

Voices from the Southwest Coast

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September 12, 2022

Abstract

This presentation aims to illuminate some of the attitudes and sentiments with stories recorded among fishers and crabbers along the coast of Southwest Louisiana. My work for the Digital Curation project comes on the heels of a lifetime of experiences in Coastal Louisiana, and additionally, specific work documenting subsistence practices on an earlier BOEM project, particularly activities that I've participated in and observed for much of my life: fishing, shrimping, and crabbing. More than providing food for families and friends, these outdoor activities can serve as the foundation of one's identity, familial relationships, moral foundations, spiritual experiences and lifelong friendships. These various characteristics create a social fabric that fosters positive community relationships. Naturally, it is important to understand the importance and significance of clean waterways and land that are accessible to people of all socio-economic backgrounds.