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How Environmental Crisis Shaped Louisiana's Coasts
LSU Press to Publish A Louisiana Coastal Atlas in March 2017

Baton Rouge—In the wake of ongoing land loss and devastating natural disasters, Scott A. Hemmerling's *A Louisiana Coastal Atlas*, to be published in March 2017, illustrates Louisiana's multilayered response to environmental crises. Whether through gradual occurrences such as rising sea levels, subsidence, and coastal erosion, or acute events such as hurricanes and river floods, the region's persistent perils have required its residents to continuously prepare, react, and adjust. Through more than 250 vibrant and revealing maps, *A Louisiana Coastal Atlas* presents a history of adaptation as a guidepost for an increasingly uncertain future.

Hemmerling's comprehensive, easy-to-understand maps depict changes in land area, population density and diversity, employment patterns, agricultural and offshore production, and other effects of environmental change and natural and human-caused disasters upon residents of the coastal zone. He employs a wide range of demographic, economic, social, and environmental data to show cartographically the resilience or retreat of coastal communities. Examples of successful adaptation include rice cultivation and cattle farming on coastal prairies; expansion of the shrimp industry from inland waterways to Gulf waters; and the shift from an onshore- to an offshore-based oil and gas industry. Maladaptive practices, often influenced by social policy, include continued settlement and resettlement in flood hazard zones and the use of construction methods and materials ill suited to low, flood-prone areas.

A Louisiana Coastal Atlas captures in accessible visual form the effects of more than half a century of geographical change and human behavior, creating a vivid picture that will help coastal planners, government officials, scientists, residents, and organizations anticipate and negotiate hazards to come.

Scott Hemmerling is the director of People, Resources and Technology program for The Water Institute of the Gulf, where his work focuses on the human dimensions of environmental change in coastal Louisiana. He was formerly a geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wetlands Research Center. He earned a Bachelor of Science in environmental studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Master of Science in Urban Studies with a concentration in Applied Urban Anthropology from the University of New Orleans. He earned his Doctoral degree from the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University.

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