

Presentation 7: Rachel Watson

Managing Louisiana's submerged cultural resources: a perspective from the LA State Historic Preservation Office.

The State Historic Preservation staff within the Louisiana Division of Archaeology currently maintains records on 20,787 archaeological sites. However, only a small percentage of those are submerged cultural resources. The division has struggled with adequately identifying and managing our submerged cultural resources due to the lack of expertise of an underwater archaeologist for most of our agency's existence. In 2018, we updated our marine survey standards to include areas of particular interest for both inland lakes and coastal waters. Furthermore, we are concerned about the loss of current terrestrial sites to sea-level rise and subsidence. In this presentation, we discuss our current resources, management policies, and past projects that involved submerged cultural resources as well as future projects that are proposed in the 2017 Coastal Master Plan.