

Foreword

The continued demise of Lafourche Parish coastal wetlands will have many far-reaching consequences: some that can be tolerated, many that cannot. The basis for this document is to provide teachers with a “hands on” guide where material can be found on any one of a number of interrelated topics. The ultimate goal is to provide the student a more comprehensive understanding of the geology, history, socioeconomics, and biology of the Lafourche Parish wetlands. One cannot fully appreciate what is being lost until there is an understanding of what one has.

Through the use of the Internet, BTNEP provides teachers with access to several video clips to use as a curriculum resource. The following videos are used in conjunction with content oriented information: *America’s Vanishing Wetlands*, *Vanishing Wetlands: Vanishing Future*, *Haunted Waters*, *Fragile Lands: Oh, What Tales To Tell*, and *Rescuing The Treasure*.

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Objectives

The following are objectives for this curriculum. The curriculum is designed to:

- follow the GLEs and benchmarks set by the Louisiana State Department of Education
- reflect and communicate the interdisciplinary nature of the use of the coastal zone
- foster the development of skills needed to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information, to recognize bias in interpretations, and to judge the validity of data
- foster the development, understanding, and use of problem-solving models and skills
- promote an understanding of the complexity of coastal use problems and the trade-offs associated with alternative solutions
- help students develop skills in gathering, interpreting, and evaluating data
- help students recognize the interdependence of living things
- encourage the development of autonomy and competence in decision making
- recognize, encourage, and capitalize on the diversity of student backgrounds, interests, talents, experience, and abilities in classroom activities
- promote intellectual growth, changes in the affective domain, and participation in community activities



Content Principles

Nine coastal zones use principles underlying the content of this curriculum. Those principles are:

1. The coastal zone is a finite natural resource that provides the main habitat for much of the living world, including humans.
2. The coastal zone is used for many different purposes. If any area is used for one purpose, its use for other purposes is limited.
3. Coastal zone use has a historical perspective.
4. Our need for coastal regions is increasing because of our growing population and its changing needs and wants.
5. Many social, political, economical, physical, and biological considerations are involved in coastal zone use decisions.
6. Each kind of coastal use has consequences, and many of those consequences cannot be reversed.
7. People have different attitudes and values about coastal zone use. Those differences may cause conflicts when an activity is proposed for a certain piece of land.
8. Coastal zone use planning is a dynamic process that involves trade-offs among concerned individuals. There is no perfect land-use plan for everyone.
9. Many laws and regulations concern coastal zone use. Ownership of land places the responsibility for its care on the owner.

