

# The Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center

## Phase III Proposed Early Restoration

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center (“the Center”) would establish state of the art facilities to responsibly develop aquaculture-based techniques for marine fishery management. The proposed project would include two sites (Calcasieu Parish and Plaquemines Parish) with the shared goals of fostering collaborative multi-dimensional research on marine sport fish and bait fish species; enhancing stakeholder involvement; and providing fisheries extension, outreach, and education to the public.

The primary location for the Center would be at a site near the north end of Lake Calcasieu, and south of the city of Lake Charles. The proposed facility includes construction of a multi-purpose building and pond complex to be used for marine fisheries research, production, education, and outreach. The building will house multiple components including a visitor center, support space for staff and collaborating researchers, and a hatchery complex.

The hatchery complex would be focused on the production of spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), and southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*). Fish produced at the Center would be marked and released in conjunction with the existing Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) marine fisheries monitoring program. This work would provide information on recruitment, survival, health, and movements of marine fish

populations, which would be used to help develop and evaluate strategies for the management of Louisiana’s saltwater sport fishery.

A satellite facility would be located in Plaquemines Parish, northwest of West Pointe à la Hache, and would serve as a research and demonstration facility for marine baitfish in support of recreational sport fishing. The species of fish proposed are the Gulf killifish (*Fundulus grandis*) and the Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*). At this site, the project would involve constructing a new hatchery building and renovating/ reconditioning existing onsite facilities. As currently proposed, the new hatchery building would house a staff office, crew support and baitfish culture area with small-scale recirculating aquaculture systems to support research and demonstration of technology for live bait husbandry. Existing onsite facilities that were previously used for plant propagation would be renovated or reconditioned, including a Mississippi

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

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River water intake structure and pumping station, infrastructure components (e.g., water pipelines, access roads), and ponds for research, effluent treatment, and water storage. The facility would help develop and improve techniques for marine baitfish holding and production systems, which would be demonstrated and disseminated to improve access to live bait for recreational fishing in Louisiana.

Recreational fishing in Louisiana was negatively impacted by the spill. For example, widespread closures of areas where recreational fishing occurs were necessary. The objective of this restoration project is to help compensate for the loss of recreational fishing services resulting from the spill.

## ESTIMATED COST

The estimated cost of the Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center is \$22,000,000.

