

Beyond the Catch

Louisiana is internationally recognized for its rich and diverse freshwater and saltwater fishing opportunities, including prime spots near oil rigs and artificial reefs. Despite this abundance, Louisiana's fisheries face challenges such as overfishing, pollution and environmental contamination, habitat loss, coastal erosion, population declines in key species, and public health risk from fish-borne bacteria.

The LSU College of the Coast & Environment (CC&E) tackles these pressing issues through an interdisciplinary approach, blending ecological, chemical, and socio-economic insights to support sustainable fisheries and ensure the long-term health of coastal ecosystems.



CC&E's Recent Research

Identifying Critical Habitat

Evaluating habitat requirements and ecosystem connectivity for fishes and sharks at Louisiana's outer shelf reefs and the recently expanded Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Tracking Invasive Carp

Identifies the movements of invasive carp to better understand pathways that facilitate the spread of invasive species.

Evaluating Red Drum Habitat

Evaluating long-term habitat use patterns to better understand how marsh restoration impacts habitat use of red drum in Barataria Bay.

Estimating Fish Population in Louisiana Waters

Collaborates region-wide to estimate reef fish population (e.g., greater amberjack) in the S.E. U.S., using cameras, hydroacoustics, mark-recapture.

Assessing Movement and Connectivity of Sportfish

Assesses movement patterns and connectivity of coastal Louisiana's most important sportfish, including cobia, tarpon, amberjack, tunas and billfish.

Predicting Conditions for Dangerous Vibrios in Oysters

Studies how oysters accumulate vibrios in coastal waters, helping protect oyster consumers and communities.

Examining Role of Artificial Structures as Fishes' Habitat

Examines how fish aggregating devices (FADs) and artificial reefs function as habitat for fishes and the potential benefits of deployments for Louisiana's fisheries.