

RESTORE Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana (LA-COE) Quarterly Newsletter



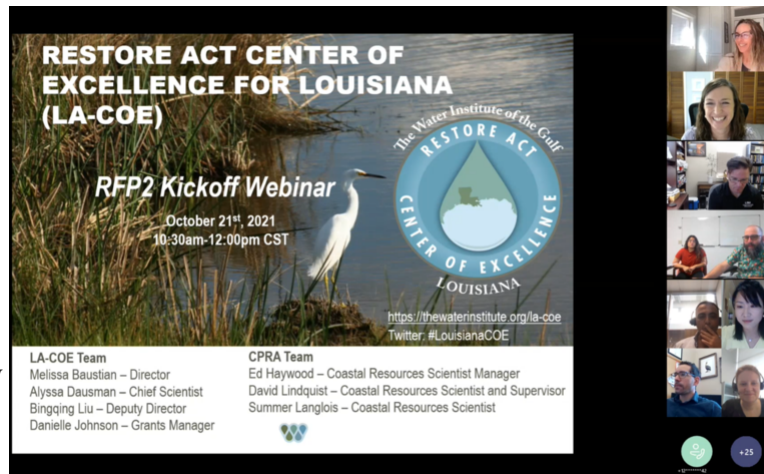
DECEMBER 2021

Updates from LA-COE

RFP2 Cycle Kickoff Webinar:

The LA-COE hosted the RFP2 Cycle Kickoff Webinar on Oct. 21, 2021, to provide an overview of the LA-COE grant program, the technical and administrative

project requirements, the LA-COE portal system, and the path going forward. The Semi-Annual Webinar will take place in April 2022.



Gulf of Mexico Conference 2022:

The LA-COE is a proud sponsor of the Gulf of Mexico Conference (GoMCon) on April 25-28, 2022. GoMCon combines the annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting, the annual Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystems Science Conference, and the triannual State of the Gulf Summit. The conference will emphasize the intersection of scientific research and the management of human and natural systems in the Gulf Coast region.

Find out more and register for the conference [here](#).



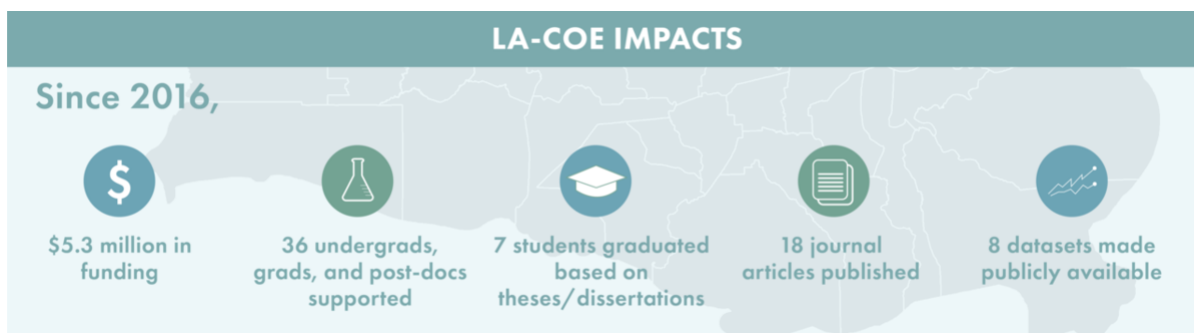
Improving the Design and Construction Practice of Marsh Creation Projects Kickoff Held Nov. 15:

On Nov. 15, Emre Ozdemir (PI-LSU), Navid Jafari (co-PI), Jason Carol (Technical Point of Contact), and Jacques Boudreaux (CPRA Liaison) held a virtual kickoff meeting for their project "Improving the design and construction practice of marsh creation projects." The team took the opportunity to become acquainted and review the next steps for their project.

Patch-Scale Effects of Acute Saltwater Intrusion on Carbon Fluxes in a Simulated Coastal Freshwater Marsh Environment Kickoff Discussion Held Nov.19:

The LA-COE had a kickoff discussion with principal investigator Dr. Jorge Villa at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Nov. 19. Dr. Bingqing Liu met with Dr. Villa, discussed his research project "Patch-scale effects of acute saltwater intrusion on carbon fluxes in a simulated coastal freshwater marsh environment," and viewed his experiment site at Cade Farm in St. Martin Parish.

Impacts

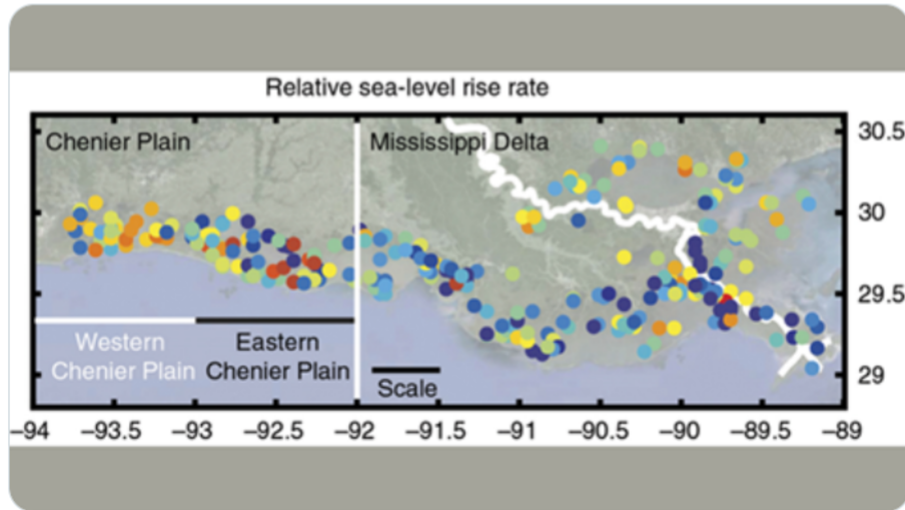




The Water Institute
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Want to learn more about relative sea level rise in Louisiana? Check out Dr. Torbjörn Törnqvist's teams recently funded research to inform @LouisianaCPRA Coastal Master Plans here: bit.ly/3zp1yby
[#LouisianaCOE](#) [#science](#)



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Success Metrics

Success metrics developed in SOP Version 1 (V1, Darnell et al., 2016) were used to monitor the progress of LA-COE projects that were funded under the first Request for Proposals (RFP1). The tracking of success metrics enables LA-COE to identify important events and trends of subawards as well as guide the LA-COE to improve management of future funding cycles.

More details on RFP1 cycle success metrics are available [here](#).

The assessment for outcome “number of Coastal Master Plan projects and programs that directly utilize research findings within one year of project completion” has been evaluated after completion of projects. A total of seven RFP1 projects directly contribute to the implementation of Coastal Master Plan with important information, data, and models. RFP1 projects will have more data available by next November.

The success metrics for RFP2 cycle can be found [here](#). RFP2 cycle success metrics are currently being evaluated for the grant process category.

Notification of Dissemination

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Before the final report is submitted, you must notify the LA-COE Deputy Director 60 days prior to disseminating any information about your funded project so that LA-COE and CPRA are aware. Please email LA-COE@thewaterinstitute.org with the information (e.g., abstracts, papers, seminars, media releases, etc.) you plan to disseminate. CPRA has been fantastic at getting back to LA-COE and PIs ASAP.

Semi-Annual Performance Progress Report

The first Semi-Annual Performance Progress Report (PPR) is due Feb. 28, 2022. Each principal investigator should create an account and submit their PPR [here](#).

The PPR template can be found [here](#).

| Reporting | Period | PPR # | Date Due |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Semi-annual PPR#1 | August 2021– January 2022 | 1 | February 28, 2022 |
| Semi-annual PPR#2 | February 2022– July 2022 | 2 | August 31, 2022 |
| Semi-annual PPR#3 | August 2022– January 2023 | 3 | February 28, 2023 |
| Semi-annual PPR#4 | February 2023– July 2023 | 4 | August 31, 2023 |
| Final report | August 2021– August 2023 | N/A | August 31, 2023 |
| Data available | Within 1 year after final report | N/A | July 31, 2024 |

PI Reference Guide

The LA-COE developed the PI Reference Guide to help Principal Investigators (PIs) quickly obtain essential information pertaining to LA-COE and helpful material for inclusion in products such as reports, manuscripts, presentations, and archived data.

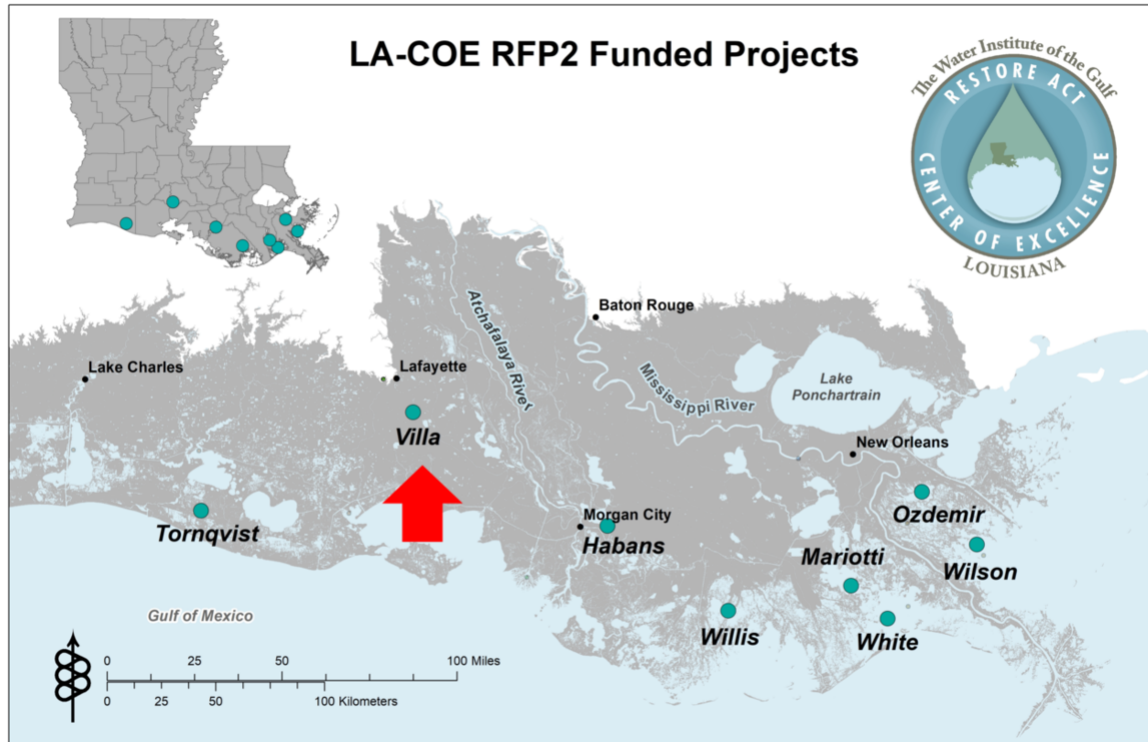
View the entire PI Reference Guide [here](#).

Data Management Best Practices

In October, LA-COE developed a guide of best practices for data management to assist researchers with managing their data, producing metadata, and supporting the inclusion of their data into a public repository. According to the LA-COE Standard Operating Procedure Version 3 (SOP V3), “All data, collected data products, and metadata must be made publicly available within one year after submission of the final report.”

Read the full Data Management Best Practices Guide [here](#).

Funded Research



Project Highlight

Patch-scale effects of acute saltwater intrusion on carbon fluxes in a simulated coastal freshwater marsh environment

Jorge Villa, Assistant Professor, School of Geosciences, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This project aims to evaluate the effects of acute saltwater intrusion events on carbon fluxes and elevation in wetland areas dominated by two common upper estuary freshwater plants. Results of this work could help inform the morphology model used in Integrated Compartment Model (ICM), and suggest how these wetland species are influencing carbon cycling, which can be used in evaluating strategies in the Coastal Master Plan. Dr. Jorge Villa's team will present their project at the American Geophysical Union meeting in December.

Dr. Villa's graduate student, Diana Taj, will be working on the LA-COE funded project, "Patch-scale effects of acute saltwater intrusion on carbon fluxes in a simulated coastal freshwater marsh environment." She is pursuing an M.S. in Environmental Resource Science at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She defended her thesis in September and will graduate in December with the goal of achieving her Ph.D.

When Dr. Bingqing Liu and Dr. Villa met in person on Nov. 19, Dr. Liu visited the experiment site at Cade Farm in St. Martin Parish. There, the team conducted a saltwater intrusion experiment with two wetland ponds. See pictures from their experiment below.

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