackberry Beach) illustrated a similar trend but the magnitude of net shoreline advance was lower (Figure 5).

Plain, portions of the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands Regions; **Semi-Protected Coast** includes Acadiana Bays, Atchafalaya/Wax Lake Deltas, and Pontchartrain Basin Regions.

Net shoreline advance at Reaches 8 and 9 along the Eastern Chenier Plain coast were the only other reaches along the Louisiana coast to document natural net shoreline advance (Figure 4). Shoreline change variability relative to mean change was high (Figure 6), and change rates did not always record advance (Appendix C, Figure C7). Overall, the Western Chenier Plain region recorded net accretion for this period (5.1 ft/yr), whereas the Eastern Chenier Plain Region recorded net recession of 16.8 ft/yr (Table 7).

The Acadiana Bays Region recorded net shoreline recession of approximately 8.7 ft/yr (Table 7), although reach change averages varied from -14.0 ft/yr at Reach 12 (Marsh Island – South Point) to -1.8 ft/yr at Reach 20 (Weeks Island) (Figure 4; Appendix C, Figure C13). Eight reaches within the Acadiana Bays Region did not have USC&GS data available for the 1930s, although data for four of those reaches were able to be supplemented with USGS topographic map shorelines. Shoreline change variability was relatively low (Figure 7) as indicated by the low standard deviation associated with mean change (Table 7). Similar to the Acadiana Bays shorelines, the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas shorelines documented net recession prior to modern deltaic deposition, even though the magnitude of net change was slightly higher at about -12.0 ft/yr (Table 7). Again, shoreline change variability was relatively low (Figure 8; Appendix C, Figure C19); most transect measurements recorded shoreline recession during this period.

The Early Lafourche Delta Region contains two distinctly different coastal segments. Reaches 32 through 36 (Four League Bay – East to Caillou Boca) are primarily marsh and perched beach shorelines, whereas Reaches 37 to 41 (Raccoon Island to Wine Island) are barrier island shorelines of the Isles Dernieres (Appendix C, Figure C25). The sandy barrier shorelines respond much differently to storm and normal wave sediment transport processes than marsh shorelines to the northwest in this region. Net shoreline change within this region is -19.4 ft/yr (Table 7); however, net change along the Isles Dernieres reaches is -36.5 ft/yr (Figures 4 and 9). Shoreline change variability is quite high in this region (Appendix C, Figure C25) but all reaches record recession for this period, indicating long-term deterioration of this abandoned delta lobe (Figure 9).

Farther east, on the most-recently abandoned delta lobe of the Mississippi River (Late Lafourche), net shoreline recession rates exceed 100 ft/yr at Reaches 43 and 44 (East Timbalier Island and West Belle Pass) (Figure 4 and 10). However, variability in the magnitude of shoreline recession is large (-144.2 ft/yr to -0.6 ft/yr) (Appendix C, Figure C31), and the predominant direction of lateral island migration is east and west on either side of the Caminada Headland. Net shoreline recession for the region is 34.2 ft/yr, the highest erosion rate for any region along the Louisiana coast (Table 7).

The Modern Delta Region encompasses the easternmost islands of the barrier islands west of the Mississippi River (Figures 4 and 11). Mean shoreline recession for this region is 15.7 ft/yr, but variability relative to mean change is large (Appendix C, Figure C37; Appendix D).

East of the Mississippi River, two geomorphic regions encompass the remaining Louisiana shoreline. The Chandeleur Islands Region includes sandy barrier islands of the St. Bernard Delta. These are lowrelief barrier islands that migrate landward and deteriorate in response to storm-induced sediment transport processes (Fearnley et al., 2009a,b). Average shoreline recession is 28.4 ft/yr (Table 7; Appendix D), but shoreline change variability is large (Figure 12; Appendix C, Figure C43). Conversely, shoreline changes within the more protected Pontchartrain Basin Region are lower and more consistent (Figures 4 and 13). Mean shoreline change is -4.4 ft/yr, with largest shoreline recession at Reaches 72 and 74 (LaBranche Marshes and Manchac Swamp; 9.7 ft/yr) and greatest shoreline advance of 15.6 ft/yr at Reach 70 (New Orleans Lakefront) where land was built into Lake Pontchartrain for development

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 1880s to 1930s

Figure 5. Shoreline change by reach for the Western Chenier Plain Region.

Figure 6. Shoreline change by reach for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region.

Figure 7. Shoreline change by reach for the Acadiana Bays Region.

Figure 8. Shoreline change by reach for the Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region.

Figure 9. Shoreline change by reach for the Early Lafourche Delta Region.

Figure 10. Shoreline change by reach for the Late Lafourche Delta Region.

Figure 11. Shoreline change by reach for the Modern Delta Region.

Figure 12. Shoreline change by reach for the Chandeleur Islands Region.

Figure 13. Shoreline change by reach for the Pontchartrain Basin Region.

(Appendix C, Figure C49; Appendix D). Shoreline change in this region represents nearly 40% of average change for the entire coast during this period.

When comparing open-Gulf shorelines with semi-protected shoreline regions, mean change rates differ by nearly 3 times. Mean open-Gulf shoreline recession was 17.1 ft/yr, whereas mean shoreline recession in semi-protected regions was 5.9 ft/yr (Table 7). Variability in shoreline change rates also is lower for semi-protected regions. This illustrates the impact of storm waves and currents on outer-coast shores and their importance for buffering storm impacts on interior shorelines.

4.1.2 1930s to 1950s Epoch. For most geomorphic regions, mean shoreline recession rates were smaller than those recorded for the 1880s to 1930s epoch. Although magnitudes of shoreline position change were smaller, change patterns were consistent (i.e., regions with largest average shoreline recession rates in the 1880s to 1930s epoch recorded largest recession rates in the 1930s to 1950s epoch) throughout coastal Louisiana (Figure 14; Table 7). Similar to the 1880s to 1930s epoch, shoreline advance (7.6 ft/yr) dominated the Western Chenier Plain Region (Figure 14; Table 7); however, Reach 2 (Ocean View Beach) recorded an average recession rate of 1.0 ft/yr and Reach 5 (Mermentau River) receded at about 10.1 ft/yr (Appendix C, Figure C2; Appendix D). Farther east, the Eastern Chenier Plain region illustrated large variability in average shoreline changes by reach (Appendix C, Figure C8). Reaches 6 and 7 (Rockefeller Refuge and Mulberry Island) had mean shoreline recession rates of approximately 30 and 20 ft/yr, whereas Reaches 8 and 9 (Freshwater Bayou and Chenier Au Tigre) recorded shoreline advance of about 30 ft/yr (Figure 14; Appendix D). Because Reaches 6 and 7 were longer than Reaches 8 and 9, mean shoreline recession for the region was dominant at 12.3 ft/yr, approximately 4 ft/yr less shoreline erosion than the 1880s to 1930s epoch.

Most shoreline reaches within the Acadiana Bays Region documented lower shoreline recession rates, resulting in an average of about 1 ft/yr less erosion compared with the 1880s to 1930s epoch (Table 7; Appendix D). 1930s USC&GS shoreline data were not available for Reaches 16 through 19 (Hell Hole Bayou to Avery Island) (Figure 14). Although Reaches 20 (Weeks Island), 21 (Cypremort Point-West), 24 (The Jaws-West), 27 (Point No Point), and 28 (Bayou Sale) indicated an increase in shoreline recession, lower shoreline erosion rates dominated throughout the region, particularly for the Marsh Island reaches $(11 - 13)$ (Figure 14; Appendix C, Figure C14; Appendix D).

Shoreline reaches within the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region (prior to modern deltaic sedimentation) recorded an average increase in shoreline recession to 17.9 ft/yr (Table 7, Appendix D), only one of two regions to document this trend relative to the 1880s to 1930s epoch. Although shoreline change data for Reach 31 (Plumb Bayou) were included for this epoch, a two-fold increase in shoreline recession for Reach 29 (Wax Lake Delta) had greatest influence on average change (Appendix C, Figure C20 versus C19).

The Early Lafourche Delta Region illustrated substantial reduction in average shoreline recession; however, not all reaches recorded less shoreline erosion during this epoch. Shoreline change data for Four League Bay (Reaches 32 and 33) were available for this epoch, contributing to a reduction in average erosion for the region (Figure 14, Appendix D). These data were not available for the 1880s to 1930s epoch, and because shoreline recession rates for these reaches are below average change for the region, the average shoreline recession rate is biased toward higher recession rates associated with the Isles Dernieres barrier islands (Reaches 37 through 41; Appendix C, Figure C26 versus C25). However, average shoreline recession for the Isles Dernieres reaches is about 14 ft/yr lower than rates

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 1930s to 1950s

Figure 14. Average shoreline change rates by reach for coastal Louisiana; 1930s to 1950s.

recorded for the first change epoch (-36.5 ft/yr average for Reaches 37 to 41; Appendix D). Given this trend, the reduction in shoreline recession for this region appears consistent with most geomorphic regions and is not a function of data coverage.

The trend in reduced shoreline recession is duplicated for the Late Lafourche Delta barrier islands where average shoreline change for the region was -22.2 ft/yr, about 12 ft/yr less than average recession for the 1880s to 1930s epoch (Appendix C, Figure C32; Appendix D). Although Reach 48 (East Grand Terre) recorded a shoreline recession rate more than two times that of the previous epoch (-33.7 ft/yr versus -15.9 ft/yr), Reach 47 (West Grand Terre) illustrated average accretion (Figure 14; Appendix C; Figure C32 versus C31).

Average shoreline change for the Modern Delta barrier shoreline also was less than that recorded for the 1880s to 1930s epoch. However, it was not substantially different and was primarily influenced by a large decrease in shoreline recession at Reach 49 (Chaland Headland) (-12.4 ft/yr) relative to that recorded for the previous epoch (-21.8 ft/yr) (Appendix C; Figure C38; Appendix D). This was not the case for the Chandeleur Islands Region where all reaches recorded substantial reductions in shoreline recession rate, resulting in an average change rate almost half that identified during the 1880s to 1930s epoch (Figure 14; Appendix C, Figure C44 versus C43).

Although a majority of the Pontchartrain Basin shoreline did not have shoreline data for the 1950s (Figure 14), average change rates for the areas where data were available were relatively consistent (Appendix D). Average changes for individual reaches varied (Appendix C, Figure C50 versus C49), but mean change for the region was within 1.2 ft/yr of the 1880s to 1930s epoch. This difference likely is related to the absence of change data within Lake Pontchartrain for the 1930s to 1950s epoch.

After separating open-Gulf and semi-protected shoreline regions, mean change for Gulf-facing shorelines increased to -10.5 ft/yr and decreased for semi-protected shorelines to -8.1 ft/yr, relative to the coastwide average of -9.5 ft/yr (Table 7). Average open-Gulf shoreline change can be compared with the 1880s to 1930s rate because the number of transects is similar; however, comparison between the two epochs for semi-protected change rates is questionable because the number of change measurements for the 1930s to 1950s epoch is about 40% less than used for the 1880s to 1930s epoch. Mean change data from epochs where full shoreline coverage is available indicate that reduced coverage rates overestimate mean recession rates for semi-protected regions (Table 7).

4.1.3 1950s to 1998 Epoch. Average shoreline recession for the entire Louisiana coast peaked during this epoch at -13.5 ft/yr (Table 7). All regions were net erosional during this epoch (Figure 15), whereas the Western Chenier Plain coast recorded net shoreline advance between the 1880s and 1950s. Mean shoreline change ranged from -2.1 ft/yr to -33.9 ft/yr, and greatest shoreline recession was associated with barrier islands of the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands Regions (Figure 15; Table 7; Appendix C, Figure C3).

The Western Chenier Plain shoreline was net erosional for this epoch (-2.1 ft/yr; Table 7). All shoreline reaches showed less accretion or greater erosion (Figure 15). Reach 5 (Mermentau River) recorded more than double the shoreline recession rate (-22.1 ft/yr) recorded for the previous period (-10.1 ft/yr) (Figure 5). A similar trend was observed for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region; however, the magnitude of change was not as great (Figure 6). Average shoreline recession increased to 18.8 ft/yr, but two reaches documented a decrease in shoreline recession (Figure 15; Appendix D) and shoreline change variability was large (Appendix C, Figure C9). The Chenier Au Tigre reach went from highly accretional for the 1930s to 1950s epoch (30.2 ft/yr) to net erosional during this 1950s to 1998 epoch (-3.3 ft/yr).

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 1950s to 1998

Average shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region was -8.8 ft/yr, consistent with that recorded for the 1880s to 1930s epoch, but 1.3 ft/yr greater than that recorded between the 1930s and 1950s (Table 7). Although shoreline change data were more complete for the 1950s to 1998 epoch, average change for reaches where data were not available in 1930 was about -7 ft/yr, slightly less than region averages for both epochs (Appendix D). This suggests that region averages were not substantially influenced by changes recorded in Reaches 14 through 22 (SW Pass-Marsh Island to Cypremort Point-East) (Figure 15; Appendix C, Figure C15).

Unlike other regions, the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region documented a large decrease in shoreline recession relative to earlier epochs (Figure 15; Table 7). All shoreline reaches recorded a decrease in erosion as sediment from the Atchafalaya River began depositing along the shorelines adjacent to the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake outlets to Atchafalaya Bay (Roberts et al., 1997) (Appendix C, Figure C21). Average shoreline recession for this region was less than half that recorded for the 1930s to 1950s epoch (Table 7, Appendix D).

Shoreline recession rates along the Early Lafourche Delta coast consistently increased relative to the 1930s to 1950s epoch, except for Reach 32 (Four League Bay – East Reach). In fact, shoreline recession along barrier island Reaches 37 through 40 (Raccoon Island to East Island) increased to 42.1 ft/yr, nearly double that recorded for the 1930s to 1950s epoch (Figure 9, Appendix D). However, average regional shoreline recession only increased by about 4 ft/yr because deterioration of the barrier islands resulted in smaller islands that contribute less to the regional average with time (i.e., 583 change measurements for Epoch 1, 482 change measurements for Epoch 2, 396 change measurements for Epoch 3) (Appendix C, Figure C27 compared with C26 and C25; Appendix D). Further, barrier islands reach transects represent only 15% of reaches in the Early Lafourche Delta region.

Although variability in average shoreline change rates was substantial for the Late Lafourche Delta Region (+10.4 to -68.6 ft/yr; Figures 10 and 15), average shoreline change for the region was nearly equal to the previous epoch (Table 7). No consistent change in shoreline recession is apparent for this rapidly migrating barrier island coast relative to earlier epochs (Appendix C, Figure C33; Appendix D). However, barrier shorelines along the Modern Delta Region document substantial increases in shoreline recession relative to earlier epochs (Appendix C, Figure C39). Shoreline recession averages about 10 ft/yr greater for this region (Table 7, Figure 11, Appendix D) as beaches erode and migrate landward in response to storms and rising relative sea level.

Shoreline recession rates along the Chandeleur Islands more than doubled relative to the 1930 to 1950s epoch (Table 7, Figure 15). Average shoreline change was the highest of any region along the Louisiana coast (-33.9 ft/yr). Although variability in shoreline recession was high (Figure 12; Appendix C, Figure C45), this trend is consistent for all epochs (Appendix D). As such, comparison of average change between epochs provides a reasonable estimate of barrier system response to storm versus normal coastal processes.

A majority of shoreline data within the Pontchartrain Basin again was absent for the 1950s, so shorelines within and adjacent to Lake Borgne were the only ones available for quantifying shoreline change (Figure 15), similar to the 1930s to 1950s epoch. As with most other regions, average shoreline recession increased, in this case by about 3 ft/yr to 8.6 ft/yr (Table 7). Average recession rates by reach did not change consistently relative to earlier epochs; however, reaches closer to Mississippi Sound and the Gulf of Mexico exhibited greater erosion rates (Figure 13; Appendix C, Figure C51) whereas more protected shorelines in Lake Borgne illustrated decreased rates compared with the 1930s to 1950s epoch.

4.1.4 1998 to 2015 Epoch. This epoch reflects a period of regional shoreline restoration along many of the barrier beach shorelines in south Louisiana, particularly those in the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, and Modern Delta Regions. It also encompasses a period of significant tropical cyclone frequency and magnitude. Coast-wide mean shoreline recession decreased slightly relative to the previous epoch (-12.3 ft/yr versus -13.5 ft/yr). However, when open-Gulf shorelines are evaluated independent of semi-protected coastal regions, mean shoreline change for this period (-21.7 ft/yr) is higher than any other analyzed epoch (Table 7). Tropical cyclones measurably impacted shoreline change along the open-Gulf shoreline during this period. For semi-protected coastal regions, mean shoreline change was about four times less (-5.9 ft/yr) than for the outer coast, illustrating the importance of open-Gulf shorelines for protecting interior shorelines. Additionally, restoration efforts along the central barrier island coast (Appendix A) reduced recession rates (see Table 7).

Mean shoreline change along the Western Chenier Plain Region illustrated net accretion (Figure 5), however, substantial variation in change rates was present (Figure 16; Appendix D). Partially restored Reaches 1 and 2 (Johnson's Bayou and Ocean View Beach) recorded mean accretion of 11.3 and 4.1 ft/yr (Figure 16), whereas Reach 5 (Mermentau River) illustrated mean beach erosion (20.4 ft/yr) consistent with that documented for the 1950s to 1998 epoch (Figure 5; Appendix C, Figures C3 and C4). In contrast, shoreline along the Eastern Chenier Plain Region was characterized as net erosional (-25.4 ft/yr; Table 7). Reach 8 (Freshwater Bayou) is the only shoreline in this region to document net accretion (Figure 6; Appendix D). Similar to all other epochs, Reach 6 (Rockefeller Refuge) documents largest mean shoreline recession and is the longest reach in the region (Figure 16), thereby dominating the mean erosion signal.

The semi-protected shoreline within the Acadiana Bays Region documented mean erosion for all reaches during this period (Figure 16). However, variation in the magnitude of erosion was large, resulting in a mean change of -7.9±7.6 ft/yr (Table 7; Appendix D). Greatest shoreline recession is illustrated at Reaches 21 and 26 (Cypremort Point – West and Point Marone; about 15 ft/yr) where coastline is exposed to erosive west and northwest winds (Appendix C, Figure C16). To the east in the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region very different shoreline response is documented due to sedimentation from the Atchafalaya River and Wax Lake Outlet channels. Mean shoreline change for the region is net accretional (8.8 ft/yr; Table 7). Only Reach 31 (Plumb Bayou) is net erosional as sediment from the Atchafalaya River system is deposited along the shorelines at Reaches 29 and 30 (Wax Lake Delta and Atchafalaya Delta) (Figure 8; Appendix C, Figure C22; Appendix D).

Moving east away from active sediment supply to the coast, shoreline recession dominates mean change for all reaches in the Early Lafourche Delta Region (Figures 9 and 16). Beach erosion encountered at Reaches 37 – 41 (Raccoon Island to Wine Island) results in greatest net shoreline recession in this region. However, the length of shoreline over which large recession rates occur only represents about 14% of total shoreline length for the region (Appendix C, Figure C28; Appendix D). As such, shoreline recession in these reaches has just minor influence on mean change for the region (-16.7 ft/yr). Variations in shoreline change within the Late Lafourche Delta Region are large, likely driven by island and beach restoration activities during this epoch (Appendix A). Although mean shoreline change is substantial (-18.9 ft/yr), this is the lowest change rate for any of the epochs (Figure 10; Appendix D), attesting to the importance of shoreline restoration in this region (Appendix C, Figure C34). This same trend is illustrated for the Modern Delta Region, where mean shoreline change (-12.4 ft/yr) was lowest of any epoch in this region (Figure 11; Table 7; Appendix D).

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 1998 to 2015

Figure 16. Average shoreline change rates by reach for coastal Louisiana; 1998 to 2015.

The Chandeleur Islands absorbed the greatest impact of Hurricane Katrina in coastal Louisiana, and it is reflected in extreme shoreline recession recorded for this epoch. Mean shoreline change was -94.0 ft/yr (Table 7, Figure 12), the majority of which can be related to Katrina. This magnitude of change is approximately three times greater than the previous epoch and the long-term mean recession rate (Figure 12; Appendix D). Just to the west and north of this region is the semi-protected Pontchartrain Basin Region. Although substantial impacts from Hurricane Katrina were experienced in this region as well, protection from open-Gulf waves significantly reduced the magnitude of change recorded for this region (Figure 16). In fact, the reaches with greatest exposure to Gulf-like conditions (Reaches 62-64, 83; Isle Aux Pitre to Shell Beach, and Grand Island Pass) recorded largest shoreline recession rates within the Basin (Figure 13; Appendix C, Figure C52; Appendix D). The majority of shorelines within Lake Pontchartrain experienced erosion far less extreme than that recorded for shorelines more directly impacted by open-Gulf conditions (Figure 16).

4.1.5 2004 to 2012 Epoch. This period is a component of the previous epoch that encompasses a time when regional shoreline restoration along many of the barrier beach shorelines in south Louisiana was very active, particularly associated with the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, and Modern Delta Regions. It also was a time of frequent hurricanes and tropical storms that had marked impact on shoreline change along the entire Louisiana coast (see Section 2.4). Average shoreline recession for all coastal regions decreased during this epoch to 12.0 ft/yr (Table 7). All but three regions illustrated lower shoreline recession rates compared with the 1950s to 1998 epoch, yet all were net erosional except for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas, which exhibited average shoreline advance of about 30 ft/yr (Table 7). Three regions of increased average shoreline recession were along the Western and Eastern Chenier Plain, and the Chandeleur Islands, the regions most directly impacted by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Mean shoreline change ranged from 29.8 ft/yr to -135.2 ft/yr, and greatest shoreline recession was associated with the Chandeleur Islands Region (Figure 17) primarily due to the passage of Hurricane Katrina.

Average change along the Western Chenier Plain shoreline was -2.2 ft/yr during this epoch (Table 7; Figure 17). Variability was large from average shoreline advance at Reach 1 (Johnson's Bayou; 15.2 ft/yr) to increased shoreline recession at Reach 3 (Holly Beach; 12.7 ft/yr) to consistent erosion at Reach 5 (Mermentau River; 22.0 ft/yr) relative to the 1998 to 2015 epoch (Appendix C, Figure C5; Appendix D). Conversely, average shoreline recession along the Eastern Chenier Plain remained unchanged at 25.3 ft/yr (Table 7). Shoreline recession at Reach 10 was unchanged relative to the 1950s to 1998 epoch; however, Reach 5 (Freshwater Bayou) shoreline change recorded a decreased accretion rate (0.9 versus 21.6 ft/yr) (Appendix C, Figure C11; Appendix D).

Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region showed a minor increase in shoreline recession relative to the 1998 to 2015 epoch, but overall, average changes for all but the 1930s to 1950s epoch were consistent at approximately -8 to -8.5 ft/yr (Table 7). A very different trend emerged for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region where sediment accretion within the Atchafalaya Delta and Wax Lake Delta reaches resulted in average shoreline advance of 29.8 ft/yr (Appendix C, Figure C23; Appendix D). However, the Reach 31 (Plumb Bayou) shoreline recorded consistent shoreline recession relative to the 1998 to 2015 epoch.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 2004 to 2012

On average, the Early Lafourche Delta Region experienced a decrease in shoreline recession relative to the 1950s to 1998 epoch, possibly resulting from reduced shoreline recession rates along the barrier islands associated with shoreline protection/restoration measures (Figure 17). Average shoreline change for Reaches 37 through 41 (Raccoon Island to Wine Island) was -30.6 ft/yr during this epoch, whereas the change rate for the 1950s to 1998 epoch was -42.1 ft/yr (Appendix D). An increase in shoreline recession along the remaining shoreline of the Early Lafourche Delta Region (-13.5 vs -12.1 ft/yr [1950s to 1998]) resulted in a slightly lower average recession rate for the region (Figure 9; Appendix C, Figure C29), suggesting that island restoration was partially responsible for reduced mean erosion rates for the region.

Barrier beach shorelines of the Late Lafourche Delta and Modern Delta Regions illustrated reduced average shoreline recession rates relative to the 1950s to 1998 epoch (Table 7). Reaches illustrating average accretion and reduced erosion were associated with beach/island restoration. Average shoreline recession for both regions remains substantial (20.5 and 21.1 ft/yr, respectively) (Appendix D), but restoration and shore protection measures appear to be having a positive impact on shoreline response (Figure 10 and 11; Appendix C, Figures C35 and C41).

Similar to the 1998 to 2015 epoch, the Chandeleur Islands Region experienced a substantial increase in shoreline recession, primarily attributable to Hurricane Katrina. Average shoreline recession for the North Chandeleur Island Reach was 149.7 ft/yr (Figure 17; Appendix D). Shoreline change variability was large, but it was all in the same direction (recession; Figure 12; Appendix C, Figure C47). Much of the island remained submerged as shallow shoals in 2012.

Overall, the Pontchartrain Basin shoreline experienced an increase in average shoreline recession relative to the 1998 to 2015 epoch (Table 7). Comparisons relative to the 1950s to 1998 epoch were not feasible because shoreline data were not available for a significant portion of the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline in the 1950s (Figures 15 versus 17; Appendix C, Figure C51 versus C53). Average shoreline change for the region was -8.2 ft/yr, and variability in shoreline change rates at each reach was large (Figure 13; Appendix D). Shoreline change ranged from 5.8 to -34.5 ft/yr, but reaches illustrating net accretion were the result of shoreline restoration and protection measures after Hurricane Katrina.

4.1.6 1880s to 2015 Epoch. With the addition of a 2015 shoreline, this epoch documents shoreline change for the entire analysis period. A coastwide average change of -10.4 ft/yr occurred, making the 1880s to 1930s and 1998 to 2015 epochs most representative of the historical average (Table 7). Geomorphic Regions with open-Gulf exposure had an average change of -16.5 ft/yr, while those with semi-protected coasts changed at -6.5 ft/yr. The Chandeleur Islands Region has the highest erosion rate, while the Western Chenier Plain is net accretional (Figure 18; Appendix C, Figure C6). Due to the 135 year record, event-driven changes (e.g. storms, restoration) have been time-averaged and variability between regions is lower than other epochs (appendix D). Additionally, because of the dynamic nature of the Louisiana coast, long-term averages for individual geomorphic regions and shoreline reaches may not be representative of changes presently occurring, particularly for barrier islands.

The Western Chenier Plain was the only region to record net accretion, with an average shoreline change rate of 3.4 ft/yr (Table 7). Reaches 1 and 4 (Johnson's Bayou and Hackberry Beach) advanced along its entire length at 11.6 and 8.7 ft/yr, respectively. Reach 2 (Ocean View Beach, -2.7 ft/yr) and Reach 3 (Holly Beach, -2.3 ft/yr) recorded relatively low erosion rates likely influenced by more recent shore-protection structures and beach fills. Reach 5 (Mermentau River) eroded an average of 10.1 ft/yr from 1884 to 2015, with the eastern third immediately downdrift of the Mermentau jetties eroding at double the mean rate (Figure 18; Appendix C, Figure C6).

Louisiana Shoreline Change: 1880s to 2015

Figure 18. Average shoreline change rates by reach for coastal Louisiana; 1880s to 2015.

The Eastern Chenier Plain Region had a mean erosion rate of 18.4 ft/yr (Table 7). Rockefeller Refuge (Reach 6) is an area of long-term chronic erosion (-34.3 ft/yr) that has increased with time (Appendix D). Mulberry Island (Reach 7) receded at 19.1 ft/yr, with higher erosion rates in the western third, adjacent to Rockefeller Refuge. Reach 10 (Rainey Refuge), the easternmost portion of the Chenier Plain, eroded at an average rate of 8.5 ft/yr. Between Reaches 7 and 10, there is a strong trend-reversal at Freshwater Bayou (Reach 8, +13.6 ft/yr), a vegetated shoreline downdrift of the Freshwater Bayou entrance to the GoM, and Reach 9 (Chenier Au Tigre, +3.2 ft/yr) to the east (Figures 6 and 18; Appendix C, Figure C12; Appendix D).

The Acadiana Bays Region had an average shoreline change rate of -8.2 ft/yr, which was within 1 ft/yr of all other epochs. Reach 21 (Cypremort Point-West) had the largest average long-term erosion rate of 15.2 ft/yr, with between -30 and -40 ft/yr of change occurring on the northwest coast of Shark Island. Although Avery Island (Reach 19) had an average change rate of -7.5 ft/yr, the central portion that faces directly south to Vermilion Bay eroded as much as 30 ft/yr (Figure 18). Most reaches in the western half of Acadiana Bays experienced lower erosion (around 5 to 7 ft/yr), while the western half (closer to the Gulf) had higher erosion rates (Figure 7; Appendix C, Figure C18; Appendix D).

The Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region illustrated mean shoreline erosion of 8.5 ft/yr, even though the Atchafalaya River has supplied this area with sediment for over five decades. A reduction in shoreline erosion to mean accretion in this region since the 1950s has not been sufficient to produce net shoreline advance since 1855 (Table 7), thereby leading to net erosional coasts for the full analysis period for Reach 29 (Wax Lake Delta, 7.9 ft/yr) and Reach 30 (Atchafalaya Delta, 9.7 ft/yr) (Appendix D). An 1880s epoch shoreline was not available for Plumb Bayou (Reach 31); however, this reach was erosional for all other epochs and would have likely contributed to a higher average erosion rate for the region (Figure 7; Appendix C, Figure C24).

Early Lafourche Delta reaches eroded an average of 19.6 ft/yr for the full record (Table 7). Reach 34 (North Point) faces west into Atchafalaya Bay and had the lowest rate of shoreline recession (7.8 ft/yr). The coast from Point Au Fer Island to Caillou Boca (including Reaches 35 and 36) eroded around 14 to 17 ft/yr, although a 4-mi (6.5-km) segment of central Point Au Fer shoreline eroded at 22 ft/yr from the 1880s to 2015. Along the Isles Dernieres barrier island chain (Reaches 37 to 41), which was one continuous island in the 1880s (minus Wine Island), the shoreline receded at a much higher rate (38 ft/yr). Raccoon Island (Reach 37) was the least erosional (24.9 ft/yr), whereas Whiskey Island (Reach 38) receded at 52.2 ft/yr (Figure 18; Appendix D). In fact, all analysis epochs for Whiskey Island document over 45 ft/yr of erosion. The shorelines of Trinity and East Islands (Reaches 39 and 40), which were one continuous island in the mid-twentieth century, underwent erosion and landward migration of 35.4 and 26.8 ft/yr, respectively. Wine Island (Reach 41) deteriorated and migrated landward over 60 ft/yr from 1887 to 2015, with island size so small by 2015 that only three transects were available to document change (Appendix C, Figure C30).

Average shoreline recession for the Late Lafourche Delta Region was the largest for all barrier island regions west of the Birdfoot Delta (27.3 ft/yr; Table 7). Erosional hotspots were associated with East Timbalier Island (Reach 43, 58.1 ft/yr), West Belle Pass (Reach 44, 85.5 ft/yr), and the western half of Caminada Headland (part of Reach 45, around 50 ft/yr) (Figure 10; Appendix D). Grand Isle is the only net accretional island (Reach 46, 3.5 ft/yr) within this region. Although stable to slightly erosional between the 1880s and 1950s before widespread development on the island, protection and restoration activities since the 1950s have resulted in enough shoreline advance to make the long-term shoreline

change trend positive. Timbalier Island (Reach 42) is laterally migrating to the west, making analysis of cross-shore changes over a 128-year period difficult since limited transects intersect the coast in both time periods (Appendix C, Figure C36).

The Modern Delta Region (east to Sandy Point) eroded an average of 19.3 ft/yr (Table 7). Reaches 49 (Chaland Headland) and 50 (Shell Island) recorded similar mean change of around -19 ft/yr (Figure 11). For the Chaland Headland Reach, there was an increased erosion trend from east to west. Shorelines of the Shell Island Reach were stable to accreting in the central portion (Pelican Island) and erosional on either side, especially in the western part at Shell Island downdrift of the Empire jetties (Appendix C, Figure C42; Appendix D).

Average erosion in the Chandeleur Islands Region occurred at 31.3 ft/yr for the period of record, highest of all geomorphic regions (Table 7). All shorelines in this region have open-Gulf exposure, making this barrier coast highly vulnerable to storm impacts. Reach 61 (North Chandeleur Islands) documented a change rate of -30 ft/yr, although the southern half of this reach experienced higher rates of recession (around 45 ft/yr). Grand Gosier and Curlew Islands (Reach 60) eroded and migrated landward at 52.8 ft/yr, while Breton Island (Reach 59) receded an average of 26.8 ft/yr (Figure 18; Appendix C, Figure C48; Appendix D).

The semi-protected coast of the Pontchartrain Basin Region illustrated an average shoreline change rate of -5.5 ft/yr (Appendix D). Shorelines in this region showed fairly consistent changes (0 to -10 ft/yr) (Figure 13). Reaches with higher recession rates include the northern half of Manchac Swamp (Reach 74), the eastern half of LaBranche Marshes (Reach 72), and the eastern half of Isle Aux Pitre (Reach 62) (Figure 18). New Orleans Lakefront (Reach 70) had an average shoreline advance of 7.9 ft/yr, due to development that occurred along Lake Pontchartrain, as well as structures spanning the entire reach (Appendix C, Figure C54).

5.0 Discussion

Six epochs were identified for documenting historical shoreline changes in nine geomorphic regions comprising 83 shoreline reaches in coastal Louisiana. Incremental epochs encompass distinct cultural characteristics from growth of commercial navigation and levees (1880s to 1930s) to flood control and industrial expansion in wetlands (1930s to 1950s) to major economic development and population expansion (1950s to 1998) to regional barrier shoreline restoration (1998 to 2015). However, dominant natural processes that drive shoreline change for all epochs include tropical cyclones, relative sea-level rise (up to 80% of which is controlled by subsidence [Penland and Ramsey, 1990]), and sediment supply from the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River where active sedimentation is occurring. Arguably, the primary driver for shoreline change along the outer coast of Louisiana is tropical cyclones; secondary factors include winter storms and relative sea-level rise. Erosive wave processes associated with storm events mobilize sediment at land-water boundaries and redistribute sediment alongshore and cross-shore. Eroding boundaries (shoreline recession) in Louisiana are associated with deltaic (Delta Plain) or marginal deltaic (Chenier Plain) deposits that contain mixtures of fine- (silt and clay) and coarse-grained (sand) material that erode, move, and settle based on distinct geotechnical properties (e.g., sediment bulk density and shear strength; particle size, shape, and density).

Along a mixed sediment coast, particle transport generally is concentrated within a narrow zone of active sand movement referred to as the littoral zone. Sand moves alongshore and cross-shore in relatively

predictable ways depending on incident wave climate. Along low-lying deltaic and marginal deltaic coasts, eroding shoreline deposits encompass a mixture of fine particles and sand-sized sediment, often with a greater proportion of fines. Once eroded, fine particles generally are transported outside the active sand transport zone to deeper shelf environments or through inlets to backbarrier bay and marsh environments. Unlike eroded sandy beach deposits, eroded fine-grained sediment from deltaic shorelines is permanently lost from the active beach sand transport system, thereby exacerbating shoreline recession in these areas. In deltaic environments like south Louisiana, where riverine sediment is not contributing appreciably to maintenance or growth of coastal environments, chronic erosion at shoreline boundaries is the only outcome. A countermeasure for maintaining shoreline stability is to augment the coastal sediment budget with beach and backbarrier sediment restoration, which Louisiana has been very successful at implementing (see Appendix A). Further, beach and barrier island restoration involves placement of predominantly sand where a mixture of sand and mud once existed, creating a more resilient feature that provides greater amounts of sand to sand-starved deltaic barriers.

Shoreline change throughout coastal Louisiana varies widely (see Appendix C), but average recession rates for each epoch are relatively consistent at 9.5 to 13.5 ft/yr. These coast-wide erosion rates encompass all shoreline changes, regardless of whether coastal settings have primary exposure to open-Gulf waves and currents or are located in semi-protected lakes and bays with limited exposure to open-Gulf processes. When geomorphic regions with clear differences in exposure to open-Gulf processes are evaluated separately, a distinct difference in the magnitude of shoreline recession emerges. Shorelines with predominantly open-Gulf exposure illustrate a two- to three-fold increase in erosion relative to semiprotected coastal regions (Table 7). Shoreline change along predominantly Gulf-facing regions ranges from -10.5 to -21.7 ft/yr whereas semi-protected regions that contain near-complete shoreline data coverage average -5.8 to -6.5 ft/yr. Not only is the magnitude of change greater for Gulf-facing shorelines but the variability in mean change rates is larger. This contrast in shoreline response emphasizes the importance of outer-coast barrier beaches for modulating the impact of waves on shoreline erosion at areas inland of the coast.

Smallest average shoreline changes for open-Gulf regions occurred during the flood control and industrial expansion epoch of the 1930s to 1950s (-10.5 ft/yr) . However, this was a period when hurricane occurrence and intensity were low. In fact, only one Category 2 and two Category 1 hurricanes made landfall in south Louisiana during this entire epoch. Conversely, the epoch with greatest average shoreline changes (1998 to 2015; -21.7 ft/yr) recorded 10 hurricanes impacting the coast (Table 8), including two Category 3 (Hurricanes Katrina and Rita) and four Category 2 events (~5.9 per decade). As a subset of this epoch, the 2004 to 2012 epoch recorded the most frequent occurrence of hurricanes (~8.8 per decade) and open-Gulf shoreline change was nearly equal to that recorded for the 1998 to 2015 epoch. Although the 1880s to 1930s epoch contained a large number of Category 3 and 2 storms, the frequency of hurricane impact was lower (~3.4 hurricanes per decade) resulting in an average shoreline change of -17.1 ft/yr for the open-Gulf coast. The 1950s to 1998 epoch experienced the greatest number of hurricane impacts; however, the frequency of occurrence was similar to that for the 1880s to 1930s epoch $(\sim 3.5$ per decade), as was mean shoreline change (-17.6 ft/yr).

Although the 1998 to 2015 epoch incurred significant storm impacts over a relatively short period, this epoch also was a time of increased shoreline and barrier island restoration (see Table 2), which increased the resilience of restored shorelines. Coastal Louisiana shoreline response is driven primarily by tropical cyclone impacts; however, the magnitude of change varies substantially depending on shoreline exposure, orientation, and tropical cyclone characteristics.

Coast-wide variations in shoreline response were driven by regional changes in erosion along the most vulnerable coastal reaches, particularly those associated with the barrier shorelines of the Early and Late Lafourche Deltas, Modern Delta, and Chandeleur Islands. These beaches bear the brunt of direct storm wave impacts from the GoM, resulting in chronic erosion, barrier beach overtopping, and island migration and deterioration (see Appendix C). The Rockefeller Refuge and Mulberry Island coastal reaches of the Eastern Chenier Plain geomorphic region experience similar high rates of shoreline recession (20 to 40 ft/yr) as barrier beaches of the delta plain. However, dominant westward sediment transport to downdrift shorelines tempers the magnitude and direction of shoreline change along the eastwest oriented Western Chenier Plain coast. The remaining coastal regions are protected to varying degrees from open-Gulf wave processes, although most experience net shoreline erosion (5.8 to 6.5 ft/yr; Table 7) in response to locally-generated storm waves (i.e., those generated within coastal lakes and bays) and relative sea-level rise.

When one isolates shoreline changes by epoch for the central barrier island coast from Raccoon Island to Sandy Point (Reaches 37 to 50), average shoreline recession rates are approximately 10 ft/yr greater than those recorded for the entire Louisiana open-Gulf coast. For the 1880s to 1930s epoch, open-Gulf shoreline recession averaged 17.1 ft/yr. For the same period, shorelines along the central barrier island coast eroded and migrated at 29.7 ft/yr, emphasizing the influence of barrier shoreline recession on coast-wide erosion rates. The Chandeleur Islands region recorded similar recession rates for this period. Between the 1930s and 1950s, a period of reduced hurricane impacts, average shoreline change decreased to -10.5 ft/yr along the open-Gulf coast (Table 7), and erosion rates along the central barrier island coast decreased as well. However, the magnitude of change for the central barrier islands (-19.5 ft/yr) and the Chandeleur Islands region (-16.0 ft/yr) was greater than 1.5 times the open-Gulf shoreline change average. During the 1950s to 1998 epoch, shoreline recession increased along the central barrier island coast (26.7 ft/yr) and the Chandeleur Islands (33.9 ft/yr), contributing substantially to the coast-wide average erosion rate of 17.6 ft/yr. However, between 1998 and 2015, when large-scale restoration of the central barrier island coast was active, shoreline recession decreased to 19.6 ft/yr compared with an open-Gulf mean shoreline change of -21.7 ft/yr. Conversely, the Chandeleur Islands region experienced a nearly three-fold increase in shoreline recession for the same period.

Overall, regional shoreline response is relatively predictable and driven by tropical cyclone magnitude and frequency; however, engineering activities (e.g., beach/island restoration and coastal structure placement) have measurable impacts on localized shoreline response. Where barrier island restoration efforts have been implemented, the coast has been made more resilient and sediment volume lost from eroding deltaic shorelines has been replenished, in part, with sand from sources outside the active sand transport system, thereby augmenting the existing littoral sediment budget. Barrier shoreline changes for the 1998 to 2015 (and 2004 to 2012) epoch(s) document the positive impact of beach and island restoration. As an example, East Grand Terre Island (Reach 48) illustrates increasing shoreline deterioration between the 1880s and 1998, but that trend was reversed after approximately 3 million cubic yards (MCY) of sand and 1.6 MCY of mixed sediment were used to restore the island in 2010. Between 1998 and 2015, shoreline recession rates were reduced to 21.9 ft/yr, and for the period 2004 to 2012, shoreline change was nearly stable at -0.5 ft/yr. Overall, beach restoration/protection projects during the 1998 to 2015 epoch along the Early Lafourche Delta, Late Lafourche Delta, and Modern Delta Regions resulted in net reduction in shoreline recession relative to that recorded during the 1950s to 1998 epoch.

6.0 Recommendations

The intent of the BICM regional shoreline change analyses is to provide a quantitative understanding of regional variations in shoreline position relative to natural and human influences. During the era of modern shoreline surveying techniques (1930s to present), our goal is to develop a time series of measurements with incremental time gaps no greater than approximately 20 years. The purpose for this approach is to capture changes along a rapidly evolving coast during the period of rapid industrial development and population growth in coastal Louisiana. For the BICM program to complete the shoreline data set, a 1970s shoreline should be developed for all coastal reaches. Once complete, nine accurate shorelines will be available for documenting regional variations in change rates between the 1930s and 2015.

Based on evaluation of shoreline-change trends for the entire data set, one may be able to limit the frequency of data collection/analysis relative to consistency of change rates. For instance, quantitative data indicate that semi-protected coastal regions exhibit relatively consistent change trends throughout the period of record. This suggests that future regional shoreline change data may not add significant new information for these regions to better understand shoreline response.

Conversely, active growth (and deterioration) at the Birdfoot, Atchafalaya, and Wax Lake deltas were not mapped as part of this effort because the processes impacting shoreline change in these areas is very different than those recorded elsewhere in coastal Louisiana. Shorelines could be compiled for these areas of active deposition to document rate of growth to better understand deltaic sedimentation as it may relate to marsh growth associated with installation of sediment diversions.

Although BICM shoreline change efforts are regional in context, shoreline information compiled can be used for more detailed analyses of barrier shoreline response to beach restoration projects. Projectlevel analyses of shoreline position changes between 1998 and 2015 (refined baseline orientation and transect spacing) for the central barrier island coast would provide a more complete understanding of beach restoration efforts and their value for creating a more resilient coastline. Barrier island erosion is expected to continue, but addition of sand to an otherwise sand-starved system results in a more resilient coastline. A more comprehensive analysis of change in and adjacent to restoration projects should provide this information. The final BICM program report is expected to better assess restoration impacts by integrating multiple BICM program data sets.

As a final note, data compiled and analyzed as part of this report (and accompanying digital files) represent the most complete and reliable shoreline position and change information for coastal Louisiana. However, the data set should always be viewed as dynamic, and continual updating is required.

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Appendix A: Barrier Shoreline Restoration/Protection Projects, 1994 to 2015 (from CPRA, 2014, 2016; Penland et al., 2003)

Western Chenier Plain (Johnson's Bayou to Hackberry Beach)

1) Holly Beach Breakwaters (CS-01, 1994)

The State of Louisiana constructed 85 shore-parallel segmented breakwaters for shoreline protection in four phases from 1991 to 1994 along 12 km of shoreline in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The project completion date was 1994.

2) Holly Beach Sand Management (CS-31, 2003)

The Holly Beach Sand Management (CS-31) project area is located between the communities of Holly Beach and Constance Beach on the Gulf shoreline, west of Calcasieu Pass. The project modified the design of 18 existing breakwaters on the west end of the breakwater field and removed 6 experimental breakwaters located landward of existing breakwaters 35 through 40. The breakwater modification was completed on June 19, 2002. The removal of the experimental breakwaters occurred on September 5, 2002. Approximately 1,750,000 cubic yards of coarse grained sand were pumped from a distance of 5 miles offshore between Holly Beach and Ocean View Beach. Construction of the sand-pumping portion of the project was initiated in July 2002, inclement weather and equipment problems delayed completion until March 2003.

3) Cameron Parish Shoreline Restoration (CS-33, 2013-2014)

The Cameron Parish Shoreline Restoration project restored the protective beach for nearly 6 miles west of Calcasieu Pass, between the western jetty and Holly Beach. From August 2013 until February 2014, approximately 2 million cubic yards of sand sourced from Sabine Shoal in the Gulf of Mexico were placed in the project site at an average elevation of five feet, restoring the coast, as well as providing protection for State Highway 82/27, a main evacuation route.

Eastern Chenier Plain (Rainey Refuge to Mermentau Beach)

1) Cheniere Au Tigre Shoreline Protection Project (TV-16, 2005)

The project area is located along the shoreline of the Gulf, approximately 15 mi south of Intracoastal City, in Vermilion Parish. The project involved construction of 13 rip-rap breakwater segments, each 200 ft long, with a 120 ft gap between segments to protect the beaches and interior brackish marshes of Cheniere au Tigre. Breakwater segments were constructed parallel to the shoreline at a distance of 200 ft from the shoreline. Six breakwaters were initially constructed in October 2001, with an additional seven completed by December 2005.

2) Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Protection Demonstration Project (0018-EB, 2010)

The project is located along 2.5 miles of Gulf shoreline on the west end of Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. The goal of this demonstration project was to evaluate three construction designs as a cost effective means for protecting shoreline areas with poor load bearing capacities. Breakwater test sections were established along the western shore of Joseph Harbor Canal. There were two types of demonstration breakwaters. The first was made of lightweight aggregate (LWA) composed of a neutrally buoyant clay and shale; the second was composed of rocks typically used with breakwater installation. Project completion was January 2010.

Early Lafourche Region (Raccoon Island to Wine Island)

1) Raccoon Island Repair and Restoration Project (TE-106, 1994)

Project goal was to close breaches formed by Hurricane Andrew and restore the sand beach also removed during the storm. This was accomplished through the closure of 5 breaches, restoration and elevation of the beach, and construction of backbarrier nodes (small sand islands) to provide additional habitat. Construction placed 1.5 million cubic yards (MCY) of fine sand dredged from back barrier borrow sites. Vegetation was installed to hold sediments and create appropriate habitats.

2) Raccoon Island Breakwaters Demonstration (TE-29, 1997)

Project goal was to reduce shoreline erosion and increase subaerial land area. Eight segmented breakwaters were constructed along the eastern end of the island to reduce the rate of shoreline recession, promote sediment accretion along the beach, and protect seabird habitat.

3) Whiskey Island Restoration (TE-27, 1998)

Project goal was to create and restore beaches and back barrier marsh platform on Whiskey Island. Approximately 4.6 miles of Gulfside shoreline with beach/dune component of variable width (700 to 800 feet) were restored using about 2.9 MCY of sand. The dune height was 4 feet with crest width varying between 300 and 500 feet. The project created 168 acres of new land, including filling the breach at Coupe Nouvelle. Initial vegetation planting of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) on the bayside shore was completed in July 1998, and additional vegetation seeding and planting were carried out in spring 2000.

4) Isles Dernieres Restoration East Island (TE-20, 1998)

Project goal was to restore coastal dunes and wetlands of Eastern Isles Dernieres. Approximately 3.9 MCY of sand were dredged from Lake Pelto to build about 187 acres of beach and dune with target elevations of 2 feet and 8 feet, respectively. Dune crest width ranged from 300 to 500 feet. By the following summer, sand fences were installed and vegetation planted to stabilize the sand and minimize aeolian transport.

5) Isles Dernieres Restoration Trinity Island (TE-24, 1998)

Project goal was to restore the dunes and back-barrier marshes of Trinity Island. Approximately 4.85 MCY of sand/sediment were dredged from a borrow area in Lake Pelto to build approximately 4.3 miles of 8-ft high dune with crest width of about 300 feet, along with an elevated marsh platform at the bay side of the island. A total of about 93 acres of mostly supratidal habitat were created. By the following summer, about 22,500 feet of sand fences were installed with vegetative planting to stabilize the sand and minimize wind-driven transport.

6) Raccoon Island Shoreline Protection/ Marsh Creation (TE-48, 2007, 2013)

Project goal was to protect the Raccoon Island rookery and seabird colonies from an erosional shoreline, by reducing the rate of erosion along the western end of the island and creating more land along the northern shoreline. Construction included eight additional breakwaters west of the existing (TE-29) breakwaters and a terminal groin along the eastern side of the island (Phase A). In addition, approximately 0.74 MCY of mixed sediment (NRCS, 2014) from an offshore borrow area in federal waters was dredged to create 60 acres of back barrier marsh platform with an average elevation of 3.5 feet (Phase B). The shoreline protection (Phase A) component of this project

was constructed in 2007; construction of the back barrier marsh platform component (Phase B) was completed in April 2013.

7) New Cut Dune and Marsh Restoration Project (TE-37, 2007)

Project goal was to close the breach between Trinity and East Islands through the creation of beach, dune, and marsh habitats to increase the structural integrity of eastern Isles Dernieres. New Cut was closed through construction of about 8,000 feet of dune platform (by placing approximately 0.85 MCY of sand dredged from an offshore borrow area) matching the dune elevations on the east and west. Native barrier island vegetation was planted along with approximately 17,000 linear feet of sand fence.

8) Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (TE-50, 2009)

Project goal was to increase the longevity of the previously restored island by increasing island width. Approximately 316 acres of back barrier intertidal marsh habitat, 5,800 linear feet of tidal creeks, three one-acre tidal ponds, and 13,000 linear feet of protective sand dune were created by semiconfined disposal and placement of dredged material. About 2.76 MCY of mixed sediment was dredged from an offshore borrow area in the Gulf. After removal of the mixed sediment overburden, about 0.36 MCY of underlying sand was used to create the dune fronting the marsh platform. Native marsh vegetation was planted to colonize and protect the placed marsh soil.

Late Lafourche Region (Timbalier to East Grand Terre Island)

1) Timbalier Island Planting Demonstration (TE-18, 1996)

Sand fences were installed and vegetation suited to the salinity and habitat type of Timbalier Island was planted in several areas on the island to trap sand and buffer wind and wave energy.

2) East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 1 (TE-25, 2000)

Project goal included placement of dredged sediment in three embayments along the landward shoreline of East Timbalier Island, including aerial seeding of the dune platform, installation of about 13,000 linear feet of sand fencing, and dune vegetation plantings. About 2.8 MCY of sediment was dredged from an offshore borrow area creating approximately 217 acres of supratidal and intertidal habitats, including a 5-ft high dune with a crest width of about 200 feet and a 2-ft high and 500-ft wide marsh platform.

3) East Timbalier Island Sediment Restoration, Phase 2 (TE-30, 2000)

Project goals and objectives were the same as that of Phase 1. Project funds were used to construct 7,000 feet of rubble mound revetment.

4) Vegetative Plantings of a Dredged Material Disposal Site on Grand Terre Island (BA-28, 2001)

Project goal was to stabilize dredged material sites on West Grand Terre Island through vegetation plantings.

5) Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (TE-40, 2004)

Project goal was to restore the eastern end of Timbalier Island by restoring beach, dunes, and marsh. An 8-ft high dune with average crest width of about 400 feet was built using about 4.6 MCY of sand/sediment dredged from an offshore borrow area which created a total fill area of about 273 acres, including about 196 acres of marsh platform

6) East Grand Terre Island Restoration (BA-30, 2010)

Approximately 621 acres of land were created by restoring 2.8 miles of barrier shoreline through construction of a 6-ft high dune, 165 acres of beach habitat, and about 456 acres of marsh platform using roughly 3 MCY of sand and 1.6 MCY of mixed sediment from two offshore borrow areas.

7) West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration (TE-52, 2012)

Project goal was to re-established the eroded West Belle Pass headland via dune and marsh creation. The project created a continuous headland approximately 10,660 feet in length, creating about 93acres of dune habitat using nearly 1.74 MCY of dredged sand, and about 227 acres of marsh habitat using 3.05 MCY of dredged mixed sediment.

8) Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration (BA-45, 2013-2015)

Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration project has restored and maintained the headland through the creation of dunes and beach habitat and will protect unique coastal habitats, re-established littoral sand transport to Grand Isle, and protect Port Fourchon and the only hurricane evacuation route available to the region. This reach of the Barataria shoreline also supports the only land-based access to the barrier shoreline in the Deltaic Plain. Construction of portions of the Caminada Headland component of the LCA-BBBS Restoration Project template began in early 2013 using CIAP 2007 and Surplus 2008 funds. Approximately 3.3 MCY of sand from South Pelto Blocks 12 and 13 borrow area (eastern portion of Ship Shoal Complex) were placed to restore approximately 6 miles of shoreline by constructing a 7 -foot high and about 290-foot wide dune and a 4.5-foot high and 65-foot wide beach over a surface area of about 303 acres. This restoration project is unique in that it is the first time that sand from the Ship Shoal complex was dredged for coastal restoration purposes and was transported a distance of almost 22 miles.

Modern Delta Region (East Grand Terre to Sandy Point)

1) Pass La Mer to Chaland Pass Restoration (BA-38, Part 1, 2007)

Project goal was to construct approximately 254 acres of back-barrier marsh platform with an average elevation of 2.5 ft. Back-barrier marsh platform was constructed using about 1.0 MCY of overburden mixed sediment from an offshore borrow area. About 2.4 MCY of sand created 230 acres of beachdune habitat with a dune height of 6 ft and crest width of 400 ft over a project length of 2.7 miles.

2) Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BA-35, 2009)

Project constructed roughly 350 acres of total fill area, including a marsh platform approximately 1,000 feet wide contiguous with the northern side of the gulf shoreline of Bay Joe Wise. The dune was built to an elevation of 6 feet with a dune crest width of about 110 feet. Approximately 3 MCY of sediment were dredged from the Pas la Mer, Pass Chaland, and Grand Pass ebb delta. Construction of approximately 10,000 feet of 4-ft wide, 2-ft deep water exchange channels was completed to enhance surface hydrology. In addition, immediate post-construction aerial seeding was conducted for various plant cover.

3) Emergency Berms (W8,W9,W10, 2010-2011)

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which began on April 20, 2010, the State of Louisiana constructed approximately 16 miles of sand berms along several sections of the barrier island shoreline east and west of the Mississippi River. The objective was to provide a barrier to oil and minimize the potential impact of the oil spill to thousands of acres of fragile barrier islands and wetland ecosystems in coastal Louisiana.

Berm Reach W8 (Shell Island): Located within the footprint of the Shell Island restoration project. The construction template was identical to the templates used on the other berm reaches: a 20-ft crest width, 5-ft crest elevation, 1:25 side slopes above -2.0 ft NAVD88, and 1:50 below -2.0 ft, NAVD88. Construction of approximately 9,000 linear feet of berm on Shell Island started on October 9, 2010 and was completed by November 23, 2010. Approximately 777,000 cubic yards of sand was placed along the island.

Berm Reach W9 (Pelican Island): Construction along Pelican Island started on July 18, 2010 and was completed by October 2, 2010. The template was superimposed on the existing island and within the footprint of the proposed CWPPRA Pelican Island Restoration Project (BA-38-1). A total length of 12,700 feet of berm was constructed and approximately 1,294,000 cubic yards of sand was placed within the berm along Pelican Island.

Berm Reach W10 (Scofield Island): Construction started on September 13, 2010. Approximately 935,000 cubic yards of sand was placed between September 13 and November 23, 2010 for constructing approximately 14,755 feet of berm. The construction template was identical to the other berm reaches. The berm was constructed within the footprint of the proposed CWPPRA Scofield Island Restoration Project (BA-40).

4) Barataria Barrier Island Complex Project: Pelican Island and Pass (BA-38, Part 2, 2012)

Pelican Island was restored using about 6.4 MCY of mixed sediment and sand from four different borrow areas in state and federal waters. Approximately 2.1 MCY (in-place volume) of sand were utilized to create 192 acres of beach-dune habitat. Approximately 398 acres of marsh platform, with an average elevation of about 2.6 feet, were constructed using 1.6 MCY of sediment. Average dune elevation was 7.5 feet, extending a length of 2.5 miles. The emergency Berm W9 was built in front of this island using about 1.24 MCY of sand.

5) Riverine Sand Mining/Scofield Island Restoration (BA-40; Berm Funds; 2013)

The goals of this project were to mitigate breaches and tidal inlets in the shoreline, reinforce the existing shoreline with sand, increase the width of the island with back barrier marsh to increase island longevity, and to re-establish a sandy dune along the length of the shoreline to protect the back barrier marsh platform from sea level rise and storm damage. The beach-dune habitats were constructed by the sand dredged from a borrow area in the Lower Mississippi River via a 22-mile long pipeline and the marsh platform was constructed from an offshore borrow source of mixed sediment. Although this project was designed under CWPPRA, construction began in December 2012 using Berm Funds. This created approximately 2.16 miles of beach and dune fill to close the breach areas and restore/protect the eroding beach. The dune component included a 50-foot wide crest width at +6 feet NAVD88. The beach fill template included a 100-foot wide construction berm at +4 feet NAVD88. The surface area of the beach platform was approximately 223 acres measured at +4 feet NAVD88. The required fill volume was approximately 2.03 MCY (required excavation (cut) volume was approximately 2.64 MCY). An

approximately 2.23-mile long back barrier marsh platform on the bay side of Scofield Island was constructed. The surface area of the proposed marsh platform is approximately 375 acres with target marsh platform elevation of $+3.0$ feet NAVD88. The required fill volume was approximately 1.74 MCY (the required excavation (cut) volume is approximately 2.79 MCY). It may be noted that Emergency Berm W-10 was built in front of this island using about 0.964 MCY of sand.

6) Shell Island East Berm (BA-110; 2013)

Shell Island East Berm was constructed between April 2013 and August 2013. About 2.29 MCY of sand from a Lower Mississippi River Borrow Area (the same borrow area used for the Scofield Restoration Project [BA-40]) were utilized to construct an 8-foot NAVD 88 dune with a crest width of 340 feet between station 76+79 and station 144+00 creating a dune area of about 87 acres as well as a beach area of approximately 54 acres. About 136 acres of marsh platform were constructed using about 0.286 MCY from the same borrow area as the dune sediment.

7) Shell Island West Berm (BA-111; 2014)

The template of this project includes 16,100 feet of shoreline with an 8-foot high and 340-foot wide dune on the western portion of the east island, and a 380-foot wide dune on the western island, creating an area of about 231 acres with 4.8 MCY of sand. The project involves the construction of approximately 285 acres of barrier marsh platform with about 1.1 MCY of mixed sediment from an offshore borrow area. This project is funded through the Louisiana Outer Coast Restoration project using NRDA Early Restoration Funds.

Chandeleur Islands Region

1) Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (PO-27, 2001)

Project was intended to accelerate the recovery period of barrier island areas overwashed by Hurricane Georges in 1998 through vegetation plantings. Washover areas, which encompass 364 acres and are located at 22 sites along the Sound side of the island, were planted with smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).

2) Eastern Berm Reach E4 (East of Mississippi River along Chandeleur Islands, 2010)

Project was constructed in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to provide a barrier to oil and minimize the potential impact of the oil spill. Approximately 47,000 feet (8.9 miles) of berm were constructed along the Chandeleur Islands with approximately 5.85 MCY of sand dredged from Hewes Point in the north.

Appendix B: Shoreline Data Coverage and Source Characteristics

Louisiana Shoreline Data Coverage: 1880s Epoch

Figure B1. Shoreline data coverage for the 1880s epoch.

Louisiana Shoreline Data Coverage: 1930s Epoch

Figure B2. Shoreline data coverage for the 1930s epoch.

Louisiana Shoreline Data Coverage: 1950s Epoch

Figure B3. Shoreline data coverage for the 1950s epoch.

Louisiana Shoreline Data Coverage: 1998

Figure B4. Shoreline data coverage for 1998.

Figure B5. Shoreline data coverage for 2004.

Figure B6. Shoreline data coverage for 2005.

Figure B7. Shoreline data coverage for 2008.

Figure B8. Shoreline data coverage for 2012.

Figure B9. National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) shoreline data coverage for 2015.

**2015 image numbers start with " M" instead of "c" and drop the last letter (e.g., c3008953.ses for 1998, 2004, 2005, and 2008 is M3008953SE for 201 5).

Appendix C: Shoreline Change by Region

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C1. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C2. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 3. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 1950s to 1998 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C4. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 1998 to 2015 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C5. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 2004 to 2012.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Western Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C6. Shoreline change for the Western Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 7. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 1930s .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C8. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 9. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1950s to 1998 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C10. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1998 to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C11. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 2004 to 2012 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C12. Shoreline change for the Eastern Chenier Plain Region, 1880s to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C13. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 1880s to 1930s .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 1 4. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 1930s to 1950s .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 1 5. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 1950s to 1998 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C16. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 1998 to 2015 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 1 7. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 2004 to 2012 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Acadiana Bays Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C18. Shoreline change for the Acadiana Bays Region, 1880s to 2015 .

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1880s to 1930s

Figure C19. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1880s to 1930s.

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NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1930s to 1950s

Figure C20. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C21. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1950s to 1998.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C22. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1998 to 2015.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C23. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 2004 to 2012.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Atchafalaya & Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C24. Shoreline change for the Atchafalaya and Wax Lake Deltas Region, 1880s to 2015.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C25. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C26. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C27. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1950s to 1998.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C28. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1998 to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 2 9. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 2004 to 2012.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C30. Shoreline change for the Early Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 2015.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C31. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C32. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1950s to 1998

Figure C33. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1950s to 1998.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C34. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1998 to 2015.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 3 5. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 2004 to 2012.

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C36. Shoreline change for the Late Lafourche Delta Region, 1880s to 201 5 .

NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C37. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C38. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C39. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 1950s to 1998.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C40. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 1998 to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 4 1. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 2004 to 2012.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Modern Delta Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C42. Shoreline change for the Modern Delta Region, 1880s to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C43. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C44. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 1930s to 1950s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C45. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 1950s to 1998.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C46. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 1998 to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 4 7. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 2004 to 2012.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Chandeleur Islands Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C48. Shoreline change for the Chandeleur Islands Region, 1880s to 2015.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1880s to 1930s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C49. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1880s to 1930s.

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1930s to 1950s **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C50. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1930s to 1950s.

3900000 NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1950s to 1998 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C51. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1950s to 1998.

3900000 NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1998 to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C52. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1998 to 2015.

3900000 NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 2004 to 2012 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C 5 3. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 2004 to 2012.

3900000 NAD83 LA State Plane South, ft

Louisiana Shoreline Change: Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1880s to 2015 **Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program (BICM) - Phase 2**

Figure C54. Shoreline change for the Pontchartrain Basin Region, 1880s to 2015.

Appendix D: Shoreline Change Details by Reach and Region

